



Assembly of First Nations

BC First Nations Fisheries Council

Fall Fisheries Assembly

“Protecting Access to Fisheries Resource”

Oct 20th -30th 2009

Chahalís First Nation, BC

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National Mandate and Committees

- **AFN-National political representative organization**
- **AFN Resolutions-renewed mandate**
- **AFN National Fisheries Strategy**
- **National Fisheries Committee**
- **National Policy Analysis Group-input**

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AFN Technical Working Groups

- National Habitat Working Group
- SARA and ATK Working Group- (aquatics)
- Science and ATK Working Group
- NAAHP's First Nations National Focus Group (Aquatic Animal Health Committee (AAHC) 2 FN Reps)
- National Information sharing technical network- AAROM, AIHP, SARA, Habitat, ATK, Science, AFS, Technical Experts, FN community Fisheries

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National Fisheries Strategy- 4 Pillars

1. **Rights** : *Recognition and respect for our inherent Aboriginal and treaty rights*
1. **Access**: *to a fair share of fisheries resources to meet domestic and economic needs to secure our place as First Nations in Canada and the world*
1. **Capacity**: *to be involved in meaningful participation in all aspects of fisheries management*
1. **Accountability**: *to provide strategic guidance that focuses on government accountability and tracks progress across the country*

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First Nations Key Areas of Concern

- **Access & Allocation**
- **Aquaculture**
- **Legislative & Policy Review**
- **Fisheries Act/Renewal,**
- **SARA,**
- **Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge**
- **Traditional Foods and diet**
- **Oceans Act Implementation,**
- **Major Projects Management office**
- **Habitat Policy**
- **Science**
- **Climate Change**

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First Nations Key Areas of Concern

- **Resource Sustainable Management Development Framework,**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species**
- **Eco-labeling, Certification, marketing**
- **National Freshwater Strategy**
- **Conservation and Protection-Guardian Program,**
- **Enforcement**
- **National Animal Aquatic Health Program**

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Common United Themes

- First Nation priority access and protection of our Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- First Nations must be consulted and accommodated on any government legislative, policy and program review.

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Common united themes

- First Nations want to participate and be fully recognized in the decision making and advisory processes~ front end dialogue.
- Taking back our First Nation Fisheries, setting up our own inter-tribal trade and marketing corporations.

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Other Regional Updates

- East Coast- 10th Anniversary of Marshall Decision, ACIFI, Treaty, Governance, SARA-American Eel
- Inland areas-Habitat, industry development, priority access, Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, Great Lake Pollution, Treaties, water diversion, SARA-Lake Sturgeon

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Regional Updates

- BC-PICFI, Aquaculture, Oceans, Science, Access, Treaty, Habitat, Environmental Assessments, Economic Development, Transport Canada-boat licensing, MMER, Taxation, Eco-labelling, Certification-catch certificates, SARA, ATK and emerging Court cases

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New Opportunities

- National Chief Platform-all relate to fisheries
- National Protocol with AFN & DFO on cooperation, communication, safety and policy development.
- Deputy Minister met with NC, upcoming meeting with Minister.
- Ocean Reserves-designation no fishing areas

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DFO Activities

- Treasury Board renewed Aboriginal Programs March 2009
- AAROM, AIHP, AFS, PICFI and ACIFI new streamlining reporting templates for March 31st, 2010
- Catch Certificates January 2010
- Aquaculture Regulatory Framework Feb 10th 2010

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International Activities

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Climate Change
- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous ppl
- UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Trans boundary Issues with USA

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