



FIRST NATIONS  
FISHERIES COUNCIL

## First Nations Fisheries Council **Communiqué** **August 2009**

### **COUNCIL UPDATES**

#### **First Nations Fisheries Council calls for Appointments for Council Members under new structure**

##### **ACTION REQUIRED**

The First Nations Fisheries Council has issued an invitation to B.C. First Nations to appoint new First Nations Fisheries Council members based on the new approved structure of the Council which links Council members to 14 geographic regions in B.C. The new structure came about as a result of community meetings in the Spring of 2008 and subsequent discussions at the Fisheries Assembly in February 2009. The new structure was approved by the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit in the spring of 2009. The notice requesting appointments is available [here](#). The background paper which resulted in the approval of the new Council structure with related mandate and 14 regions structure, is available [here](#). If you need more information please [contact the Executive Director of the Council](#).

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#### **B.C. First Nations Leaders invited to First Nations Aquaculture Meeting September 15, 2009**

As a result of the recent *Morton case*, Canada and B.C. are currently conducting a review of the manner in which aquaculture is managed in B.C. The Aquaculture Working Group and the First Nations Fisheries Council are working together to ensure that First Nations interests are well represented in this process. The Fisheries Council and the Aquaculture Working Group are hosting a discussion session relating to a Statement of Solidarity on Aquaculture management on September 15, 2009. This is the afternoon prior to the UBCIC meetings at Harrison Hot Springs. A resolution which will relate to the outcome of the meeting will be presented at the UBCIC meeting on Sept 16 and at upcoming First Nations Summit and BCAFN meetings later in September.

A registration form for the session is available [here](#).

The agenda for the session is available [here](#).

A draft discussion document related to a resolution on a statement of solidarity is available [here](#).

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#### **First Nations Fisheries Council Fall Fisheries Assembly – October 28 – 30, 2009 at the Chehalis Healing House**

A Fall Fisheries Assembly will be hosted by the B.C. First Nations Fisheries Council October 28 – 30 at the Chehalis Healing House.

A page on the [First Nations Fisheries Council website](#) will be set up by the end of August with more information about the Assembly. The Fisheries Council is able to support travel for one Chief or Proxy per community. Some other limited travel support may be available upon request. Please mark down the date for this important meeting.

Registration forms are now available now for [Chiefs and Proxies](#), [First Nations fisheries participants](#), and for [non-First Nations Participants](#).

Please book your accommodation early to ensure space at the venues in Harrison Hot Springs.

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### **Fisheries Council writes Minister, the Marine Stewardship Council, and Tavel Certification Inc. in protest of lack of consultation with B.C. First Nations around MSC Certification**

The First Nations Fisheries Council recently wrote to the Minister for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gail Shea, to voice concerns about DFO's lack of consultation with B.C. First Nations in the ongoing MSC certification processes. The correspondence is available here to [Tavel Certification, the Marine Stewardship Council](#) and to [Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#).

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### **Fisheries Council calls for an International Salmon Summit**

The First Nations Fisheries Council has called upon the governments of Canada and British Columbia to call for an international salmon summit in response to the environmental crisis related to sockeye salmon returns this year. See the correspondence [here](#).

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### **Fisheries Council condemns DFO for selling of fish caught in test fisheries and not adhering to the priority doctrine for First Nations' priority rights to access fish**

The First Nations Fisheries Council recently condemned DFO for their practice of selling fish obtained through test fisheries. The Council believes this practice violates the Larocque decision, and does not adequately recognize the priority which DFO's own policies accord to First Nations fisheries. See the e-mail from the Council to the Minister [here](#).

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### **Fisheries Council members meet with DFO's new Deputy Minister**

Council members Dr. Michelle Corfield and Grand Chief Doug Kelly met July 17 2009 in Vancouver with new Fisheries and Oceans Canada Deputy Minister Claire Dansereau and Regional Director General Paul Sprout. Key items of discussion at the meeting included the development of a Commitment to Action and work plans between DFO and the Council on such issues as the protection of First Nations' rights and work on co-management, the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative, and the lack of DFO consultation with First Nations on ongoing Marine Stewardship Council certification processes.



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### **Council engagement on the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative Update**

The First Nations Fisheries Council's PICFI Technical Working Group met recently with DFO in order to push forward toward common understandings and positive outcomes from the PICFI program. DFO has agreed with the Council's recommendations to push back the program deadline for Expressions of Interest under PICFI from August to October 2009, although there is some concern that groups who delay getting in their application may not be able to set up their fishing program in time to undertake fisheries next fishing season.

The Council has also released to First Nations a legal policy analysis undertaken with respect to PICFI by Mandell Pinder. This analysis is available on the [FNFC website](#) if you have a valid account, or by contacting the [FNFC directly](#).

The Council has also been advocating strongly on behalf of B.C. First Nations to have DFO release the licenses and quota which it has purchased thus far through PICFI (\$50M to this point) so that First Nations can fish it this season.

More information on the ongoing efforts of the Council to make PICFI a program which is meaningful and useful to B.C. First Nations is located on the [FNFC website](#).

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### **FISHERIES IN THE NEWS**

Please see the Fisheries Council's [Fish in the News](#) page for recent media coverage relating to B.C. fisheries issues of interest to B.C. First Nations.

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### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES**

**September 2, 2009**

**Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat Fraser Annex and Inter Tribal Fisheries Meeting**

**Lillooet**

See the [FRAFS website](#) for more information.

**October 26****Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat Joint Technical Working Group Meeting  
Abbotsford**

See the [FRAFS website](#) for more information.

**October 27****Tier 1 and Tier 2 Meetings on Pacific Salmon Treaty Fraser Annex Renewal  
Abbotsford**

See the [FRAFS website](#) for more information.

**October 28 – 30 2009****Fall Fisheries Assembly - Chehalis Healing House**

The First Nations Fisheries Council is pleased to confirm that a fall Fisheries Assembly will take place Oct 28 – 30 at the Chehalis Healing House near Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.

**NEXT B.C. FIRST NATIONS REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS  
CONFERENCE CALLS**

The next bi-weekly B.C. First Nations Fisheries Organizations conference calls for B.C. First Nations Fisheries Organizations and technical staff (Tier 1 – internal to First Nations only) will be held:

September 2, 2009 from 9:00am – 10:30am

September 16, 2009 from 9:00am – 10:30am

September 30, 2009 from 9:00am – 10:30am

Please [contact the Council](#) for dial-in information and agendas or refer to past meeting summaries on the FNFC website (you will need to login to view the meeting notes – a confidential login is available to anyone who is a member of a B.C. First Nation or who works on behalf of a First Nation in the area of Fisheries).