



FIRST NATIONS
FISHERIES COUNCIL

First Nations Fisheries Council **Communiqué** **April 2010**

FISHERIES ISSUES UPDATES

Cohen Commission

The Cohen Commission, appointed to look into the causes of the decline of Fraser River sockeye, has now ruled with respect to applications for standing. The Fisheries Council, along with a number of First Nations and First Nations fisheries organizations has been granted standing before the Commission.

While each individual First Nation and fisheries organization will be recognized as a distinct body with unique interests and concerns, the Fisheries Council is facilitating a meeting to encourage First Nations to work to identify common interests and issues. A strategic planning session will take place on **June 9** in Vancouver where First Nations will examine the “Discussion Paper and Scoping Document” due to be released by the Commission on June 1. The Fisheries Council and other First Nations organizations will also provide additional background analysis and information, with the objective of the meeting to reach agreement on some key themes and evidence that First Nations feel need to be put before the Commission. Discussions about these themes have also taken place on the Fisheries Council bi-weekly conference calls.

Those First Nations who have not applied for standing can still participate by making a public written submission. Details about how to make a submission are available on the Cohen Commission website. Submissions received to date have also been posted.

The Cohen Commission is scheduled to hold hearings throughout September – December 2010.

For more information on the Cohen Commission, visit their website at:

<http://www.cohencommission.ca/> . The Fisheries Council is also collecting information relevant to the Cohen Commission and has dedicated a page on our website to this information [here](#).

Aquaculture

The Fisheries Council hosted a series of community information sessions throughout the province in February and March in order to provide analysis and background information to First Nations on aquaculture. As DFO develops their new regulatory framework for aquaculture management, it is crucial that B.C. First Nations become more aware of aquaculture issues, and become more engaged in this process.

A number of resource materials have been posted on the Council website, including a summary of recommendations, a primer document (which provides an introduction to aquaculture), a legal opinion on the issue of the new regulatory framework and associated consultation, a summary of past aquaculture reviews, and a review of DFO’s strategic questions from a First Nations’ perspective.

Notes from the individual community sessions are also available on our website, along with a final summary report.

Mark the Date - Fall 2010 Fisheries Assembly - November 2 – 4, 2010 - Prince Rupert

The First Nations Fisheries Council is currently in the process of planning the 2010 Fall Fisheries Assembly. This year, it will be held in Prince Rupert during the first week of November. More detailed information about the assembly will be made available on our website, email list serve, and bi-weekly conference calls over the coming months.

Water Act Modernization

B.C. First Nations should be aware that the provincial government is currently working to develop a new Water Act, which had the potential to significantly affect Title and Rights. The First Nations Fisheries Council has developed a [page on our website](#) devoted to Water Act modernization. The Council is also in contact with the Government of B.C. both to urge them to adequately consult with B.C. First Nations through this process, and to develop a new Act that adequately protects First Nations Title and rights interests that relate to water and water management.

Groundfish Integrated Advisory Board

A new terms of reference had been developed for the Groundfish Integrated Advisory Board (GIAB) which provides 6 seats for coastal First Nations. DFO requested help from the Council to appoint 6 First Nations members to the new board. The Council has recommended that the seats be allocated to include 1 representative from each of the following areas: Haida Gwaii; North Coast; Central Coast; North Island; West Coast Vancouver Island; and South Island. The Council will be working with communities in each of these areas to facilitate appointments.

The Council also recommended that DFO provide discrete funding for First Nations participation in these Boards. The Council further recommended that as a part of the overall groundfish management regime DFO needs to incorporate a bilateral component where First Nations and DFO meet together and separate from other stakeholders to discuss issues that may relate to Title and rights.

FISH 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. A [Bulletin Board](#) is also regularly updated on the website with information about upcoming meetings, job opportunities, and other fisheries related news.

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:

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 9:00am – 10:30am

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 from 9:00am – 10:30am

Wednesday, June 2, 2010, 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. Meeting summaries are available to First Nations only, so you will need to login and password 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.

YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

First Nations Fisheries Council members are appointed by First Nations around B.C. through processes that they determine at a region scale. There are 14 Council seats available. The intent of the Regions is that First Nations will work collaboratively to determine which area they participate in and how they wish to see appointments made. These are your current Fisheries Council members.

Council Members

Allan Claxton

Cliff Atleo

John Henderson

Steve Carpenter

Russ Jones

Don Roberts

Walter Joseph

Vacant

Howie Wright

Thomas Alexis

Vacant (2)

Ken Malloway

Vacant

Region

South Island

Nuu-chah-nulth (West Coast Vancouver Island)

Kwakwaka'wakw (Northern Vancouver Island & Mainland Inlets)

Central Coast

Haida Gwaii

North Coast

Upper Skeena

Northern Transboundary

Columbia Transboundary

Upper Fraser

Mid-Fraser

Fraser Valley

Lower Fraser/ Lower Mainland

CONTACT US

For more information about the First Nations Fisheries Council, please visit our website at www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca. You can contact the Communications Coordinator for the Fisheries Council, Aimee Arsenault, at aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca.