



FIRST NATIONS  
FISHERIES COUNCIL

First Nations Fisheries Council

# Communiqué

## July 2010

### **FISHERIES ISSUES UPDATES**

#### **Cohen Commission**

The First Nations Fisheries Council hosted a strategic planning session at Musqueam on June 11, which was open to all BC First Nations interested in discussing the Judicial Inquiry into the decline of Fraser River sockeye. Brenda Gaertner, head legal counsel for the First Nations Coalition, gathered feedback from First Nations on the recent [discussion paper](#) released by the Cohen Commission, as well as advice on what issues First Nations felt should be given priority in the Commission's investigation. Chief among these issues are assessing conservation, understanding the role of constitutionally protected aboriginal rights, valuing aboriginal expertise, contradictions in DFO policies and practices, the interaction of impacts and analysis of cumulative impacts, and hydro-electric impacts on the Fraser River.

While a number of First Nations have been granted standing before the Commission, those communities that do not have standing can still participate by entering a [written submission](#). They can also take part in the Fisheries Council's Cohen Commission discussions by participating in our bi-weekly Wednesday morning conference calls.

Justice Cohen and his staff will be making site visits to a number of areas throughout the Fraser River watershed and marine fishing areas in order to learn more about what fisheries mean to First Nations communities. The Fisheries Council is helping to coordinate this tour by submitting a list of potential site visits to the Commission. If you have any special events or projects in your community that you would like to show, please contact Saul Milne at [saul@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:saul@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).

The Fisheries Council has posted a number of documents to the Cohen Commission page of our [website](#). Some of these documents are available to First Nations only, and require a username and password. 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. Please contact Aimee Arsenault at [aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca) to get your login.

More information on the Cohen Commission can be found at [www.cohencommission.ca](http://www.cohencommission.ca).

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#### **Aquaculture**

The draft B.C. Aquaculture Regulations will be released in the Canada Gazette within the next couple of weeks. The Fisheries Council will circulate a notice and a link when this document becomes available. Once released, there will be a 60 day comment period. Watch the website and email distributions for more information about this important process.

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## **FNFC Annual Fisheries Assembly**

Please mark your calendars for the annual First Nations Fisheries Council Assembly. The Assembly will take place in **Prince Rupert on November 2-4, 2010**. Registration forms and accommodations information will be distributed in the coming weeks.

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## **Water Act Modernization**

April 30th marked the deadline for formal submissions to the Water Act Modernization (WAM) process. Over 1000 submissions were received, 18 of which came from First Nations groups.

Deana Machin, the Co-management Coordinator for the Fisheries Council, has been asked to participate in the WAM technical advisory committee process, along with representatives from INAC, NGOs, natural resource sectors and the academic world. A special technical session was held in June to review the public submissions; this process is ongoing.

Concern has been expressed about the short timeline for completing the WAM process; however, the province has indicated that they will adhere to their proposed schedule.

WAM submissions from the Fisheries Council and others are available on the [WAM page](#) of our website.

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## **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.

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## **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, June 30, 2010, 9:00am – 10:30am](#)~~

**Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 9:00am – 10:30am**

**Wednesday, July 28, 2010, 9:00am – 10:30am**

[Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 9:00 am – 10:30 am](#)

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.

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## **Council Members**

The Fisheries Council would like to welcome its newly appointed members: Chief Marilyn Camille of the Canoe Creek Band (representing the Mid-Fraser); John Ward of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation

(representing the Northern Transboundary); and Wayne Sparrow of the Musqueam Band (representing the Lower Mainland).

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  
John Ward  
Howie Wright  
Thomas Alexis  
Marilyn Camille  
Vacant  
Ken Malloway  
Wayne Sparrow

**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  
Secwepemc Mid-Fraser  
Mid-Fraser  
Fraser Valley  
Lower Fraser/ Lower Mainland

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**CONTACT US**

For more information about the First Nations Fisheries Council, please visit our website at [www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca](http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca). You can contact the Communications Coordinator for the Fisheries Council, Aimee Arsenault, at [aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca).