

First Nations Fisheries Council Communiqué October 2010



Council Executive & Priority Areas

September 23, 2010 the First Nations Fisheries Council appointed new members to its Executive. The Council has appointed as its new co-chairs John Henderson (Coastal) and Grand Chief Ken Malloway (Interior). The portfolio-holders for the Council's working groups are: Chief Allan Claxton (lead) and Cliff Atleo (alternate) for Aquaculture; Russ Jones for Economic Access; Howie Wright for Co-Management; and Walter Joseph for Food Social and Ceremonial Section 31 (1) Protected Fisheries.

Chief Bob Chamberlin was confirmed as the First Nations Co-Chair for the First Nations Fisheries Council/ Fisheries and Oceans Canada Aquaculture Working Group.

The four working groups, in conjunction with both the First Nations Fisheries Council and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are all in the process of developing workplans which will outline priority work for the Working Groups. Communities will be providing input into the plans at the Fisheries Assembly 2010 happening in the first week of November in Prince Rupert.

New Pacific Aquaculture Regulations

On September 8th, 2010 the 60-day comment window for the draft *Pacific Aquaculture Regulations* closed. The regulations can still be viewed at <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2010/2010-07-10/html/reg2-eng.html>.

Although the comment window has concluded, the assessment of incoming regulations and the associated work related to the development of a policy and management framework for aquaculture remains a priority for the Fisheries Council. The Council, as well as the Aquaculture Working Group, have been working to urge Canada to develop an engagement and consultation strategy which will allow First Nations meaningful input into the development of the new aquaculture management regime.

The Fisheries Council, along with many other B.C. First Nations and First Nations fisheries organizations have been active in corresponding with DFO with respect to concerns and recommendations. Any correspondence provided to the Council, and updated information relating to the Aquaculture Working Group is available to First Nations to view on the Fisheries Council's website: <http://www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca/index.php/mission-a-work-of-council/working-groups/aquaculture-working-group>.

Cohen Commission

The public hearing segment of the Cohen Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of the Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River has now concluded. The Commission will now turn its attention to a series of evidentiary hearings, which will take place October 25th through December 16th.

Hearings will be held Monday through Thursday (with some exceptions), from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm each day. Hearings are open to the public and will be held at the Federal Court at 701 West Georgia Street, 8th floor.

The hearings will cover a broad spectrum of issues, however, the hearings on *Perspectives on the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Framework Underlying the Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fishery* were held on Wednesday, October 26th.

For the complete schedule of the evidentiary hearings please visit: www.cohencommission.ca/en/schedule.

For background information relating to the evidence which is being put in front of the Commission please visit: www.cohencommission.ca/en/Backgrounders.php.

First Nations Fisheries Council Annual Fisheries Assembly

A reminder that the annual Fisheries Assembly will be in Prince Rupert at the Nisga'a Hall November 2nd to 4th. For online registration and additional information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/92beCD>.

The 2010 Fall Assembly's theme is 'Co-Management: Developing a Shared Vision for the Future', and will include Tier One meetings (First Nations only) and Tier Two meetings.

Remember to also visit our website after the Assembly for a complete synopsis of presentations and discussions.

Fish in the News

The Fisheries Council continues to maintain an up-to-date archive of media reports related to fisheries issues in British Columbia of interest to First Nations. The Fisheries Council website also provides the latest information about upcoming meetings, job opportunities, and other fisheries related news. Please see the FNFC website at www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca.

REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE CALLS

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

Wednesday, November 17th (9:00 am to 10:30 am)

Wednesday, December 1st (9:00 am to 10:30 am)

Please contact the Fisheries 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; therefore, access is permitted with the use of 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. For more information on this or any of the items mentioned above please contact the Fisheries Council at matthew@fnfisheriescouncil.ca.

JOINT WORKING GROUPS

The First Nations Fisheries Council and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have established four priority area working groups, which include Aquaculture, Section 35.1 FSC Fisheries, Economic Access, and Co-management. The working groups continue to meet, and will be developing joint work plans throughout the fall season. Meeting notes, working group terms of reference, and additional background information is currently available on the First Nations Fisheries Council website.

As many of these documents are internal to First Nations only, a username and password is required to access some information. 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. For more information on this or any of the items mentioned above please contact the Communications Coordinator at matthew@fnfisheriescouncil.ca.

CONTACT US

For more information about the First Nations Fisheries Council, please visit our website at www.fnfisheriescouncil.ca. You can also reach the Communications Coordinator for the Fisheries Council at matthew@fnfisheriescouncil.ca.