

Meeting: First Nations Fisheries Council
Date: October 28, 2011
Location: Prince George



FIRST NATIONS
FISHERIES COUNCIL

Objectives:

1. Defining the First Nations Fisheries Council's relationship with the First Nations Leadership Council
2. Describing the First Nations Fisheries Council's relationship with Watershed Organizations or Initiatives
3. Understanding the Nomination and Appointment process for the First Nations Fisheries Council

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Developing Fisheries Governance
 - A. Leadership Council (Declaration and Protocol)
 - B. Charter
3. Delegation Appointment Process

FNFC Working Context:

FNFC has a mandate to work with, and on behalf of British Columbia First Nations to:

- advance and protect First Nations Title and Rights, including priority access for FSC;
- build and maintain capacity related to fishing;
- planning, policy, management and decision-making at a variety of scales (local, regional, national and international)
- development of a BC-wide co-management framework that recognizes and respects First Nations jurisdiction, management authority and responsibilities;

The roles and responsibilities of the FNFC have expanded since its inception

- the organization requires a strategic plan to remain healthy, vibrant and sustainable organization,
- **Goal** is to maintain adequate capacity to effectively and cohesively advance the interests of First Nations concerning fisheries and aquatic resources in the context of shifting policy environments.

Next Three Years:

The next three years, 2012 to 2015, will be a period of considerable transition for First Nations in the Pacific fisheries.

- The conclusion of substantive programming such as the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI),
- release of the final report from the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River
- DFO's introduction of evolving governance frameworks will unquestionably alter the operational and political climate in the Region.

The need for strong Fisheries Governance:

- Although continuing to respond to emerging issues is essential, a clear governance mechanism is required to more effectively mitigate challenges, and leverage opportunities in advancing First Nations interests.
- The development of a clear governance mechanism necessitates the establishment of cooperative relationships between FNFC, the First Nations Leadership Council, and various watershed or regional organizations or initiatives.
- By establishing clear processes and cohesive messaging, First Nations in British Columbia can be empowered to influence the integrated planning and management of fisheries and aquatic resources and move beyond the current deficiency of consultation and perceived marginalization of Section 35(1) rights.