



**ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
BULLETIN
ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS**

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**Assembly of First Nations supports B.C. First Nations Right for Proper
Consultation on Proposed Provincial Aquaculture Regulations**

(Ottawa, ON) – Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo and AFN B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould today called on the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to ensure new, draft aquaculture regulations will meet the needs of all those involved by working collaboratively with First Nations and allowing them the opportunity for real input and involvement in developing the new regulations.

“I am deeply concerned to hear that, with the deadline for input looming, DFO has only provided a single day of discussion with First Nations in B.C. since releasing the draft regulations,” National Chief Atleo stated. “These regulations will establish new rules for managing the aquaculture industry in B.C., which involves many First Nations. As key players with unique Aboriginal and resource rights, there needs to be a more thorough and genuine dialogue. The AFN supports First Nations in B.C. in calling for immediate, collaborative talks with the provincial and federal governments.”

On July 10, 2010 DFO released draft B.C. Aquaculture Regulations. The deadline for comment and review is September 8th, and First Nations have not had an opportunity for informed input and review. The AFN has requested an urgent meeting with the Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to discuss establishing a better working relationship with B.C. First Nations through a joint process on the engagement of the aquaculture regulations and reform initiatives.

“I must emphasize the requirement for meaningful consultation and accommodation with First Nations in any activities that affect our rights and our territories,” said AFN B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould. “Not only is this the right thing to do, it will also foster strategic planning, coordination and accountability in aquaculture management. Aquaculture reform presents many challenges, and First Nations want to strike a balance between economic prosperity and sustainable, environmentally sound practices. First Nations that rely on the fisheries resource will be affected by these new regulations for centuries. We cannot just do this quickly. We have to do it right.”

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

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