



## BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Road  
Prince George, BC V2K 5S3  
Website: [www.bcafn.ca](http://www.bcafn.ca)

**BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**September 19-21, 2023**  
**Hybrid - In person & online via Zoom**

**Resolution 38/2023**

**SUBJECT: CALL FOR INCREASED PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING FOR FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES SPECIAL CHIEFS MEETING REGARDING TRILATERAL SALMON ACCORD**

**MOVED BY: CHIEF JAMES HOBART, SPUZZUM FIRST NATION**

**SECONDED BY: CHIEF DALTON SILVER, SUMAS FIRST NATION**

**DECISION: CARRIED**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. Wild Salmon is integral to many First Nations livelihoods, culture, traditions and spirituality. First Nations continue to protect wild salmon from the threats of today, including climate change and the impacts of open net pen fish farms, in accordance with our ancestral stewardship obligations;
- B. The declining salmon stocks and other freshwater and salt-water fisheries cause First Nations in BC to experience a loss of opportunity to practice their culture, harvest food resources, and be self-governing and reflects an infringement on First Nations' food, social and ceremonial rights;
- C. First Nations in BC have diverse interests, perspectives and priorities with respect to the management, rehabilitation and protection of wild salmon, and as self-determining Nations, share a responsibility to manage resources in a manner that respects the interdependence we have with one another;
- D. First Nations in BC have a common interest in increasing decision-making and control with respect to the regulation, policy planning, management, protection and rehabilitation of fish,


**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2023**

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

habitat and fisheries;

- E. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of BC, committed to implement, affirms:
- a. Article 20:
    - 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
  - b. Article 26:
    - 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired;
    - 2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reasons of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
  - c. Article 29:
    - 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
  - d. Article 32:
    - 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- F. On June 21, 2023, the Government of Canada tabled the *United Nations Declaration Act's* National Action Plan, with the goal of taking all measures necessary to ensure that federal laws are consistent with the Declaration. The Action Plan identifies the following action plan measures:
- a. #36: Pursue amendments and reforms to fisheries legislation regulation or policies to support self-determination and the meaningful implementation and exercise of Indigenous fishing rights;
  - b. #37: Enhance collaborative tools agreements and transparent approaches to better deliver on the collaborative design, development, delivery and management of fisheries as well as conservation and protection of fish habitat;
  - c. #38: Provide predictable and flexible funding that will ensure Indigenous partners have the capacity to provide fisheries, habitat, science and oceans and marine-related services. Provide predictable and flexible funding to ensure Indigenous nations and organizations have the capacity to meaningfully participate in advisory, co-management, and decision-making processes tied to aquatic resources and oceans management;
  - d. #39: Develop legislation, policy, program and funding to ensure fisheries guardians can meet community needs;

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2023**

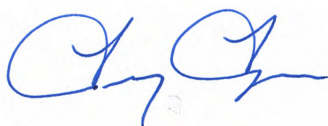


---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

- e. #40. Develop mechanisms that respect and incorporate Indigenous Knowledge as a distinct knowledge system in the management of fisheries, fish habitat, conservation, marine safety and protection of the marine environment;
  - f. Implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative to protect and revitalize salmon populations and their habitats.
  - g. #43. Establish effective mechanisms and processes to address systemic racism in the enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations;
  - h. #44. Pursue the development of national aquaculture legislation;
- G. The BC First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) was mandated to coordinate BC First Nations' fisheries interests and develop a cohesive and united voice among Nations;
- H. BCAFN Resolution 08/2020, *The Decline of Pacific Salmon and Support For A Cohesive BC First Nations Fisheries Strategy*, expressed its full support for the First Nations Fisheries Council's development of a cohesive BC First Nations Fisheries Strategy that would let First Nation regional fishery organizations work together to advise the government and coordinate strategic action to restore salmon stocks;
- I. The FNFC is coordinating the collective efforts of First Nations from across British Columbia and Crown agencies to develop a strong model for trilateral collaboration between First Nations, the Province of BC, and the Government of Canada regarding the protection and conservation of wild Pacific salmon.
- J. The model is comprised of:
- a. Tier 1: (First Nation-First Nation) First Nations Salmon Steering Committee (Steering Committee);
  - b. Tier 2 (First Nation-Crown Agencies) Pacific Salmon Trilateral Table (Trilateral Table);
  - c. Strong foundation of formal agreements and processes between parties, which includes the Declaration of Urgency and the Trilateral Salmon Accord.
- K. The Declaration on the Urgent Need to Address Wild Pacific Salmon Populations in BC (Declaration of Urgency) was drafted by the FNFC, Department of Waters, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) as an initial step to confirm in writing the intent of each party to work together through shared interests and priorities to address the historic decline of wild Pacific salmon populations;
- L. The Trilateral Salmon Accord is the first of its kind in Canada. Built upon the Declaration of Urgency, the Accord will formalize the commitment between FNFC (on behalf of and with input from First Nations in BC), DFO, and WLRS to collaboratively address the decline of wild Pacific salmon. This binding accord outlines shared goals, resource commitments, and roles for each party.
- M. The FNFC will be hosting a one-day special chiefs meeting in mid-November (2023) for additional dialogue on the Trilateral Accord to discuss how it will be supported, how priorities

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2023**



---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**

regarding salmon recovery will be identified and how progress will be reported back to Nations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly recognize that many of the marine species on which our communities rely are in decline and remain at significant risk due to the ongoing climate crisis, the downstream impacts of industry, and the lack of robust First Nations monitoring and control of their territories and rights-based interests in fish, fisheries and habitat; and
2. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the BCAFN Regional Chief to request that the First Nations Fisheries Council extend their proposed one-day special chiefs meeting on the Trilateral Salmon Accord to a three-day forum to allow for a fulsome discussion from First Nations leadership and First Nations Fisheries Experts in BC on the needs and perspectives of their respective communities.
3. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the BCAFN Regional Chief to write a letter calling upon the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to provide the additional financial resources to fund the requested two-day extension and the participation of First Nations representatives from across BC.
4. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly directs the Regional Chief to work with the UBCIC, FNS and FNFC to work collaboratively to ensure that there are additional opportunities for leadership to discuss the Trilateral Salmon Accord and explore pathways to ensure compensation related to FSC fisheries.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2023**



---

**Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief**