



BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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BCAFN SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
March 4 & 5, 2026
In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 5(f)/2026

SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF OPEN PEN NET FISH FARMS FROM THE PACIFIC COAST

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Decision:

- A. the United Nations adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), which affirms Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination (Article 3), to maintain and strengthen their spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned waters and resources (Article 25), and to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of their lands, territories, and resources (Article 29);
- B. the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) was co-developed with First Nations and was unanimously passed by the BC Legislature in November 2019 and affirms the application of the UN Declaration to the laws of BC, requires the government of BC to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of BC are consistent with the UN Declaration;
- C. the Government of Canada has committed to implementing the UN Declaration through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act;
- D. both Canada and British Columbia have made repeated publicly committed to reconciliation, implementation of the UN Declaration, environmental protection, and the protection and enhancement of wild Pacific salmon for future generations;

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- E. wild Pacific salmon are foundational to the culture, governance, food security, economy, governance and inherent rights of the Hesquiaht people since time immemorial;
- F. open net pen Atlantic salmon aquaculture operations operating in Pacific waters pose ecological risks to wild salmon, including disease transfer, sea lice amplification, and ecosystem impacts;
- G. BCAFN Resolutions 2017-16, 2018-13 and 2020-03 have confirmed BCAFN's commitments to work in solidarity with like-minded organizations with respect to fisheries and aquaculture issues and to advocate for the transition away from open-net pen aquaculture in favour of more humane and sustainable practices;
- H. the Government of Canada previously committed to transition away from open net pen salmon farming in British Columbia waters, and that commitment has not yet been fully realized and through Fisheries and Oceans Canada, has identified the protection and rebuilding of wild salmon as a priority;
- I. commercial fishing vessels are legally required to install and pay for independent monitoring systems to record and verify their harvest and catch activities;
- J. fairness, transparency, conservation, and reconciliation require that aquaculture operators be held to monitoring standards equal to or greater than those imposed upon Indigenous and commercial harvesters; and
- K. neighbouring First Nations whose territories and marine ecosystems are directly impacted by open net pen fish farms have the inherent right to transparency, environmental protection, and access to information affecting their territories and resources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia for the immediate removal of all open net pen Atlantic salmon fish farms from the Pacific coast of British Columbia; and
2. pending full removal, the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to ensure all open net pen Atlantic salmon aquaculture operations must be required to:
 - Immediately install continuous video monitoring systems to record all harvesting, transfer, and transportation of farmed Atlantic salmon;
 - Meet or exceed the monitoring standards imposed upon commercial fishing vessels;
 - Bear the full financial cost of installation, operation, maintenance, and oversight of such monitoring systems.

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3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to ensure all raw monitoring footage be made accessible, in real time or upon request, to neighbouring First Nations whose territories are impacted by these operations;
4. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to demand Governments of Canada and British Columbia to ensure that aquaculture regulatory regimes are consistent with the UN Declaration and DRIPA, including the requirement for free, prior, and informed consent where activities impact Indigenous territories and marine resources; and
5. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief to formally call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to take immediate legislative and regulatory action to remove open net pen fish farms from the Pacific coast.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Teegee', is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Teegee, BC Regional Chief