BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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Prince George, BC V2K 5S3
Website: www.bcafn.ca

BCAFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 14, 15 & 16, 2026
In person & online via Zoom

Resolution 40/2026

SUBJECT:	**SUPPORT FOR ḤAWIŁ TSU-TSII-IN' CALL TO REMOVE ATLANTIC SALMON FROM HUPACASATH AND TSESHAHT FIRST NATION TERRITORIAL WATERS**
MOVED BY:	**CHIEF COUNCILLOR DON SVANVIK, ’NA̱MGIS FIRST NATION**
SECONDED BY:	**CHIEF EDDY JULES, SKEETCHESTN**
DECISION:	**CARRIED**

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations in British Columbia (B.C.) are inherent title and rights holders with jurisdiction over their lands, waters, and resources, and continue to exercise Indigenous laws and stewardship responsibilities to protect wild salmon, marine ecosystems, and the well-being of their communities;

B. wild salmon are central to the culture, governance, economy and food security of many First Nations in B.C. and immediate and meaningful action is required to protect and restore them for current and future generations;

C. the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the Province of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

> **Article 18**: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights.

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Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent be-fore adopting and implementing legislative or ad-ministrative measures that may affect them.

Article 26: Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories, and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used or acquired.

Article 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands, territories, and resources.

Article 32: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands, territories, and resources;

D. on June 19, 2024, Canada announced that they were banning open net-pen salmon aquaculture in B.C. coastal waters by June 30, 2029 and committed to consider only marine or land-based close containment systems for salmon aquaculture licenses in coastal B.C. after July 1, 2024, and imposed stricter conditions to ensure improved management of sea lice on farmed fish, which would strengthen protections for wild species and the marine environment during the transition period;

E. BCAFN Resolutions 03/2020 and 5(f)/2026 called for the immediate removal of all open-net pen salmon fish farms from the Pacific coast of B.C.,

F. fish hatcheries are facilities that primarily support the aquaculture industry and supply larval and juvenile fish to open-net pen fish farms; and

G. Ḥawiɬ Tsu-tsii-in (Hereditary Chief Alton Watts) of Hupacasath First Nation has advocated for an immediate end to the Boot Lagoon salmon hatchery within his nation's traditional territory, and with the support of Hupacasath First Nation, stating that Atlantic salmon, as a non-native species to the West Coast, acts as a contaminant and will harm, and potentially collapse, wild salmon stocks.

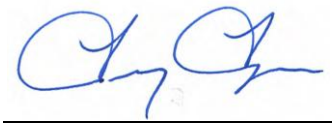
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly support Ḥawiɬ Tsu-tsii-in's (Hereditary Chief Alton Watts) and Hupacasath First Nation's advocacy to immediately remove non-native salmon hatcheries from Hupacasath and Tseshaht First Nation traditional territories, specifically from Boot Lagoon salmon hatchery;

2. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the Government of Canada to reaffirm its June 19, 2024, commitment to ban open net-pen salmon aquaculture in British Columbia coastal waters by June 30, 2029; and

3. the BCAFN Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Regional Chief and staff to continue to advocate for the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

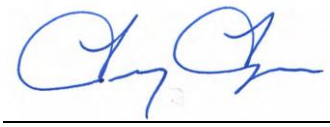
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through the federal *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to ensure that First Nations are full participants in decisions related to inland and coastal fish-related activities.

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