SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 6, 7 & 8, 2011, OTTAWA, ON

Resolution no.66/2011

TITLE:	Successful Aquaculture Governance
SUBJECT:	Environment and Fisheries
MOVED BY:	Chief Doug White, Snuneymuxw First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chris Lewis, Proxy, Okanagan Band, BC
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations have the sovereign right to protect, manage, and derive social, cultural and economic benefits from the wealth of our lands, waters and resources.

B. First Nations in Canada have constitutionally protected title and rights that have been affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada and by international conventions and local and international treaties, including the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

C. Articles 26, 27, 29, and 32 of the UNDRIP affirm the duty of States to consult with indigenous peoples over their rightfully owned and occupied lands, territories, and resources, and acknowledge the rights of indigenous peoples to make decisions about the use of their lands, territories an resources.

D. First Nations acknowledge the interdependence they have with one another and respect each community's right to determine involvement and perspectives on the aquaculture industry based on each of our community's needs, aspirations and priorities.

E. First Nations have the right to be fully informed and involved in any legislative, policy and/or decision-making process pertaining to the aquaculture industry as these actions have the potential to adversely impact on Aboriginal title and rights, and treaty rights.

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F. The honour of the Crown requires both the federal and provincial governments to minimize any infringement to title and rights, and to engage in appropriate consultation and accommodation processes.

G. Through Resolutions, Chiefs-in-Assembly of the political entities in BC (the First Nation Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Assembly of First Nation) mandated the BC Aquaculture Working Group to engage with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to address and advocate for First Nations Title and rights issues that have a bearing on the management and regulation of the aquaculture industry in British Columbia.

H. On November 2, 2011 the BC First Nations Fisheries Council and the BC Aquaculture Working Group co-hosted a meeting where BC First Nations came together to recommend potential structures and processes for integrated planning of aquaculture that link to existing First Nations governance processes in B.C, and these outcomes were reported back and subsequently discussed at the 2011 B.C. First Nations Fisheries Council Annual General Assembly.

I. As a result, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs Chiefs-in-Assembly have endorsed resolutions outlining a series of foundational principles necessary to ensure successful governance of aquaculture in British Columbia. These principles include the need for decisions which have the potential to impact the title and rights of First Nations to occur through a resources government-to-government forum; the need for First Nations to play a key role in the monitoring in their respective territories, and the need for adequate resourcing to First Nations to develop their perspectives on the aquaculture industry and to participate in all management and governance processes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to work with the First Nation Fisheries Council and the BC Aquaculture Working Group to share information and apply relevant best practices and lessons learned from the BC. experience to national aquaculture initiatives.

2. Direct the National Chief to work with the BC First Nations Leadership Council, the BC First Nations Fisheries Council and the BC. Aquaculture Working Group to communicate the their endorsed and approved principles for successful aquaculture governance to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and to the Federal and Provincial governments, advocating for the engagement of First Nations at all stages in aquaculture management, regulation and decision-making.

3. Support the proposed development of a National Aquaculture Working Group to address issues pertaining to aquaculture at a National Scale and direct the National Chief to communicate to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans the need for adequate resources to ensure this working group is able to provide analysis, advice and benefit to all First Nations with interests in aquaculture.

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