



## FISHERIES

### OVERVIEW

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Fisheries Sector provides support to the National Fisheries Committee (NFC). The NFC provides advice to the National Chief and the Chiefs-in-

Assembly on First Nations fisheries as they exercise their inherent rights, peacefully enact their laws in their jurisdiction(s), and manage their natural resources.

### UPDATE

AFN Resolution 07/2019, *First Nations' Oceans Priorities at the Convention on Biological Diversity*, mandated the AFN to advocate for Indigenous representation at the Open-Ended Working Group meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity as independent delegates on August 27-30, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. Delegates included Chief Byron Lewis (Okanagan Indian Band, BC) and AFN Fisheries Director Kenneth Paul. The intent was to consider the scope, architecture, and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Consistent with AFN Resolution 08/2019, *Species at Risk and Aquatic Species*, mandates the AFN Fisheries Sector to convene the first-ever AFN Aquatics working group in October 1-2, 2019, in Kelowna BC along with Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC's) First Nations Advisory Council on Species at Risk members. This work furthers a strategy led by First Nations to address extirpated species, infringement, and socio-economic analysis of lost species.

AFN Resolution 09-2019, *International Year of the Salmon*, affirms the International Year of

the Salmon by declaring the significance of salmon to First Nations. In a letter drafted on August 23, 2019 regarding the landslide in BC, AFN strongly urged DFO to act on its commitments made for the International Year of Salmon.

AFN Resolution 10/2019, *Rebuilding Fish Nations: Advancing a First Nations Fisheries Reconciliation Strategy*, directs AFN through the NFC to initiate work on a First Nations Fisheries Reconciliation Strategy (2019-2022).

Resolution 11/2019, *Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Fisheries*. Building on work undertaken by the Environment sector in this area, a letter was drafted to Environment Canada articulating concerns with the engagement approach for the development of the Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Proposed Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions.

AFN Resolution 12/2019, *The Ocean Supercluster*, The Fisheries sector is working with Ulnooweg Development Group, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs and the Ocean Supercluster to develop an internship program aimed at ocean careers for First Nations students.

# ISSUE UPDATE

## November 2019

AFN Resolution 52/2019, *Fraser River Salmon State of Emergency*, AFN issued a press release to raise the issue of First Nations inclusion within a State of Emergency response. The First Nations Fisheries Council and the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute has assumed the remainder of this salmon restoration work for the balance of the year.

AFN Resolution 69/2019, *To Fully Implement the First Nations Priority Right to Food, Social, and Ceremonial Fisheries*, is part of the

Rebuilding Fish Nations Strategy that is currently being drafted. This policy was under review by the National Indigenous Fisheries Institutes.

AFN Resolution 70-2019, *To provide Mi'gmaq and Wolastoqiyik First Nations access to the Atlantic snow crab fishery*, is part of the Rebuilding Fish Nations Strategy that is currently being drafted.

### NEXT STEPS

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The following activities will take place in coming months:

- National Fisheries Committee – December 2, 2019.
- Oceans Working Group – January 14,15, 2020.
- National Aquaculture Working Group – January 21-23, 2020.
- Inland Working Group – March 30, 2020.

