

**FISHERIES****OVERVIEW**

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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 and peacefully enact their jurisdiction(s) and management of their natural resources.

**UPDATE**

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Inherent Rights to Fish

The Chiefs-in-Assembly recently passed Resolution 75/2017, *National Day of First Nations Fishing Rights*, recognizing the first Monday immediately preceding May 25, 2018, as a National Day of First Nations Fishing Rights to reaffirm and exercise First Nations inherent rights to fish and manage First Nations resources.

Canadian Legislation, Law & Policy

Resolution 04/2018, *First Nations Role in Changes to the Fisheries Act*, outlines the First Nations advocacy work to protect Section 35 rights within the legislative process that seeks to amend Canada's Bill C-68, Fisheries. In particular, these changes will impact First Nations fishers who are actively participating in the fishing industry.

Resolution 05/2018, *First Nations Oceans Working Group and the Oceans Act and Marine Protected Areas*, directs the AFN to oversee the First Nations Oceans Working Group through its National Fisheries Committee in the discussions on the development of Marine Protected areas by the Department of

Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada and its engagement plan for Canada's Bill C-55, Oceans Act. The Fisheries sector held its first national Oceans Working Group on March 27 and 28, 2018, in Montreal, QC.

Resolution 06/2018, *Engaging First Nations on Marine Vessels and Salvage Operations*, directs the AFN to call on the Government of Canada to provide First Nations with long-term capacity as well as respect and recognition of First Nations jurisdiction over their traditional marine areas and to work jointly on marine coast protection particularly with Transport, Fisheries and Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard under the Oceans Protection Plan.

Resolution 34/2018, *Support for Intervention in their appeal of the justification decision within Ahousaht Nation v. Canada*, directs the AFN to seek resources to apply for intervenor status for the five nations as well as other First Nations who wish to intervene in this case.

Resolution 18/2018, *Support for further study on the targeted management of seal and sea lion populations and the development of*

# ISSUE UPDATE

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*targeted management strategies*, directs the AFN to work with DFO to create an action plan on the explosive seal and sea-lion population growth that co-occurs with the decline in salmon and herring stocks for the entire BC coast.

The Fisheries Sector welcomes its new Director, Ken Paul, a member of the Maliseet First Nation in Tobique, NB (*Wolastoqwey*

*Neqotkuk*). Ken has worked 10 years as an engineer with Canada Hydrographic Service and 10 years with Parks Canada. Before coming to the AFN, he served the past 5 years as the Director of Fisheries and Integrated Resources for the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat.

### NEXT STEPS

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The following confirmed activities will take place in upcoming months:

- National Fisheries Committee – October 31 and November 1, 2018, Musquem, BC
- Oceans Working Group (TBD)
- National First Nations Fisheries Forum
- National Policy Analysis Group (Inland Fisheries) – November 27 and 28, 2018, Winnipeg, MB
- National Aquaculture Working Group meeting – November 19 and 20, 2018, Halifax, NS

