SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
DECEMBER 4, 5 & 6, 2012, GATINEAU, QC

Resolution no. 50/2012

TITLE:	Implementation of Cohen Commission Report Recommendations
SUBJECT:	Fisheries
MOVED BY:	Chief Bob Chamberlin, Kwicksutaineuk Ah-kwa-mish First Nation, BC
SECONDED BY:	Grand Chief Ken Malloway, Proxy, Kwaw Kwaw Apilt First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried; 1 opposed, 3 abstentions

WHEREAS:

A. First Nations have inherent and treaty rights to fish and these rights are protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act.*

B. The health and abundance of wild fish stocks are integral to the continued enjoyment and practice of First Nations rights to access and harvest fish.

C. In response to disappearing wild salmon stocks in the Fraser River, the Government of Canada convened the Cohen Commission.

D. The Cohen Commission examined evidence on the disappearance of wild salmon and, based on the knowledge gained during its inquiries, put forward recommendations to the Government of Canada.

E. The Government of Canada should make informed decisions based on advice from the Cohen Commission, and these decisions must be mindful of the Government's fiduciary duties to First Nations.

F. The timely and effective implementation of recommendations from the Cohen Commission has the potential to benefit First Nations salmon fisheries in British Columbia and the Yukon Territories.

G. Canada is obliged to support First Nations in protecting wild salmon, consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 5th day of December, 2012 in Gatineau, Quebec

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

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

1. Direct the AFN to work with the First Nations Leadership Council of British Columbia and the Council of Yukon First Nations in analyzing the recommendations of the Cohen Commission and advocating for action to the Government of Canada.
2. Direct the AFN to advocate for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to immediately and fully implement the Wild Salmon Policy consistent with the recommendations within the Cohen Commission's Report.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF