



### What is the history of this issue and how does it impact First Nations?

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Fisheries Sector is supported by the National Fisheries Committee (NFC), who advise and support the collective interests of First Nations in Canada on priorities related to fisheries, aquaculture, and oceans. The AFN Fisheries Sector continues to monitor activities impacting First Nations inherent and Treaty-protected rights, including monitoring Canada's considerations of the adverse effects of decisions on the rights of Indigenous Peoples when it unilaterally makes decisions under the Fisheries Act.

The National Fisheries Committee continues to support the Yukon Region's leadership in support of Resolution 6/2021 *Yukon River Chinook Salmon of Canadian-Origin*.

### How has the AFN's recent advocacy affected this area?

The National Fisheries Committee's National Aquaculture Working Group (NAWG) collaborated on a series of workshops to capture First Nations priorities and interests on the proposed Aquaculture legislation. The AFN Fisheries Sector plans to collaborate with the First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC) in British Columbia to coordinate First Nations engagement efforts with the guidance of the NAWG.

The National Fisheries Committee continues its work on oceans governance in collaboration with the Environment, Lands and Water Branch's work on oceans conservation that focuses on addressing the gaps between the implementation of IPCAs in terrestrial and marine environments. NFC's collaboration with Transport Canada continues for the Oceans Protection Plan subcommittee to assess and improve the Oceans Protection Plan and ensure that it includes the needs, priorities, and contributions of First Nations to build stronger protection measures for our oceans for present and future generations. This collaboration will provide guidance to efforts that result from Budget 2022 and its commitment to \$2.0 billion over nine years, starting in 2022-23, with \$78.7 million in remaining amortization, and \$136.4 million per year ongoing, to renew and expand the Oceans Protection Plan.

### Where do we hope to go in the future?

The AFN Fisheries Sector will continue to advocate for the implementation of provisions of the modernized Fisheries Act that allow for the Minister to delegate authorities under the Fisheries Act to First Nations. Additionally, the Fisheries Sector will advocate that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) work with First Nations, provinces, and territories, to revise



## SECTOR UPDATE

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH: FISHERIES SECTOR

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regulations and policies to respect First Nations' Treaty-protected inherent right, and to empower First Nations' authorities in fisheries protection and enforcement.

In addition, advocacy work related to the Fisheries Act and its implementation will continue. As a result of the changes to the Fisheries Act in 2019, the Inland Working Group will also turn its focus on policy development for DFO's The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program, responsible for the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat under the Fisheries Act. The outcome of this work is to examine safeguards for the participation in the consultation process of Indigenous groups whose rights may be affected by the Fisheries Act and Species at Risk Act and work toward more collaborative activities relating to fish and fish habitat conservation across coastlines. The Inland Working Group will also continue to engage with the Freshwater Fisheries Marketing Corporation as it transforms itself to better represent the Indigenous fishers and their communities.