



Assembly of First Nations

# ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 9-11, 2024 • Montréal, Québec

## DIALOGUE SESSIONS



### Rights-Based Approaches to Elvers Fisheries

Monday July 8, 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT

ROOM: 512EF, Palais des congrès, Montreal

#### Session Description:

This dialogue session will present and explore the decisions and management strategies related to the elvers fisheries, from the perspectives of both affected First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The objective is to have an open discussion to identify possible approaches where co-management should or could occur regarding the management of the elvers fisheries and the preservation of the species going forward.

To support these discussions, Resolution 101/2023, *Call for a Co-Developed Mandate for Federal Fisheries Negotiations* is included in the discussion package materials. The Resolution mandates the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and all First Nations across Canada in working with the DFO on a new standard for a co-developed mandate to clarify how the Government of Canada will support the Inherent and Treaty-protected rights to fish. The mandate calls for the Government of Canada to fully implement rights-based First Nations fisheries as a duty of the Government of Canada.

The mandate supports that the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and all First Nations across Canada have the Treaty-protected right to harvest and sell fish to provide a livelihood, as affirmed in *R v Marshall* (1999) (The Marshall Case) and as described within their Peace and Friendship Treaty.

To further support Dialogue Session discussions, the meeting materials package includes a copy of the 2022 Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries report titled *Peace on the Water: Advancing the Full Implementation of Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik and Pestokomuhkati Rights-Based Fisheries*. The report recommended actions and strategies that are relevant to First Nations and DFO discussions on co-developed approaches to conservation and management.



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
3:00 p.m.	Opening Prayer	Eldon Bernard Knowledge Keeper
3:05 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Gina Doxtator
3:10 p.m.	Wolastoqey First Nation Approaches to Elvers Fisheries	Lead Fisheries Negotiator, Ken Paul, Wolastoqey First Nation
3:30 p.m.	Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn- Mi'kmaq approaches to Elvers Fisheries	Justin Martin, Manager of Fisheries KMK
3:50 p.m.	Approaches by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans	ADM, Kevin Brosseau, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
4:10 p.m.	Open Discussion	All attendees
5:00 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper