ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 12, 13 & 14, 2011, MONCTON, NB

Resolution no. 26/2011

TITLE:	Establishment of First Nations Fisheries Product Certification Body
SUBJECT:	Fisheries / Intellectual Property Rights
MOVED BY:	Chief Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Perry Bellegarde, Little Black Bear First Nation, SK
DECISION:	Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

A. Fisheries and aquatic products that are labelled and certified as sustainable have better access to markets and are preferred by consumers.

B. First Nations have followed sustainable fishing practices and water stewardship since time immemorial.

C. First Nations should benefit from the recognition of their environmental stewardship.

D. Consumers should be made aware that products produced by First Nations support First Nation communities, cultures, and traditions.

E. Industry has used First Nation logos, art, and other intellectual property to market First Nation products in the past.

F. Many of these products have not been certified as First Nation in nature, character or origin.

G. First Nations have not received clear benefit from the use of their intellectual property in the marketing of non-First Nation products or the sale of those products.

H. First Nations should assert their rights over intellectual property and prevent the non-First Nation fishing industry from marketing products as First Nations in a misleading way.

I. First Nation communities, regions, associations and organizations have already taken steps to create copyright protected and trademarked First Nation products.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14th day of July, 2011 in Moncton, New Brunswick

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

J. There are no national criteria established by First Nations to certify products as First Nation and/or sustainable.

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

1. Declare support for First Nation communities, regions, associations and organizations that have established, are establishing or seek to establish local labels and marketing techniques to support and certify First Nation fisheries products.
2. Encourage First Nations that have established, are establishing or are seeking to establish local labels to come together to form a body to set criteria for the certification of fisheries products as First Nation and/or sustainable.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to facilitate the establishment of a body to set criteria for fisheries product certification.
4. Encourage all First Nations that have established, are establishing or seek to establish local labels to voluntarily adopt the national certification criteria for their own local initiatives in order to promote consistency, transparency, and to open new opportunities for domestic and international marketing.
5. Recognize that only First Nations peoples of Canada may own the intellectual property to the certification of products as First Nation and any art, logos, or marketing that promotes a product as First Nation in nature, character, or origin.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14th day of July, 2011 in Moncton, New Brunswick

SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF