

The originating Parties
to the Treaty were:

1. Cariboo Tribal Council
2. Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council
3. Chilcotin Ulkatcho-Kluskus Tribal Council
4. Kootenay First Nations Area Council
5. Lillooet Tribal Council
6. Nicola Valley First Nations Administration
7. Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
8. Okanagan Tribal Council
9. Sto:lo Nation Society
10. Sto:lo Tribal Council
11. Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

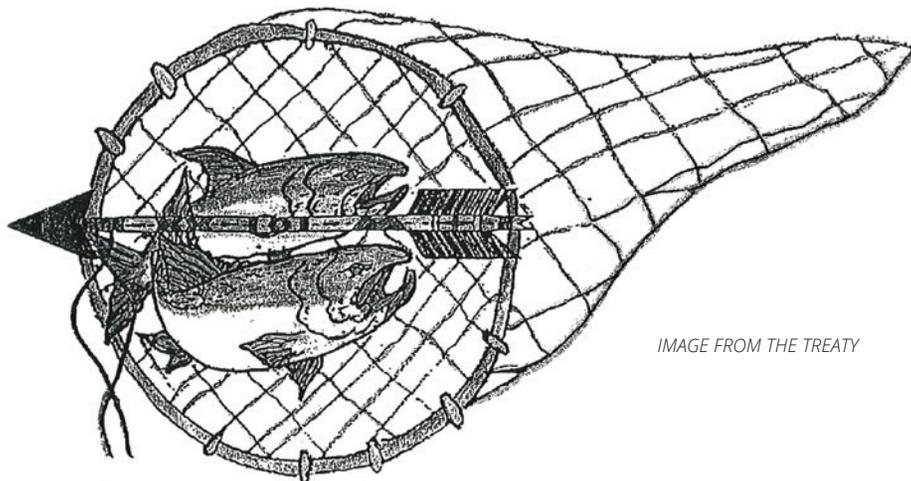


IMAGE FROM THE TREATY

Inter-Tribal Fishing Treaty

A treaty of mutual respect and understanding

BACKGROUND

Fishing is the life blood of the indigenous nations which live along the Fraser River system. The Fraser was and remains the main route that countless millions of salmon have come to depend upon for thousands of years for propagation of the species. Indeed, the salmon is the reason the Fraser became the central and single most important part of our life.

It is imperative to realize that the Fraser River system salmon fishery is not merely an economic resource but a "way of life." A way of life over which we have a sacred obligation to defend and uphold. The Fraser River and the salmon is the legacy our fathers have left us, just as it was their legacy from their fathers.

The weirs and other fishing trap methods we used helped us manage and enhance the stock of the Fraser and Columbia Rivers and their headwaters with phenomenal success, an environmental success story that is unmatched by any modern government. Key to the success of our traditional laws of managing and enhancing the salmon stock was our outlook regarding abundance, waste, and obligations to future generations.



LAWS

The various First Nations that harvested salmon from the Fraser River did so under the laws of their people. These laws governed against waste, made allocation of fishing sites and fostered respect for the salmon and nature in general. These laws worked with nature to maintain the salmon stock.

The First Nations must act now and in concert if they are to save the salmon and maintain their right to harvest what is theirs. A step in this direction would be to codify and enforce traditional laws within each nation so that our right to the fish is firmly established upon these ancient rights.

Conservation is, however, a modern reality that must be addressed if the Fraser River salmon fishery is to survive into the next century. First Nations must make new laws which will ensure that salmon stocks will not dwindle into extinction. Conservation, if it is to be effective, must be a common goal of all First Nations law makers. This would mean that first Nations will have to work together for their common good and the survival of the salmon.

THE 1986 FISHERIES TREATY

A treaty of Mutual Respect and Understanding

First Nations people and fishermen, through their First Nations governments must come to consensus to stand together to see the salmon through the present crisis. The First Nations which have rights and responsibility to the Fraser River salmon, was prescribed by their Elders and given to them by their grandfathers, must come together in order to combine strength and power to fulfill their destiny. In 1986 the Fraser Nations did come together and try to do this work. Due to political factors the fisheries treaty was never fully realized, but It remains a pivotal piece of work and one that can provide guidance and learning in order to build something new.

CONCLUSIONS - *THE SALMON STILL NEED US.*

First Nations people, through their First Nations governments must approach the long and difficult task of sorting out their own laws, jurisdictions and common goals on this very important matter before it is too late. Salmon is a very important aspect of nearly every First Nations person's life. It is the food that gives us life. It gives us a life free from dependence. The 1986 Treaty did not work but was a good starting point. The Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) is a fully mandated First Nations Fisheries Organization which has the ability to achieve the goals described in the 1986 Treaty.



For full details on the treaty, please visit
frasersalmon.ca

