

## CULTURAL IMPERATIVE

It is understood that healthy fish stocks bring community benefits by bringing community together, creating social cohesion, while preserving cultural practices and traditional knowledge.

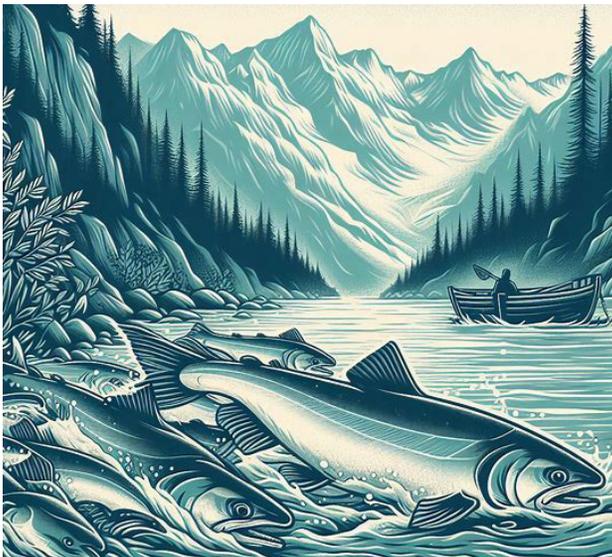
Presently, First nations are experiencing cultural loss in direct relation to loss of salmon, Transfer of knowledge from elders to youth is low due to declining opportunity to engage in fishery activities and to learn by observing and practicing.

The urgency to do something is very real and it starts with the need for First Nations to work together collaboratively from the headwaters to the estuaries and approaches.

## INTER-TRIBAL IMPERATIVE

To date, and only within the modern era, First Nations have not been able to successfully reach a consensus on sharing of scarce sockeye runs. It was not always that way.

There have been other attempts to bring all of the nations together under a blanket treaty or MOU. To date, none have been successful and have gone no further than the documents which they were written on. The 1986 Inter-Tribal Treaty is promising.



## MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

- Aboriginal Rights to salmon are collective rights held within and between Nations.
- Currently there is a growing recognition of nations whose territories support the spawning populations and harvesting rights of Nations for stocks that pass through their territories; however, there has been no First Nations only FSC sharing plan to date.
- First nations have been saying for years that they need to take control by developing their own FSC sharing plan.
- Finally, many First Nations already have traditional sharing protocols that allow other Nations to come and harvest sockeye when abundance allows. Many of these sharing arrangements are based on kinship and family ties.



The core values of respect, integration, and stewardship strongly suggest that prior to a First Nation taking any action which may affect other First Nations or the resources upon which they also rely, the First Nation would seek out the opportunity to consult with others who may be affected. Given that resources, such as fisheries resources, are shared amongst Territories and First Nations – indeed many of the fisheries resources are fundamentally integrated across any boundaries that might be drawn by humans on a map – showing respect and exercising stewardship based upon the core values of Aboriginal Title, would require consultation with other Aboriginal communities who could be impacted.

## Food Social Ceremonial Fisheries & Sharing

### AMONGST THE TRIBAL NATIONS OF THE FRASER RIVER AND APPROACH MARINE

For more information, please visit  
[frasersalmon.ca](http://frasersalmon.ca)

# WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW

## Getting to know your community and its FSC fishery

Understanding Inter-tribal collaboration and history, stories, past experiences, new ways of thinking about inter-tribal fisheries sharing arrangements

## Understanding your relationships with Fisheries & Oceans and others

Indigenous knowledge, data collected, and input in fisheries decisions Links to your Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management group

## Making Inter-tribal collaboration improvements

Success factors or criteria and community objectives to improve FSC performance. ID any capacity gaps, or opportunities moving forward.

## OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE

Examine and analyze how to best develop a framework for a Nation-to-Nation Sockeye sharing plan to advance a consolidated and unified approach to sockeye conservation management.



### Objectives:

1. Prepare a plan for investigating the interest and capacity of Fraser River and Marine Approach First Nations commitment and ability to participate in the development of a framework for a sockeye sharing plan amongst each other.
2. Prepare a plan for investigating how the diversity and behavior of Fraser sockeye salmon plays a role in the development of a Sockeye sharing plan.

## Sharing Challenges - Early Stuart



## FSC SHARING FRAMEWORK BACKGROUND

### STATUS OF THE FRASER SOCKEYE

Presently Fraser sockeye salmon are experiencing an unprecedented decline due to various factors including but not limited to the following:

1. Declining spawner abundance especially after the Big Bar Slide;
2. Reduced freshwater and marine survival;
3. Freshwater habitat pressure;
4. By catch mortalities;
5. General apathy;
6. Competing governmental interests;
7. Predation, and;
8. Climate change effects

## ABOUT THE FSMC AND THE FSC SHARING FRAMEWORK

- Fraser First Nations perspectives on managing Fraser sockeye differ from the headwaters to the estuaries and out in the approach areas of Vancouver Island.
- Many Fraser First Nations in the mid and upper watersheds have access to only one or two stocks of sockeye and that is only if all the stars align. For these First Nations, it is the return of sockeye to their territory that determines their fishing success, not the total return of sockeye to the Fraser River.
- The current aggregate based management system simply does not function, and an overall paradigm shift is required to turn this approach around.
- The needs of Fraser First Nations are best served by a balanced plan that recognizes the current imbalance and begins to move the dial toward a more sustainable and equitable approach.
- Finally, any rebuilding plan that increases total catch of Fraser sockeye by increasing production from a few strong stocks, e.g., Tsilhqot'in or Adams Lake, while over-harvesting the weaker stocks, will continue to leave many First Nations without access.
- For sockeye 3 out of 4 years are currently exclusive First Nations FSC access only, including management, i.e. sharing. There are no other sectors allowed, only First Nations.
- The current management approach has consistently resulted in over fishing of stocks of concern to the most marginalized nations of the Fraser and approach.

