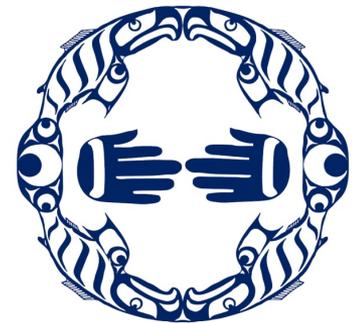




FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL

Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance
December 12, 2019



FIRST NATIONS
FISHERIES COUNCIL

FNFC Mandate

Develop effective governance mechanisms

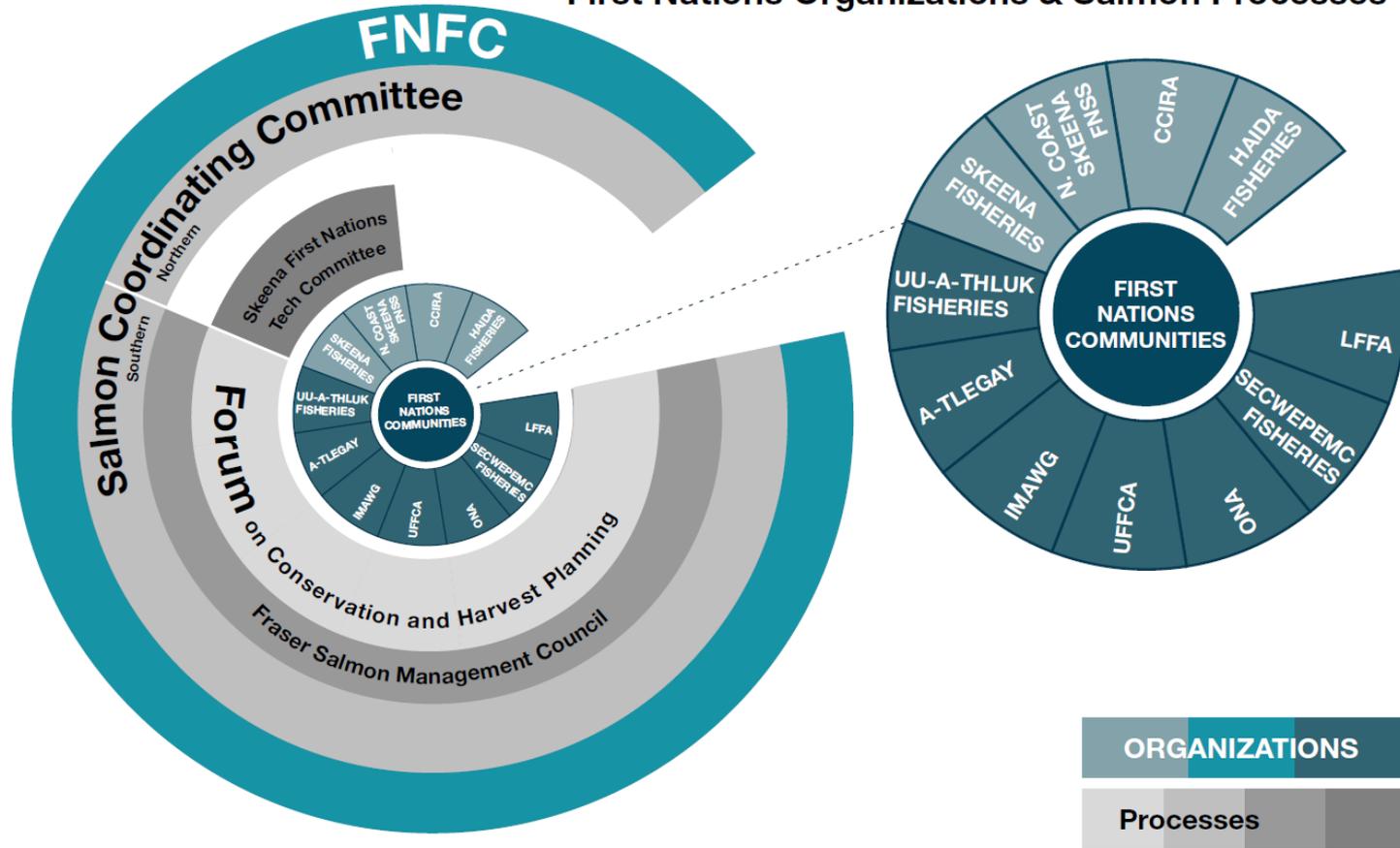
Collaborative relationships amongst First Nations

Build a cohesive voice on fisheries matters



First Nations Capacity & Processes

First Nations Organizations & Salmon Processes



FNFC: Building on Our Strengths

Need for clear strategy, collaboration, and unity between FNs to coordinate effort and implement transformative change

FNFC remains committed to:

- Collaboration and communications with FNs
- Developing effective and appropriate management processes that advance FNs priorities and interests
- Establishing respectful and effective relationships with provincial and federal governments to advance the rights, priorities, and interests of FNs



FNFC Charters

- Charters are partnership documents between FNFC and regional fisheries organizations to collaborate and guide collaborative strategic directions
- Promote information sharing on activities, priorities, concerns, and to identify areas of collaboration in advancing the interests of FN in fisheries
- Affirm commitment to work together and communicate effectively



Photo credit: Gord Steritt

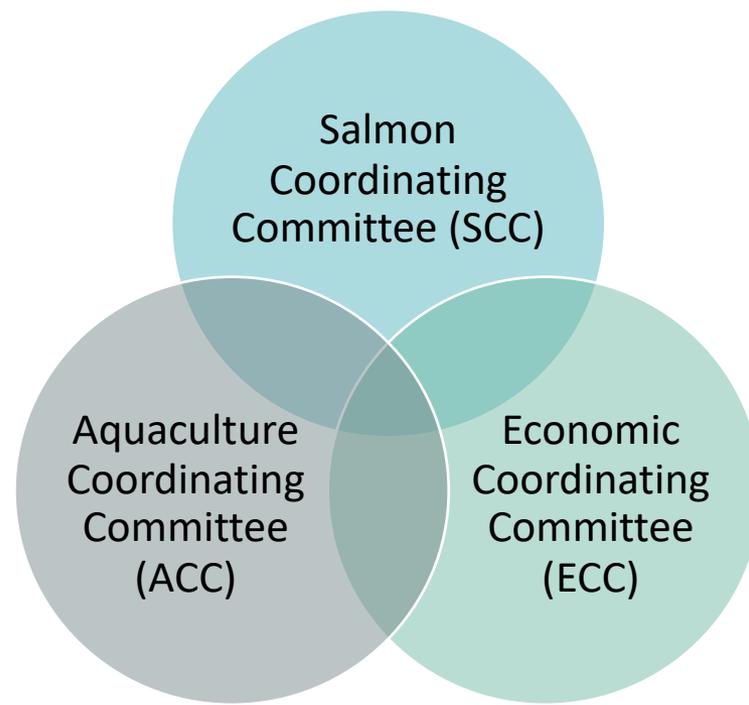
UFFCA and FNFC

- FNFC Executive Council: Thomas Alexis
- Salmon Coordinating Committee: Marcel Shepert and Pete Nicklin
- Aquaculture Coordinating Committee: Richard Holmes
- Economic Coordinating Committee: Gord Sterritt
- FNFC also supports the PSC's First Nations Caucus, consisting of delegates from individual and regional FN organizations including UFFCA



FNFC Coordinating Committees

- Province-wide Coordinating Committees that are made up of delegates from the 14 FNFC regions
- The Committees are technical in nature, with a broad focus on BC-wide priorities
- Staff Responsible:
 - SCC: Janson @ Janson@fnfisheriescouncil.ca
 - ACC: Richard @ Richard@fnfisheriescouncil.ca
 - ECC: Astrid @ Astrid@fnfisheriescouncil.ca
- Additional Staff Contacts:
 - Water for Fish: Susi@fnfisheriescouncil.ca
 - Communications: Aimee@fnfisheriescouncil.ca
Info@fnfisheriescouncil.ca



BC First Nations Provincial
Technical Table/Network

****New: Being Developed****



Outreach and Engagement

- FNFC convenes a variety of Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 meetings, workshops, teleconference and webinars designed to provide information to FNs on government programs, policies and priorities and for FNs to collaborate on strategies or recommendations to address
- Annual meetings with Charter Groups
- Quarterly briefings and updates to UBCIC, FNS and BCAFN
- FNFC Annual General Assembly



FNFC Updates



An Allocation Policy for Pacific Salmon, October 1999

- 1999 SAP is a DFO Policy that allocates salmon in British Columbia among three harvest groups (First Nations fisheries, commercial; and recreational)
- It provides for the priority of First Nation's food, social and ceremonial requirements and rights that may be defined in treaties.
- It gives, after First Nations priorities, a priority to the recreational sector for chinook and coho salmon and provides for more predictable recreational fishing opportunities for sockeye, pink and chum salmon.
- It confirms that the commercial sector allocation of the total allowable catch of the combined recreational and commercial harvest of sockeye, pink and chum, will still be 95 per cent or higher, after the priority described above. Commercial harvest of chinook and coho will occur when abundance permits.
- It establishes that target allocations for the commercial sector will be set on a coast-wide basis by gear and may be subject to adjustments over time to account for conservation requirements, and possible changes resulting from the voluntary salmon licence retirement program.



Replacing/Updating the SAP

- Since the SAP was first adopted 20 yrs. ago, there have been changes in terms of fisheries management and policy, including increased conservation requirements for stocks of concern.
- There has also been significant advancements relating to Aboriginal rights, treaties and reconciliation.
- Most recently, within the *Ahousaht Decision*, the application of the SAP principle of priority of allocation to the recreational fishery for Chinook and Coho was found to be an unjustified infringement of the five Nuu-chah-nulth Nations Aboriginal rights to fish and sell fish insofar as the SAP accords priority to the recreational fishery over the Five Nations' right-based sale fishery for Chinook and Coho salmon.



DFO Policy Development Process

- DFO will be working to replace the SAP and will be undertaking provincial scale engagement that will
 - reflect Canada's nation-to-nation relationships with First Nations,
 - its relationship with the Province of British Columbia , and
 - involve all affected stakeholders in a collaborative approach (i.e. CSAB and SFAB)
- Purpose will be to define allocation priority *among* these harvest groups. The policy will not include allocation *within* sectors, as this is defined in separate policies
- SAP is a combination of policy and operational guidance – objective will be to separate the policy and operational/management elements



DFO Proposed Timeline

We're
here

- **Phase 1 – Co-development of the policy development process**
Objective: To co-develop a draft terms of reference for the process which will outline the scope of the SAP review.
Target completion date: September 2019
- **Phase 2 – Information gathering and analysis**
Objective: To gather information necessary to have a fulsome and informed discussion, share perspectives and views and conduct analysis to support the development of options.
Target completion date: June 2020
- **Phase 3 – Collaborative development of options**
Objective: Develop and consider different options for meeting objectives and interests, including potential risks and trade-offs.
Target completion date: November 2020
- **Phase 4 – Collaborative development of recommendations**
Objective: Development of a consensus recommendation, if possible. If not, multiple options may be presented or recommended. The final decision rests with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.
Target completion date: March 2021

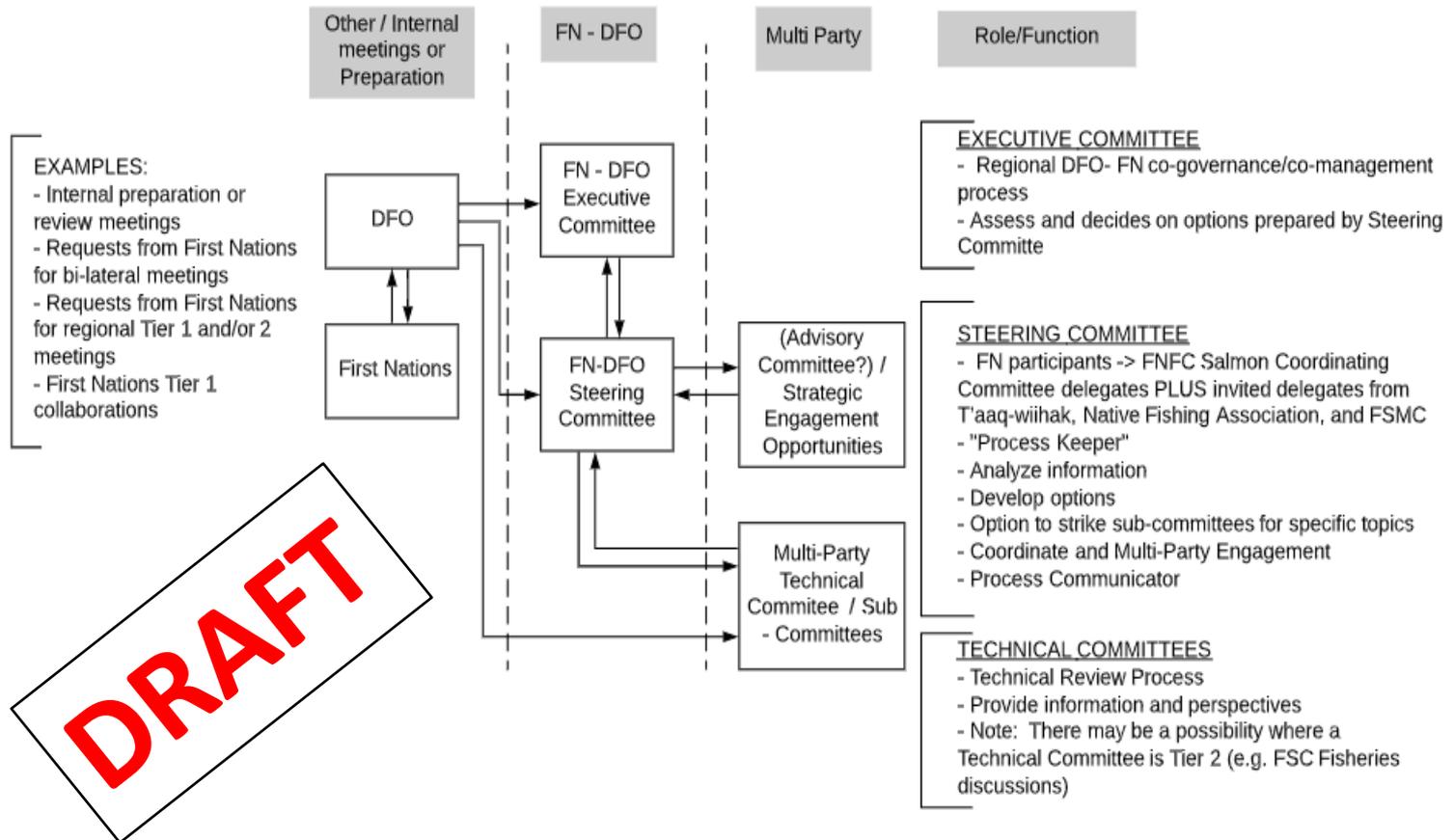


FNFC SAP Working Group

- Established a small working group to discuss the policy development process and to strategize how to engage collaboratively at tier 1 and tier 2 scales
- To date, we have reviewed the draft Terms of Reference of the policy Development Process
- Recommending that the structure of the process be Tier 2 to better align with DFO to obligations relating to First Nations' Constitutionally protected rights, commitments to support government-to-government and collaborative relationships between FNs and DFO, and to uphold commitments to the implementation of UNDRIP
- Opportunities for multi-party discussion and collaboration (e.g. tier 3 info sharing and dialogue) would be included in the overall engagement process
- In January – March 2020, anticipate concluding discussions on the structure and ToR and then the substantive work on the policy review and development will begin in the 2020/21 fiscal year



FNFC Working Group: Recommended Process Structure (DRAFT)



Wild Salmon Policy Implementation

Previously worked on developing Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan (2018-22) with DFO and Key Partners (i.e. BC, PSF, Yukon FNs)

- ✓ Increased DFO transparency on WSP-related activities
- ✓ Accountability for WSPIP's 48 activities
- × DFO activities only
- × Not inclusive of FN priorities

Tools that FNs can apply to develop, evaluate and communicate rebuilding priorities

Source funding options.

Implement strategies. Monitor. Evaluate successes. Repeat.



Wild Salmon Policy Implementation

- Outstanding concerns from many FNs regarding getting their priorities to DFO for rebuilding local stocks in their territories



Finding ways to bring FNs priorities to the forefront



Salute to Salmon 2018, Rachel Elliott



Identifying tools that FNs can utilize themselves to advance salmon rebuilding priorities



Wild Salmon Policy Implementation

Finding ways to bring FNs priorities to the forefront

Fisheries Act amendments incl. a draft regulation to list Major Fish Stocks and Elements of Rebuilding Plans

- For Pacific salmon, Fish Stocks is interchangeable with “Stock Management Units”
- Have identified to DFO that SCC interested in helping design engagement process with FNs on how DFO has grouped CUs into SMUs and identifying what the SMU’s Fishery Reference Points are (trigger for Rebuilding Plans)
- Draft regulation expected to be released for consultations in March 2020 in Canadian Gazette



Wild Salmon Policy Implementation

Working with SCC to identify and evaluate a series of tools that FNs can apply to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies to help protect and rebuild local stocks

- Help nations consider available options and evaluate options based on feasibility and costs
- Help organize and prioritize strategies into a Strategy document
- Help FNs to communicate externally
- FNs can then utilize Strategy document to develop funding proposals to secure funding to support work

Identifying tools that FNs can utilize themselves to advance salmon rebuilding priorities



Thank you!



Questions to UFFCA

- What are some of your strategic priorities in the short term (2-3 years)? (3-5)
- What are some of your long term strategic priorities (10+ years)? (2-3)
- Do you have champions within the FNs communities you work with that can help advance priorities at the political level and at what scale?
- At an operational level, are there more opportunities to help FNs collaborate (e.g. Provincial FN technical table/network; working with other regional groups outside of Upper Fraser, etc.)



FSC Framework Engagement

- DFO wants to co-develop a process with First Nations to engage in dialogue to understand what a meaningful fishery might look like and seek new approaches to achieve this
- Seeking First Nations guidance and perspectives on fisheries allocations
- Regional Dialogue sessions took place in 2019: Vancouver Island; Prince George; Terrace; Harrison Hot Springs
- FSC Framework Engagement is a separate policy review and update from the SAP
- Inclusive of all species and First Nations only



FSC Framework Engagement

- 2020 activities:
 - Co-developing an engagement strategy with DFO on how consultation with First Nations will occur
 - A DFO-First Nations joint working group will help develop the engagement strategy
 - Engagement activities will likely occur simultaneously as SAP but waiting for DFO to provide further clarity

