

# First Nations Fisheries Council

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FIRST NATIONS  
FISHERIES COUNCIL

August 2, 2011

**Honourable Keith Ashfield**  
**Minister of Fisheries and Oceans**  
**House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street**  
**Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6**

Dear Honourable Minister Ashfield;

Thank you for meeting with the B.C. First Nations Leadership Council and representatives of the B.C. First Nations Fisheries Council on July 7, 2011. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss the key issues facing First Nations in B.C. pertaining to fisheries and aquaculture, and the intention of the First Nations Fisheries Council to work collaboratively with the Department for meaningful change.

During the course of the meeting, we touched upon many core systemic issues facing B.C. First Nations in their working with Fisheries and Oceans, as well as various specific examples that highlighted the challenges facing B.C. First Nations communities on the ground today. We are optimistic that together we can work to collaboratively address some of these issues in order to benefit B.C. First Nations communities whom rely on marine resources for sustenance and economic revitalization, and have strong cultural and historical connections to the land, ocean and fisheries resources.

At the meeting, representatives from the B.C. First Nations Leadership Council spoke of the need for a commitment of a continued high-level government-to-government relationship with Fisheries and Oceans and yourself, Honourable Minister. The B.C. First Nations Fisheries Council is committed to providing all necessary technical and operational support to the Leadership Council toward this relationship. The Fisheries Council is also committed to working with senior DFO staff both in the region and in Ottawa, to advance our relationship at the operational level.

Given the brevity of the meeting on July 7, 2011, there is a clear need for follow up meetings to further explore the issues identified and to develop mechanisms in order to solicit real meaningful change for First Nation communities. As a first step we recommend a follow up meeting between members of the Fisheries Council and senior DFO staff, in order to identify mechanisms to work together on issues of mutual concern. We also propose another strategic level meeting within the next two months with yourself and the Leadership Council to report on progress and chart our path forward over the coming year. Together working with your Department, with your oversight, we are confident that we will achieve measurable improvements in Pacific fisheries for First Nations people.

We look forward to your response, and to our next meeting.

Thank you,

John Henderson  
First Nations Fisheries Council Co-Chair

Ken Malloway  
First Nations Fisheries Council Co-Chair

Cc: B.C. First Nations Leadership Council

SUPPORTING STEWARDSHIP OF FISHERIES RESOURCES FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

