



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit Encourages BC Government to Implement Recommendations of the Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture

Coast Salish Traditional Territory/West Vancouver, BC — The First Nations Summit is encouraging the BC Government to implement recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Special Legislative Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture which was released today.

"The First Nations Summit is encouraged that the report of the Sustainable Aquaculture Committee has taken into account the need for safeguarding the existing habitat of wild stocks and responding to the potential threats that are posed by the operation of open net fish farms", said Chief Judith Sayers, a member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive.

"Aquatic resources and habitat are under continuous threat from a variety of sources, including aquaculture operations. The provincial government must work and consult with First Nations to consider collective strategies to safeguard and restore habitat and ensure that aquatic resources continue to sustain and grow wild stocks into the future", added Chief Sayers.

The First Nations Summit is also pleased the Committee has framed the recommendations contained in the final report taking into account the principles and vision of the New Relationship and has stated that *"First Nations, in whose traditional territory work is being conducted must be fully involved in decision making and provided with the capacity to do so"*.

In September 2005 the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly passed a resolution calling upon BC and Canada to immediately order a moratorium on any further expansion of open-net fish farms on the coast of British Columbia.

The BC Legislative Assembly appointed the Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture to examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to Sustainable Aquaculture in British Columbia and in particular consider the economic and environmental impacts of the aquaculture industry in B.C. and sustainable options for aquaculture in B.C. that balance economic goals with environmental imperatives, focusing on the interaction between aquaculture, wild fish and the marine environment.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia. Background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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