



Fraser Salmon Management Council

NEWSLETTER

July 11, 2019

Fraser Salmon Collaborative Management Agreement Signed!!!



Figure 1 President Darren Haskell and DFO Minister Jonathon Wilkinson signing the Agreement

In the afternoon of July 5, 2019 history was made when the Katzie First Nation hosted the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), along with numerous delegates and guests, as Minister Wilkinson and President Haskell signed this un-precedented agreement.

For the first time -- since industry and federal government takeover of the Fraser fishery in the late 1800's -- First Nations have achieved their rightful Place at the Table. This Agreement provides for our full and equal participation in the decision-making processes for the management of Fraser River salmon.

This could not have happened without the unwavering support over the last nine years of so many First Nations along the migratory route, and the support of organizations such as FRAFS and the FNFC.

The Agreement is very strong: it commits the two Parties to a balanced structure with well-defined processes that provide for transparency and accountability. The Agreement is based on Canada's Principles (declared by Canada, which include recognition of UNDRIP) and also on a specific set of



FSMC/DFO Principles. The Precautionary Approach is defined and integrated into these Principles. The FSC Priority is well-defined and emphasized, binding the decision-makers to truly implement the Priority, not just pay lip service to it. Provision for meaningful and mandated involvement in the Pacific Salmon Commission and its committees is also included.

13 years ago (2006), with the advent of the AAROM program, the role of the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) was defined with establishment of a Goal and a set of annual objectives in support of its Goal. That Goal – *to provide for the meaningful participation of all First Nations with an interest in Fraser River bound salmon stocks in a collaborative partnership arrangement with DFO to address the management of and fisheries upon those stocks* – has now been achieved through the creation of a functioning Tier 1 governance organization – the FSMC –and the signing of this historic Agreement. The FSMC will continue to deliver the same communication support functions to First Nations as FRAFS has done (FSMC members or not) as it proceeds to work with DFO to implement the Agreement, and embark on a new era of responsible and accountable management of our precious salmon resource.



Figure 2 FSMC President and DFO Minister surrounded by happy participants, after the signing ceremony.