



# UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

March 11, 2024

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
Via email only: [diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca](mailto:diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca)

**RE: UBCIC Resolution 2024-04 “Support for the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance Broughton Roadmap Fish Farm Transition Planning Process”**

Dear Minister Lebouthillier:

We are writing with respect to Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Resolution 2024-04 “Support for the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance Broughton Roadmap Fish Farm Transition Planning Process” which was presented, affirmed, and endorsed by consensus at the UBCIC Chiefs Council on February 21, 2024 (enclosed).

By Resolution 2024-04, the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance’s (FNWSA) Open Net Pen Transition plan based upon the Transition Plan that was successfully implemented from the Broughton Fish Farm Letter of Understanding with the Province of B.C.

Please keep us updated as this work develops.

**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip  
President

Chief Don Tom  
Vice-President

Chief Marilyn Slett  
Secretary-Treasurer

CC: UBCIC Chiefs Council  
First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance

Encl: UBCIC 2024-04 “Support for the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance Broughton Roadmap Fish Farm Transition Planning Process”

**Kamloops Office**  
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way  
Kamloops, BC, V2H-1H1  
Phone: 250-828-9746  
Fax: 250-828-0319

**Vancouver Office**  
Suite 401 - 312 Main Street  
Vancouver, BC, V6A-2T2  
Phone: 604-684-0231 or toll free: 800-793-9701  
Fax: 604-684-5726

[www.ubcic.bc.ca](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE  
209 - 345 Chief Alex Thomas Way  
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1  
Tel: 250-828-9746  
Fax: 250-828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE  
401 - 312 Main Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 2T2  
Tel: 604-684-0231  
Fax: 604-684-5726  
1-800-793-9701  
Email: [ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca](mailto:ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca)  
Web: [www.ubcic.bc.ca](http://www.ubcic.bc.ca)

UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS  
CHIEFS COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2024  
VIRTUAL MEETING

**Resolution no. 2024-04**

**RE: Support for the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance Broughton Roadmap Fish Farm Transition Planning Process**

**WHEREAS** First Nations in B.C. have inherent title, rights, and jurisdiction to our respective territories, and, as the original caretakers of these territories, we continue to exercise our laws and jurisdiction to protect and steward the environment, lands and waters;

**WHEREAS** open net-pen fish farming has long generated public concern for both its environmental devastation and its health consequences for wild aquatic species, becoming focal points for salmon-related diseases and viruses, for hazardous levels of parasitic sea-lice impacting wild migratory juvenile salmon, and for unnatural levels of predation targeting vulnerable herring stocks;

**WHEREAS** the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which the government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has, alongside the government of B.C., passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:

**Article 20(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

**Article 26(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

**(2):** Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories, and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

**(3):** States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

**2024-04**

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**Article 29(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

**Article 32(1):** Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources;

**WHEREAS** the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance (FNWSA) has advocated for the removal of open-net pen fish farms and related activities in coastal waters to protect BC Wild Pacific Salmon;

**WHEREAS** the FNWSA’s Open Net Pen Transition Plan based upon the Principles of the Transition Plan that was successfully implemented from the Broughton Fish Farm LoU Broughton roadmap fish farm transition planning process, is a path to protect wild salmon and the timely elimination of open-net pen farms from coastal waters while focusing on the protection and conservation of fish and the protection of the Aboriginal right to fish;

**WHEREAS** by Resolution 2020-08 “Transition from Open Net-Pen Fish Farming” the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports a transition away from open net-pen aquaculture led by First Nations in favour of a more humane and sustainable practice; and

**WHEREAS** the 2021 mandate letter calls for the DFO Minister to continue to work with the Province of British Columbia and Indigenous communities on a responsible plan to transition from open net pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the First Nations Wild Salmon Alliance’s (FNWSA) Open Net Pen Transition plan based upon the Transition Plan that was successfully implemented from the Broughton Fish Farm Letter of Understanding with the Province of B.C.; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to communicate its endorsement of the FNWSA inputs to the Open Net Pen Transition Planning Process of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

**Moved:** Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band

**Seconded:** Kukpi Lee Spahan, Coldwater Indian Band

**Disposition:** Carried

**Abstentions:** Melissa Willie, Dzawada'enuxw

**Date:** February 21, 2024