

# North Coast Integrated Advisory Committee (NCIAC)

## MEETING SUMMARY

January 25, 2022; 9:00am – 1:00pm  
The Crest Hotel, Prince Rupert; Virtually via MS Teams

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### Objectives

1. Meet in person, develop relationships, and network
2. Discuss updates and plans for engagement for the North Coast Cumulative Effects (NCCE) Program Values
3. Discuss current NCCE Program communication materials and seek input as to what other materials may be helpful to the NCIAC

### Attendance

#### NCIAC Members/Alternates/Observers in Attendance

- **In Person:** Chelsea Elis, Commercial Fishing (Member); Marc Porter, Conservation (Alternate standing in for Katrina Connors); David Lewis, Recreational Hunting (Member); Walsham Telshak, Local Government – District of Kitimat (Member); Chantel Wentland, Local Government – North Coast Regional District (Member); Cheryl Brown, Coastal Forestry (Member); Karina Dracott, Research and Marine Monitoring (Member); Jason Scherr, Transportation (Observer)
- **Virtual:** Paula Doucette, Transportation (Observer); Emily Orr, Commercial Fishing (Member); Hermann Meuter, Research and Marine Monitoring (Member); Samuel Mansfield, Transportation (Observer); Provan Crump, Shellfish Aquaculture (Member); Urs Thomas, Recreational Fishing (Member)

#### NCIAC Members/Alternates/Observers not in Attendance

Jim McIsaac, Commercial Fishing (Alternate); Katrina Connors, Conservation (Member); Greg Knox, Conservation (Member); Stephen Hales, Coastal Forestry (Observer); Mike Viveiros, Coastal Forestry (Observer); Jason Harris, Recreational Fishing (Alternate); Warren Waycheshen, Local Government - District of Kitimat (Alternate); Daniel Fish, North Coast Regional District (Alternate); Chloe Robinson, Research and Marine Monitoring (Alternate)

#### NCCE Program Partners in Attendance

Bruce Watkinson, Gitxaala; Mike Jacobs, Haisla; Cindy Barwell, Kitselas; Nicole Wallace, Kitsumkalum; William Nelson, Metlakatla; Jane Healey, North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society (NCSFNSS); Holly Booker, NCSFNSS; Maya Paul, NCSFNSS; Grant Garner, NCSFNSS; Kyle Clifton, NCSFNSS; Andrew Komlodi, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; Kim Lutz, Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (WLRs); Alli Morrison, WLRs; Rachel Post, WLRs

### Welcome and Introductions

Bruce Watkinson, managing director for Gitxaala Nation who sits on the North Coast Stewardship Forum (the decision-making body for the NCCE Program), introduced himself as meeting chair and welcomed

everyone to the meeting. He provided an overview of the meeting objectives, NCIAC operating principles, and agenda.

*\*This meeting was accompanied by a detailed PowerPoint presentation, as well as a formal advice log. Please refer to the slide deck for details of the presentation, and the advice log for details regarding comments, questions and advice from the NCIAC as well as response from the NCCE Program Partners.*

## Context for the NCCE Program

- Rachel Post, Project Coordinator with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and member of the NCCE Communications and Engagement Team, provided an overview of the background of the program, including how it fits into the larger context of other collaborative Forums within B.C. Further background included the participating Partners, primary focus, and initial values for assessment.
- Alli Morrison, Team Lead with WLRS and Co-project Manager for the NCCE Program, provided some additional context for the program, including commitments for reconciliation outlined in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) Action Plan, and renewed long-term commitment of the collaborative stewardship model as endorsed by Natural Resource Sector Cabinet Ministers in the fall of 2022. Now with a long-term mandate, long-term funding is being sought.

## Food Security/Access to Resources Presentation and Discussion

### Presentation:

- Kim Lutz, Land and Resource Coordinator with WLRS and member of the NCCE Program Project (technical) Team explained that she is presenting on behalf of the of the Food Security/Access to Resources (FS/AtR) Team as the FS/AtR Value Lead was unable to attend the meeting.
- This portion of the presentation included background, work to date, highlights of the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA), which is in its final draft stages, and a summary of Management Recommendations contained in the CEA. The summary report will be shared with the NCIAC when it is ready for external review.

### Discussion:

- There was discussion around the need for relationship synergies between the Partners and NCIAC regarding shared areas of interest. There were also clarifications provided on the following elements of the presentation:
  - The level and type of data used to inform the CEA, as well as data gaps.
  - Temporal scale and definitions for future scenarios.
  - Elements of the management recommendations, such as what marine creel surveys will focus on addressing.

## Estuary - Presentation and Discussion

### Presentation:

- Nicole Wallace with Kitsumkalum, member of the NCCE Program Project (technical) Team and Estuary Value Lead, presented on the Estuary Value. The presentation provided background on the value and an overview of the work to date, described the NCCE Program Data Management System,

summarized results from the draft Skeena River Estuary Current Condition Report and management recommendations, and identified current priorities and next steps.

- The Current Condition Report is still in draft form and there is still work to be done on it, but the plan is to share it out with the NCIAC along with a summary document when available.

**Discussion:**

- The discussion focused on data sharing, how the Protocol could be applied to future studies, data gaps regarding juvenile salmon, and questions surrounding where stakeholders will be consulted for input in the context of management recommendations.

## Salmon - Presentation and Discussion

**Presentation:**

- Jane Healey with the North Coast-Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society, member of the NCCE Project Team and Salmon Value Lead, presented on the Salmon Value. The presentation covered the objective and goals of Salmon Value work including the development of a Skeena Estuary Habitat Management and Protection Plan (SEHMPP). There is a very early Nation-only rough draft of the SEHMPP that is aimed for completion at the end of March. It was clarified that the SEHMPP is funded jointly by DFO and the Province through the BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF). The presentation also provided an overview of work to date, which includes data management and restoration work, and concluded by summarizing the next steps for the Value.

**Discussion:**

- The discussion focused on next steps for the Salmon Value, such as what predatory species are being considered as part of the assessment, whether juvenile salmon modeling is being considered, and how indicators are being weighted. The desire for a fisheries engagement workshop was raised.

## NCCE Program Communication Materials

- Rachel Post provided an overview of the next steps for NCCE Program communication materials in relation to the NCIAC. The NCCE Program is currently under contract with a professional editor to edit the FS/AtR protocol and CEA, as well as an accompanying FS/AtR summary document, and a backgrounder about the NCCE Program. These materials are projected to be completed prior to the end of this fiscal year (end of March) and will be circulated with the NCIAC following completion and internal approval. The Program partners are considering a similar approach for the other values and will be looking to the NCIAC for the efficacy of communication materials provided.
- The communications and engagement strategy is still in the developmental stages but the intent is to bring it to the NCIAC for feedback prior to finalization.
- There was an opportunity for the NCIAC to provide feedback on the above approach and whether additional materials would be helpful. There was one suggestion for additional material which was recorded in the advice log for the meeting.

## Closing and Next Steps

Rachel Post outlined next steps following the meeting – see Actions below. Bruce Watkinson provided closing remarks and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Communications And Engagement (C&E) Team Contacts:**

Rachel Post (Administrative Support): [Rachel.Post@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rachel.Post@gov.bc.ca)

**Actions Arising from the Meeting**

- Rachel to provide the Dropbox link to the meeting expense claim form via email to in-person attendees
- Communications and Engagement Team to compile meeting materials – summary, advice log, and pdf of presentation – and circulate to the NCIAC for review
- NC CE Program Partners to review advice log and determine next steps and any follow-up needed
- Communications and Engagement Team to circulate a Doodle Poll at a later date to identify a time for the next meeting