BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation project



The National Indigenous Fisheries Institute and the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC have a British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) project to engage Indigenous groups, businesses, and communities in large-scale, multi-Nation initiatives that could be supported by BCSRIF. These initiatives are intended to encourage increased Indigenous involvement in science partnerships, innovation and infrastructure investments that improve productivity, sustainability, and safety across the sector.

The Institute and FNFC have researched seven concepts in which we would like to engage AAROM groups in workshop-style sessions **January 21-23, 2020 in Vancouver**. These concepts are open to be reshaped by participants to ensure that they meet the priorities of First Nations and will provide economic benefits. The expected outcome is multi-year, funding-ready proposals to give to BCSRIF.

A brief description of each concept to be discussed (on which date) is as follows:

January 21:

1. Standardized salmonid/ecological monitoring and data collection tools and training. *Envisioned to be coordinated and maintained through AAROMs*

Concept: BCSRIF funds would support AAROMs to:

- Inventory existing tools used by groups and communities to monitor and/or collect data on fish stocks, fisheries, habitat and water quality, flow damage/obstruction, land changes and vulnerabilities to riparian zones and habitats
- Establish best tools for these activities and those who need them
- Bring together AAROMs and gov't partners to agree upon: 1) standardized tools for monitoring and data collection, 2) training required, 3) data-sharing protocol
- Identify opportunities for AAROMs and First Nations to offer monitoring and data collection services to governments under contract

2. GIS mapping of riparian areas to inform risk vulnerability capacity and planning for sensitive waterways using UAVs and LiDAR technology

Concept: BCSRIF funds would support AAROMs to:

- Two to four pilots (to start) with AAROMs gathering baseline data and subsequent data to compare landscape shifts
- Interpreted GIS data would then be used to develop community-based watershed maps (that would inform long-term risk vulnerability mitigation/response planning processes)
 - Interpreted data to be shared on an online platform
 - Collaborative decision-making to establish online platform and coordination lead
- Partnership with University of Victoria's Map Shop Collaborative
- Interpreted data to be shared on an online platform
- Collaborative decision-making to establish online platform and coordination lead



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January 22:

3. AAROM involvement in the Pacific Salmon-Ecosystem Climate Consortium

Concept: BCSRIF funds would support AAROMs to become partners in the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium and the scientific work undertaken by it

- AAROMs review their past studies/research partnerships on climate impacts on salmon and habitat to prepare for a one- or two-day session involving DFO and other scientists
- Final report from session would outline a work plan for AAROM/member community monitors identified in concept #1 to collect data to inform broad salmon rebuilding/habitat restoration
- Phase two would support AAROM/member community monitors to implement the work plan and other watershed partnership research

4. First Nations estuary habitat management plans (fisheries focussed)

Concept: BCSRIF funds would support AAROMs to develop estuary habitat management plans to help First Nations articulate their fisheries priorities at marine spatial planning technical and decision-making tables

- · Working with AAROMs to assess current estuary habitat management planning (and plans, if they exist) and to update/develop plans
- Leveraging First Nations best practises and filling the gaps as marine spatial planning activities accelerate

January 23:

5. Dealing with salmonid habitat impacts by other industries

Concept: BCSRIF funds would support AAROMs and BC First Nations to build capacity to be more involved in habitat remediation economic opportunities, including through procurement

- Capacity building would enable increased First Nations participation in other habitat remediation programs (i.e., those set up to remove dams or culverts or to deal with the impacts of mining, forestry or agriculture)
- · Support for mentoring and business development
- Leveraging First Nations best practises

6. First Nation natural disaster contact network

Concept: BCSRIF funds would support the development and maintenance of a BC First Nations Natural Disaster Network

- BC-wide First Nations contact list for federal, provincial and municipal governments to more easily (and quickly) collaborate during natural disasters and environmental events
- Based on lessons learned during Big Bar landslide event (and other past events)
- Opportunity for small amounts of funding to make a difference each year to communities
- Good employment opportunity for First Nations student (intern)

January 21-23:

7. Salmonid rebuilding strategy

Concept to be developed as a result of January 2020 workshops with AAROMs and other Institute-FNFC engagement sessions

- Opportunity for AAROMs and others to share their ideas building from Made-in-BC Wild Salmon Strategy and Wild Salmon Policy
- · Collection of success stories about streams, lakes, rivers, estuaries, etc. that have seen changes as a result of programs and activities
- Identification of economic opportunities which would enable salmonid rebuilding

