

## **Chronology of Events Leading to the Inauguration of the West Coast Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Board**

1. Starting in the early 1980's, the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council begins to examine how the experiences of community-based fisheries management models in other jurisdictions around the world might help deal with these issues. Nelson Keitlah, NTC Co-chair, and Dr. E. Pinkerton from Simon Fraser University, travelled to Alaska and Washington to learn about a variety of fisheries management models.
2. In 1991 Canada and British Columbia accept the June 1991 Report of the B.C. Claims Task Force, including recommendations 1 and 16 stating in part that, "the parties negotiate interim measures before or during treaty negotiations when an interest is being affected which could undermine the process".
3. Pursuant to the August 20, 1993 Protocol Respecting the Government-to-Government Relationship between the First Nations Summit and the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, it is agreed that, "a government-to-government relationship" exists between the First Nations and the Governments of Canada and British Columbia.
4. The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy is announced in 1993 as the Federal government's response to court cases outlining Aboriginal rights.
5. In 1986-1994, forestry conflicts in Clayoquot Sound result in a variety of government-led land use planning processes, few of which produce outcomes acceptable to First Nations or local communities.
6. In 1994, the Clayoquot Central Region Board is negotiated between 5 Nuu-chah-nulth Nations and BC. It is implemented to address First Nations land interests while treaties are being negotiated. It is a joint management board with 5 First Nations and 5 Provincially appointed seats.
7. The Coastal Zone Canada Association states in 1994, "Conference Participants at Coastal zone Canada '94 noted with particular concern the need for...empowering local communities through community based management...and recommend:
  - ⇒ Co-management be included as an essential element in Coastal and Oceans Management
  - ⇒ Community based decision making be actively supported
  - ⇒ Public participation must be meaningful and effective
  - ⇒ Building partnerships with Aboriginal People

8. In 1994 and 1995, a number of meetings are organized in the WCVI region regarding aquatic management issues and the formation of a regional management board. In 1995 the West Coast Sustainability Association (WCSA) is formed to a) give the region a greater voice in decision making, b) build support and capacity for a regional management board, and c) undertake projects to improve the region's access to and stewardship of aquatic resources.
9. WCSA members and Provincial civil servants travel to Alaska to research Community Development Quota models and several others from the region travel to Japan to research cooperative management regimes.
10. In the fall of 1996, Nuuchahnulth leaders table an interim measures proposal to DFO regarding joint management of aquatic resources.
11. In January 1997, Nuuchahnulth leaders bring the interim measures proposal for joint aquatic management to the Federal and Provincial governments in the BC Treaty process.
12. In May 1997, WCSA and the NTC bring together over 70 diverse groups from throughout the WCVI region in a Future Search conference. Participants in the workshop agree to set their individual agendas aside to work together towards a regional aquatic management board implemented under the umbrella of Treaty negotiations. A Steering Committee is created to help establish a Regional Aquatic Management Board for the West Coast of Vancouver Island. The Steering Committee later formalizes into the Regional Aquatic Management Society (RAMS).
13. The Canada Oceans Act (1997) states, "Whereas Canada recognizes that the oceans and their resources offer significant opportunities for economic diversification and generation of wealth for the benefit of all Canadians, and in particular coastal communities. ... In exercising the powers and performing the duties and functions assigned to the Minister by this Act, the Minister (a) shall cooperate with ... affected aboriginal organizations, coastal communities and other persons or bodies ..."
14. In the "Canada – British Columbia Agreement on the Management of Pacific Salmon Fishery Issues" (1997), the Prime Minister and Premier continue their support for the principles of "bringing decision-making closer to clients and stakeholders", and "creating effective partnerships to better manage the fishery".
15. In the BC Fisheries Strategy (1997), Fisheries Minister Corky Evans states "We need a solution that will bring both consensus among all sectors of the industry, and decision-making power closer to those most affected."
16. On May 25, 1997, the BC Coastal Communities Network unanimously adopts a resolution at their annual conference supporting the concept of

regional fisheries management organizations and in May 1998 passed a resolution specifically supporting the Nuu-chah-nulth / WCVI Regional Aquatic Management Board initiative.

17. On February 17, 1998, the BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission unanimously adopts a resolution at their Annual General Meeting supporting the Nuu-chah-nulth / WCVI Regional Aquatic Management Board initiative.
18. BC Government's "Proposal to Renew Our Fish and Our Fishing Communities," June 18, 1998, states, "British Columbia believes that the best solution is only possible if the province and the people involved in our fisheries resource are involved in designing the programs needed to sustain our salmon and our communities. The Province also believes that communities need to have more say in decision making and more responsibility for managing the fisheries resource in their backyards, through regional management boards."
19. In 1998, DFO Minister Anderson releases "A New Direction for Canada's Pacific Salmon Fisheries". Principle 11 states that, "Government and stakeholders will together be responsible and accountable for sustainable fisheries". Principle 12 states that "Enhanced community, regional and sector wide input to decision making will be pursued through a structured management and advisory board system". The explanation of this principle states, "In the future, many decisions related to fisheries resources and their habitat could be made through a series of regional boards. These boards could cover a geographic area containing one or more watersheds. The scope of these boards is intended to cover a variety of issues."
20. Samuel Toy, Advisor to Minister Anderson on inter-sectoral allocation issues, recommends in his report to the Minister in 1998, "You should create a new initiative the object of which is the empowering of regional management boards throughout the entire province, democratically elected, with an overarching independent tribunal. The purpose of these new creations will be to formulate advice and undertake local conservation and habitat enhancement programs, coordinate and present preseason fishing plans, assist with in-season management and ... inter- and intra-sectoral allocations and or reallocations by an independent overarching tribunal."
21. Dr. Parzival Copes, Professor Emeritus, Simon Fraser University, Report to B.C. on the Coho Crisis, April 1998, states, "It is recommended that senior governments continue the development of effective co-management regimes with community, aboriginal and regional governments, in conjunction with local stakeholder groups, for which the

draft proposals by the Nuu-chah-nulth/West Vancouver Island Aquatic Management Steering Committee may serve as an exploratory example.”

22. David Poole, Pacific West Training Ltd., Report to DFO on the Benefits Associated with Fish Habitat Restoration, Stock Rebuilding, and Stream Stewardship, 1998, stated, “Finally, a review of the literature provided support from other jurisdictions for the trends and conclusions evident in this report. In BC, the widely-supported regional management approach being adopted on the West Coast of Vancouver Island...provides further evidence in support of the directions identified in this report.”
23. Brian Peckford, Final Report of the Peckford Inquiry on Salmon Fisheries Management, 1998, states, “That one of the management structures will be a Community/Regional Authority, sharing powers and responsibilities....The West Coast of Vancouver Island and the Central Coast should be two early candidates for this new structure.”
24. Report of the Panel Studying Fisheries Act Partnering, 1998, states, “The panel’s fifth recommendation is to urge DFO to review and coordinate efforts to develop a community based management approach.”
25. Minister Anderson, in his “Allocation Framework for Pacific Salmon 1999-2005”, states, “It is evident that allocation issues cannot be addressed solely on a coast-wide basis nor solely on an area basis. Therefore, arrangements involving area-based interests and the coast-wide allocation board must be designed to ensure a coordinated approach to salmon allocation. This coordination can be facilitated in part, through multi-sector area based groups that are inclusive (open to all parties), have transparent and fair selection processes for their representatives and a mandate that is broadly endorsed by a broad range of fisheries interest groups.”
26. The National Roundtable on the Environment and Economy produce “Sustainable Strategies for Oceans: A Co-Management Guide” in 1998 that recommends, “Establishing a series of pilot co-management arrangements in cooperation with various users groups through departments such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans”.
27. Marine Protected Areas: A Strategy for Canada’s Pacific Coast. (A Joint Federal and Provincial Initiative), 1998, states, “The federal and provincial governments will work in partnership with First Nations, coastal communities, marine stakeholders and the public on Marine Protected Area identification, establishment and management.”
28. The government of British Columbia establish Fisheries Renewal British Columbia in 1998. Its mandate includes “providing assistance and advice to government on how best to co-ordinate and deliver fisheries-related

programs.” The Fisheries Renewal strategic plan identifies one of its key principles as: “Partnerships ...

- community-based involvement is essential in everything we do
  - cooperative partnerships based on shared objectives are crucial to our success
  - the basis for successful partnerships is mutual respect and integrity.”
29. In January 1998, DFO, BC and Nuu-chah-nulth formally commence discussions in the Treaty process to establish an area-based aquatic management board. The parties meet regularly in meetings that are open to groups with an interest in aquatic management issues.
  30. In July 1998 the parties meet with the Regional Director General of DFO and the lead Treaty negotiator for BC to discuss the relationship of the AMB to Treaty. They agree that the Board will not be entrenched in a treaty except by agreement of all parties.
  31. In addition to open invitations to participate in discussions, a two-day workshop is held to gather stakeholder input in Tofino in April 1999. At this workshop, over 60 diverse participants from around the Province tell the governments to speed up the process and establish the board
  32. Negotiations are set to commence in May 1999, but are delayed as the initiative is reviewed by DFO Ottawa as a ‘national pilot.’
  33. WCVI representatives meet with the Deputy Minister of DFO in Ottawa to discuss the initiative and push for negotiations to recommence.
  34. DFO returns to the negotiating table in October 1999. The governments agree in February 2000 to a Joint Policy Framework outlining the policy and process framework guiding development of the Board’s terms of reference and implementation. All parties re-commit to negotiating an Agreement in Principle for April 1, 2000. This is subsequently pushed back to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000 due to delays within government and a desire to ensure all interested parties can participate.
  35. A Terms of Reference is drafted by June 1, 2000. After several revisions, Agreement in Principle on a Terms of Reference is reached in October 2000, with an implementation schedule set for April 1, 2001. This is then sent for final ratification.
  36. The Nuu-chah-nulth and Local governments ratify the terms of reference in November 2000. The Province ratifies the terms of reference on February 16, 2001 and the Federal government ratifies the terms of reference on February 26, 2001. The parties begin working on Board implementation in March 2001, negotiating a budget and cost sharing formula and making their appointments to the Board, with a revised implementation date of June 30, 2001. This date is subsequently pushed back to September, 2001 due to the Provincial government election.
  37. The Province returns to the implementation working group in October 2001 and the parties invite applications for non-governmental Board members. A

selection committee reviews applications and makes recommendations to governments in December, 2001.

38. In January 2002 the governments ratify the eight non-government members and interview candidates for the Executive Director position.
39. In February 2002, the Executive Director is selected and the Board holds its first two-day meeting. The NTC hosts a celebration banquet for all those involved in the Board's development.