

# Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement

*A historic step forward in the co-governance and revitalization of coastal fisheries*





The Fisheries Resources Reconciliation Agreement (FRRRA), signed in 2021, is a groundbreaking 20-year agreement between the Government of Canada and eight First Nations that together span three sub-regions: the North Coast, Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.

Rooted in the spirit of reconciliation, the FRRRA strengthens Nation-to-Nation relationships through a collaborative approach to the governance and management of fisheries resources and enhances economic opportunities throughout the region for the Nations.

**FRRRA Signatories**

Signatories to the FRRRA include Gitxaala Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Gitga’at First Nation, Kitasoo Xai’xais First Nation, Heiltsuk Nation, Nuxalk Nation, Wuikinuxv Nation, Council of Haida Nation, Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative (CFN) and the Federal Government, as represented by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

**Milestones & Timeline**

- 2016** — A Fisheries Reconciliation Table is developed to negotiate the FRRRA, with all major decisions brought to First Nations for approval.
- 2017** — Parties sign an initial Reconciliation Framework Agreement for Fisheries Resources, setting the framework for FRRRA negotiations.
  - Parties sign Letter of Intent to implement the Central Coast Collaborative Crab Management Process, with lessons learned informing the governance structure of the FRRRA and highlighting areas for further bioregional support.
- 2018** — Concept papers are developed on governance, economic access and licence reform.
- 2019** — Initial agreement is signed by DFO and seven First Nations, with the Haida Nation signing later that year.
- 2021** — Leadership from all eight Nations and the Minister of DFO announce the full ratification of the FRRRA.
  - Subregional Management Councils were created.
  - Coastal Nations Fisheries LP is launched.
- 2022** — The Bioregional Management Council formed, comprised of the three Sub-regional Management Councils – North Coast, Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.
  - The Joint Executive Committee is formed and holds its first meeting.
  - Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing LP is founded.
  - Central Coast Management Council received the mandate to begin working collaboratively on salmon as a priority species.
- 2024** — Community Based Fisheries begin, starting with Kitasoo Xai’xais prawn by trap and Haida salmon troll.
- 2025** — Community Based Fisheries continue to be developed for prawn, salmon and groundfish.

# Foundational Pillars of the FRRA

## Collaborative Governance

In a commitment to cooperation and respect among the parties, the collaborative governance structures set up under the FRRA bring together signatory Nations and DFO as partners to support transformative change in the management, conservation and use of fisheries resources. The FRRA recognizes that both Canada and the Nations bring distinct legal systems, policies and values, as well as unique priorities and responsibilities, into fisheries management. The Nations and DFO are committed to working collaboratively within a government-to-government framework to develop and implement processes for the collaborative governance of fisheries resources.

Signatories work together on key aspects of fisheries management planning, including:

- **Conservation and habitat restoration;**
- **Spatial boundaries of fishing areas;**
- **Quota allocations and licencing conditions;**
- **Annual harvest plans, and;**
- **Collaborative data collection.**



## Economic Opportunities

A key objective of the FRRA is to create and facilitate increased fisheries access of the Nations through economic opportunities, including Community Based Fisheries and Commercial Fishing opportunities. Coastal Nations Fisheries (CNF), a Limited Partnership 100% owned by the signatory Nations, was formed to support these economic opportunities.

### Community Based Fisheries

One of the key priorities of the FRRA is to develop Community Based Fisheries (CBFs) within signatory First Nation communities. These fisheries are designed to revitalize small-boat commercial fishing fleets, support skill-building for aspiring and existing fishers and create new opportunities for local harvesters.

The CBFs will operate within defined areas, identified through engagement with each Nation, and include a set of negotiated management measures developed through the collaborative governance process to promote wider community participation. CBFs are designed to encourage broader community participation, create new jobs and businesses, encourage fishing vessel ownership by Nation members and improve opportunities for food, social and ceremonial fishing.

### Commercial Fishing Opportunities

In pursuit of building healthy communities, another key priority of the FRRA is to incrementally achieve new and improved access to commercial fishing opportunities for the use and benefit of the Nations. These access opportunities are pursued by CNF and its wholly owned subsidiary Coastal Nations Commercial Fishing (CNCF) through the acquisition, management and use of fishing licences and quotas, fishing vessels and gear, as well as related capital and working infrastructure. CNCF reinvests profits in the growth of the company and in support of the CBFs and marine stewardship.



## Next Steps

Implementing the FRR is a long-term, incremental, evolving process that relies on strong collaboration at all stages. Signatories are committed to working together on equitable governance and management of fisheries resources across the North Coast, Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.

## Learn More

For more about how CFN member Nations are rebuilding sustainable fisheries for the future, visit [coastalfirstnations.ca](http://coastalfirstnations.ca)

To learn about opportunities in commercial and community-based fisheries, visit [coastnationsfisheries.ca](http://coastnationsfisheries.ca)

For details on the FRR from DFO, contact: [DFO.PACRPRAP-PARRPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.PACRPRAP-PARRPPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)



Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Pêches et Océans Canada



Gitga'at



Gitxaala



Coastal Nations Fisheries



Haida



Heiltsuk



Coastal First Nations



Kitasoo Xai'xais



Metlakatla



Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance



Nuxalk



Wuikinuxv