

**Fishing Resolutions approved by the Annual General Assembly of the Union of B.C.**

**Indian Chiefs at Penticton, April 19-21, 1978:**

MOTION # (Gordon Antoine, Jim Dolan)

WHEREAS the Indian Bands of British Columbia have fishing rights which they have never given up and these rights cannot be limited without the consent and agreement of the Indian people involved and,

WHEREAS the Federal Fisheries Department is now imposing a quota system on Indian fishing in British Columbia,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT this Assembly reject on principle any effort of the Fisheries Department to curtail or limit Indian fishing rights.

CARRIED

WHEREAS when fisheries in B. C. were completely managed by Indian Bands, the fisheries were well cared for and there were plenty of fish and,

WHEREAS due to one hundred years of control and mismanagement by the Fisheries Department, and due to over-fishing by non-native people, the fish stocks have become endangered and are now in need of massive rehabilitation and restoration and,

WHEREAS all Indian Bands whether on the coast or in the interior depend on many of the same species of fish and,

WHEREAS Indian Bands must exercise management of Indian fisheries.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

THAT this Assembly direct the President to involve all interested Bands in developing a strategy to provide province-wide Indian representation that would deal with current critical concerns in fishery matters.

CARRIED

**U.B.C.I.C. CHIEFS COUNCIL, June 22, 1978**

**FISHING RESOLUTION #1**

Whereas B.C. salmon flourished for thousands of years under Indian protection but have been severely depleted during this century under new, Fisheries Department management; and

Whereas many B.C. Indian Bands are now preparing to resume their aboriginal responsibility for fish by writing their own laws and regulations for more effective protection and reproduction of fish in their own areas than those now imposed by the Federal Fisheries Department; and

Whereas Indian fishing laws and regulations can include provisions for appropriate participation of non-Indians as well as Indian fishing people;

**Therefore Be it Resolved That**

- a) the UBCIC urge all Band Councils to begin preparing their own fishing laws and regulations for their areas;
- b) the UBCIC staff and appropriate consultants immediately assemble the necessary historical, anthropological and legal evidence required to provide maximum support for Band Councils and Band members who refuse to accept the new licenses;
- c) that the UBCIC invite all Bands and Tribal Councils who have already developed fishing laws and regulations to make this information available to the UBCIC for use by all Bands.

**U. B. C. I. C. CHIEFS COUNCIL, JUNE 22, 1978**

**FISHING RESOLUTION #2**

Whereas the Fisheries Department has begun to enforce its licensing requirements for food fishing on some Bands where this has never been done before and has increased its enforcement pressures and quota demands on many if not all Bands; and

Whereas new Fisheries Regulations dated September 7, 1977 require a new form called "Indian Food License" in place of the old one called "Indian Permit", suggesting a subtle change from a fishing right toward a welfare concept; and

Whereas the new "Indian Food License" requires of each fishing person a Social Insurance Number which unilaterally expropriates the rights of Indian people to fishing; and

Whereas this number further suggests a "welfare" approach and opens the door for Fisheries Department officials to obtain easily all the computerized information about personal or family income that is available through Social Insurance; and

Whereas a Fisheries Officer has informed Chief Eddy John of the Stuart-Trembleur Band that any Band member who sets nets without the new license will be charged with a violation of the Fisheries Regulations and prosecuted and will also have the nets pulled and the fish confiscated; and

Whereas the Stuart-Trembleur Band is ready to take a stand against the new license on principle if they have access to competent legal advice and the support of other Bands and the U.B.C.I.C.;

Therefore Be it Resolved That the Union of B. C. Indian Chiefs extend its support to the Stuart-Trembleur Band and make the following recommendations to all Bands:

- a) that each Band Council officially reject the use of the "Indian Food License" in Indian fishing areas;
- b) that each Band member refuse to accept the "Indian Food License" even though Fisheries officers may threaten to remove nets, confiscate fish and charge the Band member with violation of fishing regulations.