



International Indigenous Salmon Peoples Gathering

Connecting Salmon Peoples in a World of Cumulative Effects

November 17-20, 2025 | Shxwhá:y Village | Chilliwack, BC

Summary Report

Background

Indigenous salmon management and knowledge systems have been sustaining salmon and people across the Northern Hemisphere for millennia. These systems have been increasingly eroded. These ancient management and knowledge systems have been replaced by salmon management practices rooted in Eurocentric worldviews and western science. Reaffirming Indigenous rights, governance, and jurisdiction over salmon and their ecosystems is a matter of immediate global concern for the future sustainability and survival of salmon and people.

Recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹ an affirmation of Indigenous self-determination, researchers and Indigenous peoples from the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic have been creating opportunities for bringing Indigenous Salmon Peoples together in international forums to share knowledge and ideas relating to Indigenous salmon management and knowledge systems.

This gathering follows earlier International Indigenous Salmon Peoples Gatherings held in xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Vancouver, BC; 2022) and Sápmi (Kárášjohka, Norway-Finland border; 2024) territories that advanced international cultural sharing, policy, and action. These gatherings open the floor to discussions of Indigenous sovereignty over Indigenous resources, the redefinition of bridging knowledge systems, and the decentering of western



2025 IISPN Gathering at Shxwhá:y Village

science. Through relationship-building and information-sharing, participants considered solutions to barriers and threats to Indigenous self-determination in salmon management and knowledge systems, with the theme of connecting salmon peoples in a world of cumulative effects.

Discussions and presentations at the November 2025 Gathering were structured around the Kárášjohka Declaration,¹ that was developed at the 2024 gathering in Sápmi territory. The Declaration focuses on communicating the governance and rights Indigenous Peoples have with respect to salmon.

Held in Shxwhá:y Village, near Chilliwack, British Columbia, from November 17-20th, the 2025 Gathering brought together over 80 people in-person and virtually from British Columbia, northern and eastern Canada, Alaska, Finland, and Norway to advance key themes such as: honouring ancient traditional governance and laws; showcasing the action of youth and communities; and addressing the climate crisis through decolonization and Indigenization.

¹ <https://www.iispg.com/karasjok-declaration>

Welcome

As with previous gatherings, the first day focused on cultural sharing and relationship building. The connection to salmon was shown through song, dance, and storytelling. Chief Robert Gladstone of Shxwhá:y Village welcomed guests and spoke of the great importance of salmon, “Our DNA is full of salmon. We’re salmon people.”



Chief Robert Gladstone of Shxwhá:y Village welcomes guests

The Kárásjohka Declaration

Day two began with an overview of the Kárásjohka Declaration. The sections of the Declaration provided the structure for this Gathering:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Connection
- Ecosystems and Habitat
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Stewardship

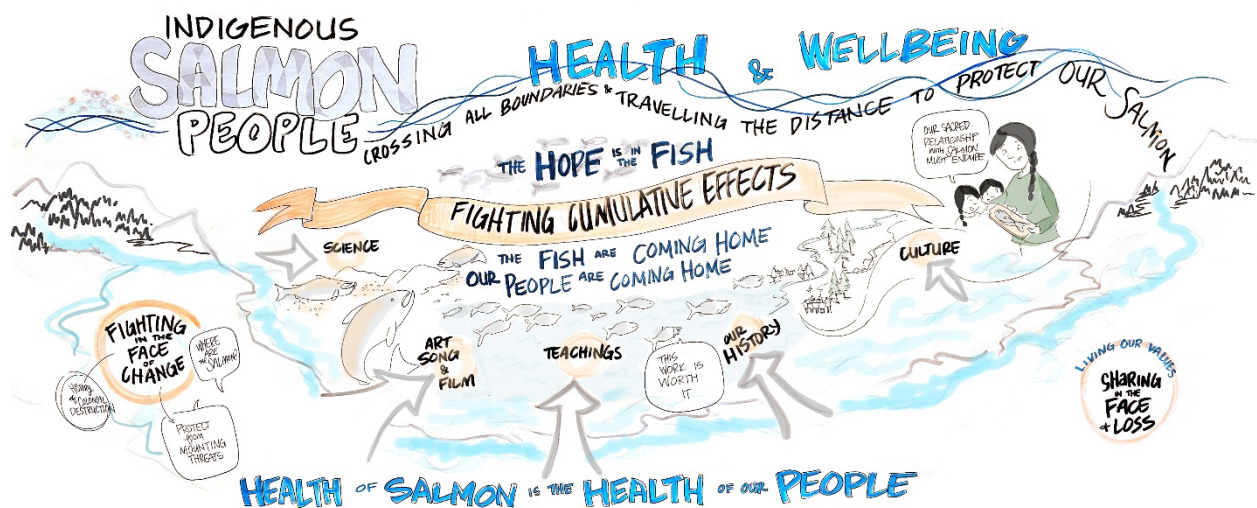


Health and Wellbeing

From the Declaration: *We, as Indigenous Salmon Peoples, declare that we are the rightful stewards of the lands, waters, and Salmon for the prosperity of Salmon themselves, our current generation, future Indigenous Salmon Peoples and all those who benefit from the health of Salmon.*

Presentation: Brandy Mayes, Kwanlin Dun First Nations Heritage, Land and Resources

Presentation: John Henderson, North Vancouver Island delegate of the First Nations Fisheries Council



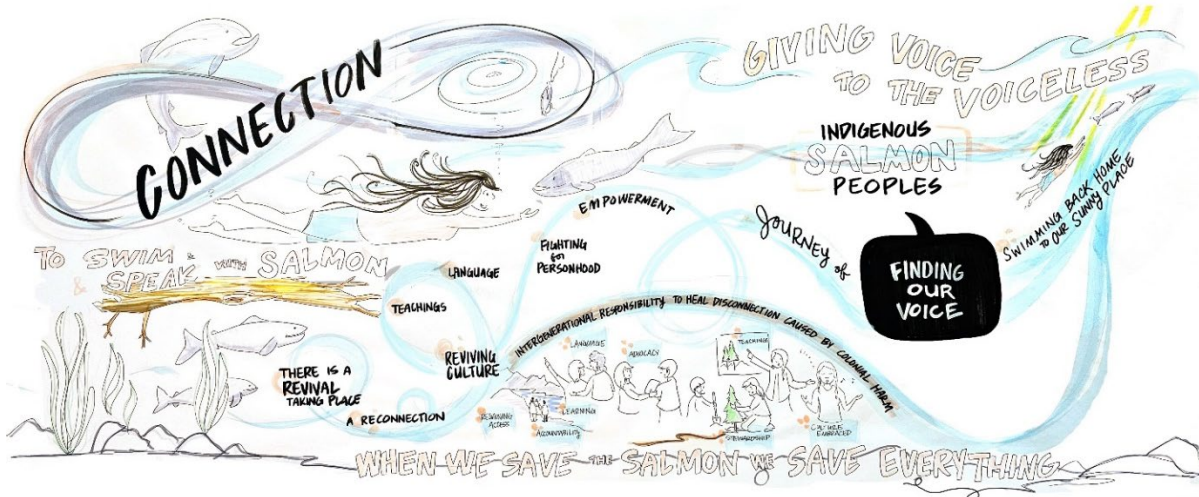
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Connection

From the Declaration: *We declare that as Indigenous Salmon Peoples we continue to steward and live interconnectedly with the Salmon and Waters and it is our responsibility to uphold our relationship with the Salmon and their habitat.*

Presentation: To Swim and Speak with Salmon – Group presentation by Jared Gonet, Nika Silverfox-Young, Keyshawn Sawyer, Carissa Waugh, MacKenzie Englishoe, Zakayla Netro, Emily Ross, Johnathon Robinson, and Elder Ron Chambers



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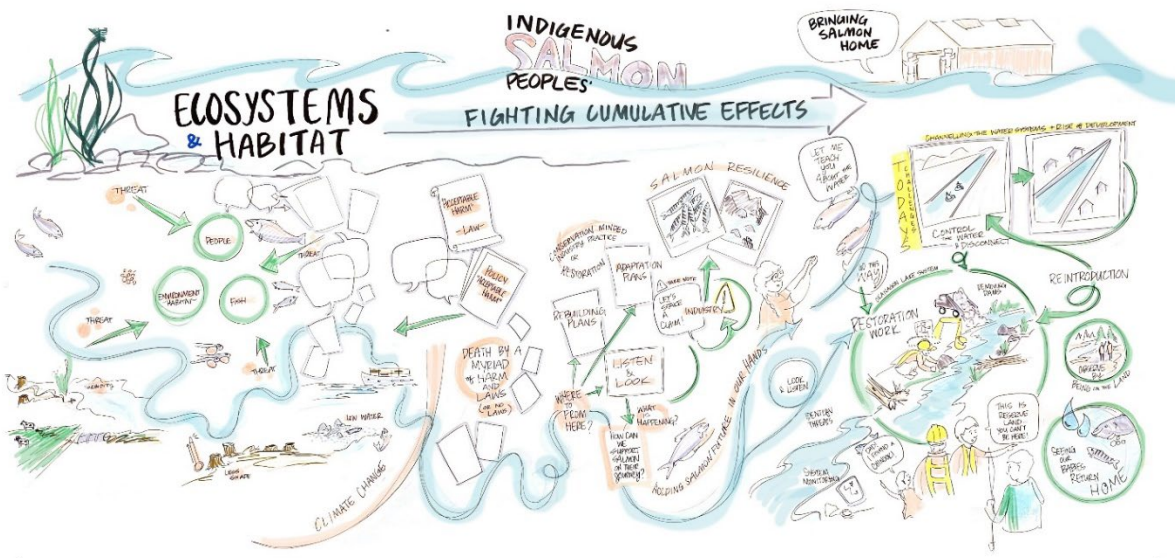
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Ecosystems and Habitat

From the Declaration: We declare that the impacts from climate crisis and climate change-related stressors and industrial and commercial activities must be addressed with meaningful and holistic salmon rebuilding plans backed by significant resourcing and led by Indigenous Salmon Peoples.

Presentation: Jonathan Moore, Salmon Watersheds Lab and Watershed Futures Initiative at Simon Fraser University

Presentation: Jamison Squakin, Okanagan Nation



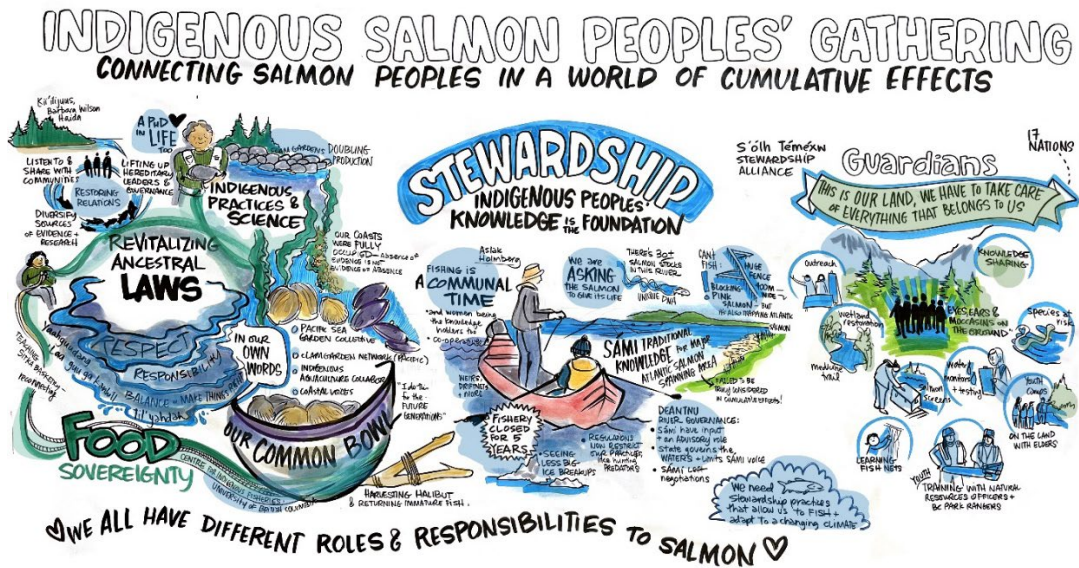
International Indigenous Salmon Peoples' Gathering - Ecosystems and Habitat | November 19, 2025

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Presentation: Kii'illjuus Barbara Wilson, UBC Centre for Indigenous Fisheries

Presentation: Aslak Holmberg, Sámi fisher

Presentation: Dion Weisbrod, S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance



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Local Tours

To connect with the land and learn more about local salmon history, stories, habitat, and restoration efforts, local tours took place on three of the afternoons of the Gathering.

Tour: S.A.Y. Lands, Steve Clegg

Tour: Yale Canyon, Keith Carlson

Tour: Cheam First Nation, Roxanna Kooistra

Witnessing

At the start of the Gathering, Chief Robert Gladstone (Host) and Saul Milne (Facilitator) asked all participants to be witnesses to what was shared here and “write the event in our heads and our hearts and then share those messages with our communities.”

The following Nations and organizations were represented in-person or virtually at the Gathering:

British Columbia:

Ahousaht	Semá:th (Sumas) First Nation
Aitchelitz First Nation	SFU Watershed Futures Initiative
Cheam	Shxwhá:y Village
First Nations Fisheries Council	SkeenaWild Conservation Trust
Gitxsan/Tsimshian	Skwah First Nation
Haida Nation	Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw
Itelemen People	S'olh Temexw Stewardship Alliance
Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance	Stó:lō Nation
Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society	Stó:lō Resource and Research Management
Nlaka'pamux (Lower Nicola Indian Band)	Tzinquaw Drum Group
Okanagan Nation Alliance	UBC Centre for Indigenous Fisheries
Sasquatch Dancers	University of Victoria
Seabird Island Band	

Northern, Central and Eastern Canada:

Assembly of First Nations	Mi'gmaq First Nation Government
Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat	Prince Albert Grand Council
Champagne Aishihik First Nation	Qalipu First Nation
Deh Gáh Got'îê First Nation	Selkirk First Nation
Dene Nation	To Swim and Speak with Salmon
Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations	Tobique First Nation
Gwich'in Council International	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
Keewatinook Fishers of Lake Winnipeg	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources
Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Kwanlin Dun First Nation	Wolastoqey Nation
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	

International:

Akiak Native Community	Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Aleut International Association	Riddu Riđđu Festivála
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna	Sámi
Curyung Tribe	Smokehouse Collective
Gwichyaa Zhee	The Sámi Parliament of Norway