

# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## **Creating a Future for our Fisheries.**

“Everyone worked together this spring so that the Early-Timed Chinook could make it up-river this summer,” said Chief Wayne Christian (Splatsin).

“First Nations on the Fraser River and Vancouver Island worked with stakeholders like the commercial and sports fisheries, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). We all agreed to delay openings. Now we’re seeing good results and early indications that some spawning grounds are rebounding,” he added.

“We want everyone to learn about how important salmon are to our spiritual and community health and well-being,” said Chief Christian. “It’s our tradition that all parts of the fish – the meat, the bones, the eyes - are prepared so that there’s no waste. And it’s our modern day practice to use recognized standards of science so that we are accountable for every fish we catch,” he added.

“But our success this season is just a start. We have Constitutionally-protected title and rights to manage our traditional resources, and we’re going to act on them,” said Chief Christian. “It’s time for government-to-government agreements where First Nations have an equal say in, and a fair share of, the fisheries,” he added.

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