

International Gathering of Indigenous Salmon Peoples

October 1 – 3, 2022

Musqueam Cultural Centre, 6735 Salish Drive
xʷməθkʷəyəm "Musqueam", Vancouver BC



The **International Gathering of Indigenous Salmon Peoples (ISP)** will bring together Indigenous representatives from around the Northern Hemisphere to celebrate their connection with salmon and share perspectives around Indigenous engagement in salmon management systems. This Indigenous-led gathering will be held October 1 – 3, 2022 on the lands of the *xʷməθkʷəyəm* (Musqueam) people in Vancouver, Canada.

Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic basins whose communities rely on healthy are invited to gather in the spirit of sharing and collaboration to reaffirm Indigenous rights and to support and strengthen Indigenous roles in salmon management at International and National scales.

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 and replaced by salmon management practices that are largely rooted in Eurocentric worldviews and western science. Reaffirming Indigenous rights, governance, and jurisdiction over salmon and their ecosystems is a matter of global concern for the future sustainability and survival of salmon and people.

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

In April 2022, a planning team of Indigenous Salmon organizations from BC, Nova Scotia, Sápmi and Yukon along with Indigenous researchers from the Centre of Indigenous Fisheries at UBC and UiT - the Arctic University of Norway was formed to work in collaboration to plan the gathering and to coordinate with the community of *xʷməθkʷəyəm* (Musqueam) to ensure that the appropriate cultural customs and protocols are exercised. The planning team is preparing to welcome 150 participants from Indigenous communities, Indigenous organizations, and partner

organizations from Canada, United States, Norway, Finland, Russia and possibly Japan to the International Gathering of Indigenous Salmon Peoples.

Description

This three-day Indigenous-led gathering will center Indigenous-led ceremony, culture, governance, and academic discussion around Indigenous experiences in salmon management at national and international levels. The ISP will facilitate international dialogue and collaboration, through which Indigenous Salmon Peoples and their partners will work together to identify potential pathways and actions that can strengthen international Indigenous collaboration, uphold Indigenous rights, and lead to improved outcomes for the future of salmon and people.

This gathering will open the floor to discussions of Indigenous sovereignty over Indigenous resources, the redefinition of knowledge incorporation, and the decentering of western science. By way of relationship building and information sharing, participants may consider solutions to barriers and threats to Indigenous self-determination over salmon management and knowledge systems.

- Day 1 will focus on welcoming invited guests and providing a space for Indigenous Peoples to share and exchange cultural knowledge and relationships to salmon.
- Day 2 will focus on Indigenous Peoples' authorities, responsibilities, governance, and management of salmon to ensure the continued survival of salmon resources for our future generations.
- Day 3 will focus on Indigenous academic research related to Indigenous salmon management practices, Indigenous ways of knowing, and co-production of knowledge between Indigenous peoples, scientists, and academic researchers.

Conveners

A planning team of Indigenous salmon organizations from BC, Nova Scotia, Sápmi and Yukon along with Indigenous researchers from the Centre of Indigenous Fisheries at UBC and UiT - the Arctic University of Norway are working in collaboration to plan the event and to coordinate with the host community of x̣m̄əθk̄w̄əȳəm (Musqueam) to ensure that the appropriate customs and protocols are exercised.

On behalf of the planning team, all event inquiries can be directed to Naut'sa mawt Event Management at events@nautsamawt.com