



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pro-Aquaculture Campaign Mis-uses Province / First Nations Agreement

The Coalition of First Nations for Finfish Stewardship has spuriously included a 2018 Letter of Understanding between the Province of British Columbia and three Broughton Area First Nations as evidence of support of finfish aquaculture in a campaign described on [their website](#).

This LOU titled '*Letter of Understanding regarding a Government-to-Government process to address finfish aquaculture in the Broughton Area, ...*' is found [here](#) and described in news releases [1](#) and [2](#).

The Mamalilikulla First Nation, the 'Namgis First Nation, and the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation (the "**Broughton First Nations**") are deeply offended by the actions of the Coalition of First Nations for Finfish Stewardship.

Including the Letter of Understanding between the Province of British Columbia and the Broughton First Nations, and the related agreements between the Broughton First Nations and industry licensees, as an example of support for the Coalition's goals is entirely wrong.

The Broughton First Nations entered into that Letter of Understanding with the Province of British Columbia to address their lack of consent to the operation of open net-pen feedlots in their territories.

Including that Letter of Understanding, and the related agreements with industry licensees, without any contact with our leadership is deeply disappointing, especially given the Coalition's stated ambition of respecting First Nations' decision-making authority.

The Broughton First Nations have individually and collectively opposed the presence of open net-pen feedlots of Atlantic salmon in their territories for decades. The Broughton First Nations have never consented to the operation of open net-pen feedlots in their territories.

Pursuant to the Letter of Understanding, on November 30, 2018, the Broughton First Nations and the Province of British Columbia released their joint recommendations for an orderly transition of 17 fish farms from the Broughton Archipelago. So far, ten fish farms have been removed. That transition is continuing.

The Broughton First Nations continue to exercise their oversight over the operations of the remaining open net-pen feedlots in their territories as that orderly transition continues.

During 2022 and 2023, the Broughton First Nations will decide, consistent with the recommendations released on November 30, 2018, if the remaining seven farms in their territories will continue to operate in their territories.

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