

Appendix 2: Supplementary Quotes

Observations and impacts of climate change

Quote 1

“We have watched the numbers of some of the salmon decline to nothing... I think climate change has a lot to do with it, but I also think salmon farms...is that part of climate change or part of [fisheries]? or part of both? Who can you blame... Partially you can blame climate change, but I also think a lot of it has to do with the salmon farms that are all spread all over the place...” (Wally Weber, Hereditary and Elected Chief, Nuxalk Nation)

Quote 2

“Berries have been coming later too, not staying around as long. That's what I noticed... Later and they go faster.” (Charles Saunders, Guardian Watchman, Nuxalk Nation)

Quote 3

“You talk to the fishermen here and they will tell you, all the species have started to come in together. It used to be the chinook, chum, and the pinks and then the sockeye and then the coho. Now it's the chum, no, it's the springs, chum, and pinks coming in all at once, with the sockeye. All at once. So it's...getting crazy. The coho, there's the odd coho coming in now, but it's usually a fall fish. Things are getting kinda wacky out there.” (Wally Weber, Hereditary and Elected Chief, Nuxalk Nation)

Quote 4

“I remember when I first moved up here [from Bella Bella], I was able to fill up two boxes with about 30 fish in one morning. It's not like that anymore.” (James Anderson, Fisher, Kitasoo-Xai-xais Nation)

Quote 5

“In 2016, I'm trying to think of the percentage, maybe 2 percent came back [Pyropia seaweed], and that was in living memory. Nobody had ever recalled a time when seaweed didn't come back. You know the Blob is the first time ever, an event such as that was ever recorded. So, I think that's climate change.” (Mike Reid, Fisheries manager, Heiltsuk Nation)

Quote 6

“You know, there's so much knowledge that people have about marine resources and the territory that comes from intergenerational knowledge that's been passed down to them because the rate of change was so slow that from one generation to the next you could pass on your knowledge of where a good fishing spot for certain species is or what time of year you can expect certain things in certain places. And it seems like at a really accelerated pace, that intergenerational knowledge is no longer true. And I think that really leaves people reeling. In a social sense it creates some challenges in terms of relationships with younger generations where you start to feel like you don't have the knowledge to pass down what was passed down to you, which is really hard for folks.” (Councillor, Heiltsuk Nation)

Quote 7

“Well, they say when you look after something for a long time, you take care of it. But look at Mother Earth now, she's withering. She's going downhill. Fast. The reason I'm saying that, is you look up north. The Arctic Circle, how fast it's melting. And even that's... You look at the polar bear, he's looking around, where's the ice? He's starving. Can't find that food, the seal anymore. No ice to go, the way he used to hunt it. That's why I say, you have to look after the economics of your territory. You don't look after that; you're going to be in trouble” (Cecil Moody, Elder, Nuxalk Nation)

Adaptation actions for ecological and social systems

Quote 8

“We should have a stronger say in the MPAs out there. Because the government themselves say, you can't go here, you can't go there. But they let the sport fishermen come in here and they take out so many fish, and then they come over here and say you can't go fishing here. They say that to First Nations people. So that doesn't work. Take a hike, politely.” (Peter Johnson, Knowledge holder, Wuikinuxv Nation)

Priority actions

Quote 9

“And Indigenous knowledge will evolve and adapt as well. So I think that it's just two different ways of relating the world and they can go hand in hand and I think you've got to make space for ours. Inherently make space for ours because we've been pushed to the side and the margins for far too long. And it's on Canadians not Indigenous people to do that.” (Saul Brown, Reconciliation coordinator, Heiltsuk Nation)

Quote 10

I don't think we need more data, to be honest, one of the best things to do is integrate not Indigenous knowledge into the decision-making system, but actually integrate Indigenous knowledge keepers into decision making... Yeah, at the governance level I think you've got to make space for... even before that, make space for Indigenous governance systems to be part of that revitalization, be part of the solution” (Saul Brown, Reconciliation coordinator, Heiltsuk Nation)

Quote 11

“Our people don't go up there [further north to go fishing. If there's no fishing we just stay home...Some, they follow the fish...Not too many though. We don't have good enough boats to go!” (Hrwana, Elder, Nuxalk).

Quote 12

“[As marine species shift north] No, [they'd] just go to the grocery store. It's just too far, expensive. Too far away, too much money in fuel. Believe it or not, our people have forgotten how to live on the ocean...” (Wally Weber, Hereditary and Elected Chief, Nuxalk Nation)

Quote 13

“Well, there is a big understanding, quite an understanding between one band to the next, you don't go into their area, because if you do, they consider you're stealing their fish.” (Elder, Heiltsuk Nation).

Quote 14

“Hopefully I have enough family up north to send me fish!” (Alex Chartrand, Wuikinuxv Nation).

Quote 15

“I mean, it absolutely would [affect trade]. I can't definitively pin any one thing on climate change necessarily but in years when we had bad herring seasons, or really low seaweed growth, it's definitely impacted trade relationships because the things that we have to offer, we suddenly don't have. It's not viable enough to maintain those relationships with what we can harvest. Which means that, for sure, relationships suffer. People diet changes. And for sure, relationships across communities suffer when that happens.” (Councillor, Heiltsuk Nation)

Quote 16

“I mean, we've adapted to everything... We've lost our language, not 100%, we're revitalizing that... but how are we going to manage the resource that's going to leave here because of climate change. And what are our people going to do to shift their culture, their way of life, without... without herring? I mean that would be huge for us. Without salmon... without crab... without prawns... without shellfish? I mean, these things would be a detriment to the culture. So.. we're seeing that every day. We're trying to adapt... to figure out what we can do....if salmon continue to deplete... we have to do something.” (Kelly Brown, Stewardship Director, Heiltsuk Nation)

Quote 17

“I see in our office now that they are really trying to help and come and support things that are going on now, that we should step up and do more. Like yourself coming in and actually talking about it and reminding our Nation about stuff like this. I think it gives them a big reminder for sure about what we should do to protect what we have left. I think they need a reminder; I think anyway. Sometimes they do talk about it, they put it back on the back burner and they forget about it because there are a lot of other projects going on. But this is, I think the main thing that they should be concentrating on.” (Roger Harris, Nuxalk Guardian Watchman).

Quote 18

“I think with respect to adapting, it would be to have that kind of detailed conversation around what's expected. I mean, I think that some people have some ideas of what's expected in certain areas. It's going to get hotter, it's going to, species range are going to shift. But that's probably the extent of a number of people. As far as the details of how it's going to pan out. You know if they could, and First Nations up and down this coast in general, get a better handle as to what

would reasonably expected about species range shifts, and lead that into sort of an economic conversation rather than sort of a big depression. You know here's an opportunity. You know, and shellfish is definitely one of those for sure. I think shellfish is at least you know, outside of more run of the river or whatever, is probably the easiest one to do, because it's something you can bite off. It's like a chunk that you can actually take and do something with. “ (Dave Rolston, Fisheries manager, Wuikinuxv Nation)

Quote 19

“Well we rely on salmon. This whole community does. As the temperatures rise, I think our salmon is going to move up north where it's cooler. And the species down south are gonna come this way. So, we'll probably have to adapt to whatever is coming in, start harvesting it...To what degree I don't know. They might not say they would, but they might...” (Peter Siwallace, Marine Use Planner, Nuxalk Nation).