

In-SHUCK-ch First Nation Agreement-in-Principle

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Protecting B.C.'s Wildlife

British Columbia's wildlife is a rich natural resource and the Province is committed to ensuring it is managed for the benefit of all British Columbians. Wildlife and wildlife habitat are renewable resources requiring careful management in order to protect diversity, abundance and health, and to ensure harmony among environmental, social and economic interests. The Province's overall principle of addressing wildlife issues in treaty negotiations is that hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities on Crown land will be ensured for the use and benefit of all British Columbians.

The government of British Columbia seeks to negotiate treaties that:

- ensure wildlife conservation and sustainability
- ensure continued hunting and recreational opportunities on Crown land for the benefit of all British Columbians
- clarify rights, responsibilities and jurisdiction with respect to wildlife

Wildlife Management

In-SHUCK-ch wildlife management will be developed and managed through the authority of the Ministry of Environment.

The First Nation will develop a wildlife plan to manage the harvest of any wildlife species that the Ministry of Environment designates for conservation reasons, or with the agreement of the Province and First Nation, for other species the parties wish to designate. The Nation will also have the right to participate in provincial wildlife advisory management processes that relate to their harvest area.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Who will retain overriding authority over wildlife management?

Answer: The provincial and federal ministers responsible for wildlife and migratory birds will retain full responsibility for managing and conserving those resources.

Question: Will a treaty allow In-SHUCK-ch unlimited access to harvest of wildlife and migratory birds?

Answer: No. The AIP sets out that First Nation hunters will have the right to harvest wildlife for domestic purposes within a defined area, limited by measures necessary for conservation, public health, and public safety. The treaty will also provide that provincial and federal ministers will retain full authority for the management of wildlife and migratory birds and their conservation and habitat.

Question: Will In-SHUCK-ch members need licences to hunt?

Answer: They will need to provide documentation that verifies they are In-SHUCK-ch Nation members. Any Wildlife Harvest Plan developed jointly by the First Nation and British Columbia and approved by the provincial minister will include details regarding the designation and documentation of In-SHUCK-ch hunters.

Question: Will In-SHUCK-ch enforce harvesting restrictions on their own members? If not, who is responsible for ensuring that violators are prosecuted?

Answer: Arrangements for enforcement of harvesting restrictions set out in the treaty will either be enforced by In-SHUCK-ch or, through negotiated agreements, by conservation officers on behalf of the First Nation. Under the treaty, provincial conservation officers and federal fisheries officers will retain authority to enforce the *Wildlife Act*.



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Question: When it comes to species for which there is a conservation concern, will In-SHUCK-ch members be subject to the same harvesting restrictions as non-Aboriginal hunters?

Answer: The provincial minister responsible for wildlife will retain authority for all aspects of wildlife management. The In-SHUCK-ch right to harvest wildlife is subject to measures that are necessary for conservation. Factors that will be taken into consideration include the status of the species, conservation issues, and current harvesting levels by hunters who are not In-SHUCK-ch. If the total allowable harvest of a designated species is zero, there will be no In-SHUCK-ch allocation.

Question: What is a Wildlife Harvest Plan?

Answer: A Wildlife Harvest Plan will set out a detailed management regime for the harvesting of species for which there is a conservation concern or by agreement of the parties for other species. A Wildlife Harvest Plan must be approved by the provincial minister before it can come into effect.

Question: Under this agreement, will the In-SHUCK-ch be able to sell the wildlife they harvest?

Answer: No. Wildlife harvested by First Nation members under the Final Agreement may not be sold. Their wildlife allocation will be for food, social and ceremonial purposes.

Question: How will the trade and bartering of wildlife apply to this agreement?

Answer: First Nation members will have the right to trade or barter among themselves — or with other Aboriginal people of Canada who are living in British Columbia — wildlife or wildlife parts harvested under their treaty rights. Trade and barter does not include the right to sell wildlife.

Question: Won't these agreements create tension in the community?

Answer: A treaty will clearly define the First Nation's hunting and fishing rights. This will eliminate the uncertainty associated with undefined Aboriginal hunting and fishing rights. The Final Agreement will provide for First Nation participation in a regional wildlife management process made up of In-SHUCK-ch and non-Aboriginal hunters. Through such a process, all parties can work cooperatively to develop a framework for wildlife conservation.

Question: In what way will a treaty help to protect and conserve wildlife in the area?

Answer: The First Nation shares the commitment of local wildlife users to sustaining wildlife populations in the region. Through treaty and in concert with the Ministry of Environment, In-SHUCK-ch will have a more involved role in the protection and conservation of wildlife. The Nation recognizes that conservation and the health of wildlife stocks take precedence over treaty hunting rights.

For more information:

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

PO Box 9118 Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9B1

Telephone: Enquiry BC: Vancouver 604 660-2421, Victoria 250 387-6121,

BC (other than Vancouver or Victoria): 1 800 663-7867

Toll-Free Treaty Information Line

Telephone: 1 800 880-1022

E-Mail: ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca



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