



# Charter for Responsible Trade of River Salmon

## ***Background - principles for sustainable economic development in modern river salmon fisheries***

The “Inland Salmon Producers Association” (ISPA) has created a Certification system intended to formalize and communicate the heightened standards of social responsibility and environmental awareness inherent in the fisheries, fisheries businesses, and fisheries business practices of our members.

This “Charter of Responsible Trade” outlines the Principles of the ‘V’ or Value component of ISPA’s three pillar QVS Select *Certification system*. The *QVS Certification system* reflects common standards of fisheries production in the *Quality, Value and Sustainability* pillars reflected in the trademark shared by these fisheries producers.

ISPA will make efforts to build vibrant and affluent First Nation communities through unique, self-regulated and integrated fisheries businesses led by First Nations. To realize this, corporations and individuals alike should demonstrate heightened ethical values, recognize that their social responsibility goes beyond merely compliance with laws and regulations, and they should actively participate in solving various relevant issues.

To recognize member corporations that voluntarily undertake these responsibilities, *ISPA* has established this Charter of Responsible Trade. The Charter of Responsible Trade Principles are incorporated into a Code of Conduct for the purposes of evaluating and certifying fisheries and fisheries businesses. Over time it is anticipated that the Charter’s Principles and Code of Conduct will be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in economic and social conditions.



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## **Executive Summary**

The following Charter (Code of Conduct) aims to guarantee that fish have been produced according to the standards inherent in the “Value” pillar of the QVS Select Certification system. This Charter provides a concise statement on fish welfare, human rights, corporate responsibility, fair and equitable trade, and integrated community development for the Inland fisheries industry.

An independent body will be engaged to evaluate and certify fishery proponents requesting QVS Select Certification, including the verification of compliance with the Charter, and assisting companies to implement the Charter Principles within their operations.

In undergoing an evaluation and successfully receiving QVS Select Certification, the company pledges to observe the core standards which are the basis for this Charter. Further, ISPA pledges to make observance of the Charter a condition of any agreement that it makes with contractors and suppliers.

The Charter establishes only minimum standards and shouldn't be used as a ceiling. ISPA members shall comply with all national laws and regulations. When national law and these criteria address the same issue, that provision which is most stringent applies.



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The Board of ISPA maintains responsibility for QVS Select Certification, including identifying an independent management structure for the system, which in turn ensures QVS Select is used and maintained as intended. The purposes of QVS Select is to support the sustainability of the inland commercial salmon fishery, ensure these fisheries and the business activities they support facilitate healthy communities, and ensure the fish and fish products they produce are of premium quality.

Only fisheries, standards and systems that are Certified QVS Select are authorized to bear or display this trademark, and only authorized members and agents of ISPA (henceforth represented by the ISPA Board) can use this trademark and any brands authorized by this Board.

The Board of ISPA should make their existence relevant and useful to conservation of the wild salmon resource, preservation of the First Nations fishing cultures, and respect for healthy salmon ecosystems by society at large. Regardless of its location, a participating commercial fishing enterprise is expected to respect Aboriginal rights and title, comply with relevant laws and regulations, observe the spirit of regulations and standards in the fishery, and exhibit social responsibility towards fishing communities that embody sustainable lifestyles by acting in line with the shared principles for responsible trade outlined in this Charter.

The “Value” pillar of QVS Select is encompassed in the Charter of Responsible Trade and is intended to establish the key expectations related to social and corporate responsibility that a certified entity will reflect and maintain.

In case the Charter is violated, the Board of ISPA should clarify both internally and externally that it will take charge to resolve the situation, determine the cause of infringement and make efforts to prevent similar violations in the future. At the same time, the Board of ISPA should promptly make full public disclosure, explain what has occurred, and upon determining the source of competence and responsibility, initiate prompt remedial action involving all of those held responsible.



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## Code of Conduct for Responsible Trade

1. Respect the care, handling and welfare of salmon, reflecting sound stewardship and food safety in the fishery above all;
2. Develop and provide socially beneficial and food safe goods and services that are beneficial to consumers/ customers, the local fishery, and the wild salmon;
3. Engage in fair, transparent and free competition and ensure that the salmon trade environment instils functional relations among First Nations salmon producers, reflecting a reliable and proper relationship with political bodies and government agencies as the basis for their sound management and good governance, and reflecting First Nations 7th generation stewardship principles in these fisheries;
4. In addition to communicating with aggregate members and forums for political responsibility, interact extensively with the public and disclose relevant corporate information actively and fairly in the spirit of transparency. Also, protect and properly manage personnel and customer data and other types of information as validation of the principles in this Charter;
5. Respect diversity, character and personality of employees and corporate partnerships in the fishery and ensure a safe and supportive working environment, thereby promoting inclusiveness and prosperity, and fair compensation for goods and services in the inland fishery;
6. Proactively initiate measures in acknowledgement of fisheries environmental issues and specifically the conservation and sustainable use of wild salmon, the common challenges they pose to consumers, and their importance to the existence and livelihood of all fishers and local fishing communities;
7. Actively engage community involvement in stewardship activities including philanthropy as a “good corporate citizen”, particularly as advocates of community stewardship of wild salmon fisheries and the ecosystems that support them;

8. Resolutely confront forces contrary to the spirit of this charter, racial prejudices and ignorance of our collective responsibilities towards fisheries stewardship, and organizations that pose a threat to the order and security of indigenous peoples in the fishery and their inter-dependence on fisheries resources, including measures to sever all relations with such individuals and groups;
9. In line with globalization of fisheries trade, comply with laws and regulations of the countries and regions where its business of operations are based, and respect indigenous rights and other international norms of behaviour as reflected in the UN Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Also, conduct business by taking into consideration the local culture and customs as well as the interests of stakeholders in fisheries trade, and contribute toward the sustainability of the local fisheries economy and society;
10. Salmon producers that are authorized to display the QVS Select Trade Mark recognize that it is their role to embrace the spirit of this Charter and to demonstrate leadership in implementing its code through individual and collective activities within the inland salmon trade and throughout the value chain.

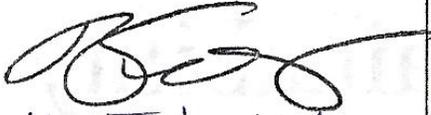


Quality  
Value  
Sustainability



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## CHARTER MEMBERSHIP REGISTRY

MEMBER	DATE	MEMBER	DATE
<b>Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance</b>		<b>Harrison Fisheries Authority</b>	
<i>Signature</i> 		<i>Signature</i> 	Apr. 14/14.
Name/Title: <b>GORD STENNING</b> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.		Name/Title: <b>SDC President.</b>	
<b>Okanagan Nation Alliance</b>		<b>Xeni Gwet'in First Nation</b>	
<i>Signature</i> 	May 28/14	<i>Signature</i> 	4/14/14
Name/Title: <b>Pauline Terbasket</b> Executive Director		Name/Title: <b>MARILYN BAPTISTE, COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Tsilhqot'in National Government</b>		<b>Siska Traditional Society</b>	
<i>Signature</i> 	5/28/14.	<i>Signature</i> 	April 14/14
Name/Title: <b>CARLA GRIMMON, FISHERIES</b>		Name/Title:	