

DRAFT Principles to Guide FSC Access Decisions

- 1) FSC access (allocation, fishing area, and fishing opportunity) decisions should be consistent with current legal direction.
- 2) Priority of Access to fish for FSC purposes shall be provided second only to meeting conservation needs, and other valid legislative objectives such as human health and safety.
- 3) Decisions should be made using a transparent approach, and balance flexibility with consistency.
- 4) Decisions will be informed by consultations with Aboriginal groups that allow for an exchange of views and information.
- 5) FSC access will take into account FN overlaps and any overlap agreements in place.
- 6) FSC allocations will take into account the diversity and abundance of federally-managed fisheries resources available in the First Nation's geographic area, including non-allocated species (the "fish basket").
- 7) FSC access decisions will be evaluated in the broader context of resource management implications (e.g. implications for conservation, other Aboriginal groups, temporal issues, etc.). As well, implications for stakeholders will be identified.
- 8) There may be differences in FSC access among First Nations, reflecting community needs, preferences, social and cultural differences, historic use, and availability of resources.
- 9) FSC access decisions should not create disparities (large differences that lack a sound rationale) among First Nations with similar availability of fisheries resources.
- 10) FSC access decisions will take into consideration operational factors such as First Nations capacity and governance issues (e.g. resource management cooperation and participation), implementation challenges, and efficiency issues.