

FSC Launch Group – DFO Policies and Practice

As identified in the attached document with specific quotes regarding DFO policy on FSC fishing:

- 1) Conservation is paramount.
- 2) Aboriginal fishing should occur within areas that were historically fished by the Aboriginal group or First Nation.
- 3) Aboriginal fishing for FSC purposes has priority in management decisions, after conservation, over other user groups, i.e. commercial and recreational

Practically, DFO implementation, must take into consideration the First Nation group, it's geography, the status of the stocks in question whether salmon or marine species (for example, that sedentary species are managed differently than migrating species) and priorities of this and other First Nations.

The guidelines below are considered in DFO's practices implementing these policies, consulting with First Nations and assessing each situation regarding the unique circumstances for the First Nation and fisheries resource so that:

- 1) Decisions regarding FSC fishing should consider the diversity and abundance of fisheries resources available in the fishing area of the Aboriginal group or First Nation.
- 2) Decisions regarding FSC fishing should take into account FSC fishing by other Aboriginal groups and First Nations on the same stock/species.
- 3) Fishing for FSC purposes is an opportunity to harvest, not a guarantee of a specific allocation.
- 4) Decisions regarding FSC fishing should take into account differences between First Nations (e.g. community needs, preferences, social and cultural differences, community use, etc.).
- 5) Aboriginal fishing for FSC purposes should be carried out in context with integrated fisheries management plans for the fishery.

Some questions that recur in the implementation of the policy include:

When fish stocks are low, how should the limited harvest be shared among numerous First Nations who may harvest those fish?

How should the allocation of bycatch between First Nations fisheries be applied given the different gear (gillnet, dip net, beach seine) used, particularly when stocks are low?