

Final

PACIFIC INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES INITIATIVE (PICFI) CONSULTATION PLAN 2009-2010

1.0 Objectives:

The overall objective of this engagement strategy is to set out a coordinated approach for the next phases of consultations with First Nations, stakeholders and the public on the key elements of PICFI implementation, for this year, 2009-10. PICFI provides the tools for achieving reforms to Pacific fisheries, with a focus on salmon. Through the four elements, PICFI establishes a foundation for greater certainty of access, and for all fisheries participants, First Nation and non-First Nation, to work together on harvest strategies to maximize the value of commercial fisheries. The four elements are: Acquiring and Delivering Access, Capacity Building, Enhanced Accountability and Co-management.

Objectives of this consultation plan are to:

- Raise awareness and understanding to gain support from stakeholders and the public of the various elements of PICFI, including the process for engagement and decision-making, and to enable moving forward with Pacific fisheries reform and integrated fisheries;
- Work towards common understanding of the objectives and processes of the PICFI program, clarify misconceptions and to maximize the benefits to First Nations;
- Collaborate with First Nations organizations and stakeholders at the regional level on the design and implementation of:
 - models for acquiring and distributing access to commercial fishing opportunities;
 - programs for First Nations community capacity building;
 - proposed accountability measures, including improvements in catch monitoring, reporting and traceability; and,
 - options for co-management and collaborative decision-making.
- Encourage the development of positive working relationships among First Nations, stakeholders and government, to build relationships and develop trust.

Input received from the various dialogue sessions will continue to be considered in decision-making for PICFI, including the development of recommendations for the Minister's decision.

2.0 Background/Update:

Since the announcement of the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) in July, 2007, the Department has undertaken a significant amount of consultation with First Nations and stakeholders on the design and implementation of the program. These discussions, through the Fall Community Dialogues and special PICFI meetings, such as the roll out sessions and the mentoring sessions, have also touched on Pacific Fisheries Reform issues, including discussions on defined shares and transferability, co-management, catch

monitoring and licensing options. In addition, there have been a number of bilateral discussions with different groups and organizations in the region. As a result of the engagement efforts since 2007, the Department has moved forward on the development and implementation of integrated commercial fisheries where harvesters operate with common and transparent rules (demonstration fisheries), under strengthened monitoring and reporting requirements, and new models of co-management. The PICFI framework reflects a phased approach for each of the key elements of PICFI, including engagement, to ensure that the interests of First Nations and stakeholders are fully accounted for in the design and implementation of the program.

For the first two years, the emphasis has been on the acquiring access and capacity building elements. Three rounds of acquisition have taken place, with a total of 207 licences retired for a total of \$50.3 million (under both the ATP and PICFI programs). During the next few years, distribution will occur to First Nations who have a Commercial Fisheries Enterprise in place. This year, a short-term distribution program is in place to those with EOI applications in place, for halibut and sablefish.

Under capacity building, support has been provided to First Nations for the four-step process involved in development of business and training plans. An evaluation team has been set up to evaluate the business plans as they come in. In the fall dialogues and subsequent consultation meetings, information was provided to groups on the process involved in establishing a CFE and input was received on how to shape the plan. Also, mentoring workshops took place where seasoned fishers could partner with those seeking advice on taking part in the program.

In 2009-10, efforts are focused on the elements of enhanced accountability and co-management. Under **enhanced accountability**, an improved and streamlined data management system (PacFish) for DFO will be put in place and a catch monitoring strategy, developed with First Nations and stakeholders, will be finalized. This will include an e-log system that will improve catch reporting in recreational, FSC and commercial fisheries. Under **co-management**, work will be undertaken with the First Nations Fisheries Council, and a discussion paper for consultation will be finalized within DFO. As well, there will be another round of licence and quota access in the fall and the first distribution program (short-term, for halibut and sablefish). The element of capacity building will focus on implementing training through its mentoring program and evaluation of the EOIs.

3.0 Strategic Considerations (Issues):

- Linkages between PICFI and other fisheries management consultative processes have been made. These will continue to be developed as the initiative is fully implemented. Some examples:
 - Leadership Council /First Nations Fisheries Council Working Group: development of a regional Aboriginal fisheries governance structure in BC;
 - Integrated Salmon Dialogue Process (Sigurdson-Stuart): discussions with a group of volunteers from different sectors to develop a vision and principles for defined shares, collaborative management and compliance, including catch monitoring and traceability;
 - Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB): 21st Century Salmon Project is looking at catch share and allocation transfer mechanisms from a commercial industry perspective;

- Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB): workshops on a vision for the recreational fishery in BC; next steps include development of an action plan
 - Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI): multi-interest watershed-based approach to planning (technical discussions);
 - Integrated Fraser River Aboriginal Working Group (IFRAWG), Intertribal Fisheries Treaty (ITFT), Salmon Table (FRST) – all working at different levels with First Nations on a collaborative planning process for Fraser River salmon management;
 - Fraser Basin Council/Living Rivers initiative (FSWP): community and stakeholder-based process focused on socio-economic issues, salmon and salmon habitat in the Fraser Basin;
 - Consultations with First Nations and commercial harvesters on the Lower Fraser regarding the upcoming fishing seasons;
 - Review and reform of the Dungeness Crab Fishery: multi-interest initiative to improve fisheries sustainability for First Nations and commercial and recreational harvesters.
- Multi-interests have been brought together in an integrated manner through the Fall Community Dialogue sessions since 2005. The results from the 2007 and 2008 sessions and other meetings include the development of a comprehensive and broadly-supported design and implementation plan for PICFI with First Nations and stakeholders. As the initiative progresses, PICFI has been linked to the results coming out of the processes listed above. This shows a move toward a more integrated model of management in general.

This year, there will be no Fall Community Dialogues for the various sectors to participate in, and therefore PICFI will develop its own schedule of meetings to take place. Consultations, in the form of workshops (combined format, with First Nations meetings first, then bring in multi sectors), will take place on:

- enhanced accountability
 - developing and implementing common standards for catch monitoring and reporting
- co-management
 - development of a co-management framework
 - processes moving towards integrated decision making (eg. WSP Strategy 4, ITFT)
- development of a share-based (defined shares) management framework

As the First Nations Fisheries Council evolves and a regional governance model is established for First Nations through the Leadership Council, it is anticipated they would have a role to play in working collaboratively with DFO on the PICFI engagement process. The role of this group is still evolving.

- PICFI has been conceived as a five-year program, to March 31, 2012. The volume and complexity of issues that need to be addressed is substantial. Progress has been made on all four elements, but there is still significant work to be done in enhanced accountability and co-management. It is recommended that priorities to move forward on these be set in collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders this coming year.

4.0 Internal/external environmental scan/key stakeholders:

NOTE: The primary participants in the development and implementation of most PICFI elements are First Nations and commercial fishing interests. However, recreational fishing interests and environmental organizations are encouraged to participate, especially in developing collaborative management approaches.

First Nations:

- Individual First Nations communities
- First Nations Fisheries Council
- AAROM Bodies and other fisheries technical organizations
- Pacific Salmon Commission First Nation Members
- Native Brotherhood of BC and Native Fishing Association
- Leadership Council

Commercial Fishing Industry:

- Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB) and Area Harvest Committees for salmon
- DFO advisory committees for other species
- BC Seafood Alliance
- BC Underwater Harvester's Association
- UFAWU

Recreational Anglers:

- Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB)

Environmental Organizations:

- Marine Conservation Caucus (MCC)
- Fraser Basin Council

Multi-interest processes:

Integrated Harvest Planning Committee (IHPC)
Monitoring and Compliance Panel

Other Government Departments (OGDs):

- INAC, HRDC, WED

Province of BC:

- Ministry of Environment (involved in the recreational fisheries vision), Ministry of Aboriginal Recognition and Reconciliation (MARR), , Ministry of Economic Development

5.0 CONSULTATION STRATEGY:

5.1 Consultation Co-ordination Team:

Deborah Phelan, Jennifer Nener, Angela Bate, Elan Park, PICFI Area Coordinators

Element Leads:

Angela Bate – Director, Special Projects
Jennifer Nener – Manager, PICFI
Corey Jackson – Co-management
Rita Purdon - Acquisition & distribution of access
Barb Snyder – Distribution of access

Chandra Clark - Capacity Building
Colin Masson - Enhanced Accountability Measures
Deborah Phelan – Engagement
Area Coordinators - LFA: Brian Matts; BCI: David Reedman; SC: Matt Mortimer; NC:
Dale Gueret
Scott Coultish/Dave Knapton - Conservation and Protection

5.2 Recommended Approach

1. Combined workshop meetings:

With no Fall Community Dialogues taking place this year, PICFI, working together with the First Nations Fisheries Council and AAROM groups and key individual First Nations bands, will support several regional and community-based, First Nations and multi-interest sessions to discuss, design and implementation issues associated with the enhanced accountability and co-management elements of PICFI. Specifically, these include:

- Enhanced accountability
 - developing and implementing common standards for catch monitoring and reporting
 - development of the proposed compliance and monitoring panel
- Co-management
 - development of a co-management framework
 - processes moving towards integrated decision making (eg. WSP Strategy 4, ITFT)
- Update on Access and Capacity Building implementation
- Development of a share-based management framework
- Outstanding policy issues, such as licence reform

First Nations leaders (FN Leadership Council/Fisheries Council) will be informed of the progress of the initiative and invited to collaborate with DFO in the planning and delivery of the engagement process. This will include working with AAROM groups.

An offer to hold bilateral meetings for individual First Nations bands will also be made.

This work builds on previous meetings which served to inform, obtain advice and feedback from First Nations, stakeholders and the public at the community level on proposed design features of the four elements of PICFI.

Input received from the sessions will continue to be considered in decision-making for PICFI, including the development of recommendations for the Minister's decision.

2. Regular conference calls:

It is proposed that bimonthly/quarterly conference calls be initiated with First Nations groups as a forum for information exchange. This format respects budget considerations and people's time, while allowing for dialogue to continue to build relationships. These will be divided into North Coast and South Coast.

3. Mail outs

Mailouts/email notices will be sent to AAROM groups and individual First Nations bands to outline progress made on the four elements.

Tools: fact sheet or letter

4. Updates provided at other meetings/Action Table:

Attendance at other internal and external meetings that are taking place at various scales and in different geographic locations is important to provide an update on PICFI, and create linkages with other processes (see calendar) this will allow for broader interaction and engagement in discussion.

Tools: presentation

Action table/calendar of meetings – to be reviewed monthly for commitments by team members (see attached)

5. Website Update:

The website will continue to be used to inform stakeholders and the public about progress being made on the initiative. (Communications lead)

6. Other agencies:

As well, agency stakeholders (OGDs, Province of BC) will be informed of the progress of the initiative and processes for engagement.

Other processes will be devised as required.

5.3 Consultation materials:

Consultation materials will be developed to facilitate dialogue by clearly framing the issues which are open to discussion and their associated decision processes, as well as identifying any elements which do not have the same flexibility. The main working documents are discussion papers which set out objectives and principles for each topic, including any related policy issues, and presentations. Meetings will consist of presentations and scenarios with pointed questions to help frame the discussion on each topic. Interests and assumptions that DFO brings to the discussion are clearly identified. Additional technical background materials may also be required.

Materials will include:

- Agendas for meetings
- Backgrounders/Updates for each topic area, and additional technical materials as required
- Discussion papers to be developed by PICFI on key topics
- Presentations to be produced (overview for managers to use, updates for meetings)
- Fact Sheets on key topics related to each element, including the engagement process used in design and implementation of the project
- Media materials (press release, backgrounder, FAQs), as required;
- Other materials as required.

5.4 Funding

Costs for the anticipated consultation mechanisms is \$73k. This money has been provided to the Consultation Secretariat, which will provide logistic support and advice to PICFI.

6.0 Communications strategy: A communications strategy will be developed by Communications Branch, Pacific Region (Kirsten Ruecker). Products to support the processes mentioned will be developed.

Prepared by: Deborah Phelan

Approved by:

Jennifer Nener; Angela Bate – Sept. 28

Sent to: Allison Webb, RD, Policy; Kaarina McGivney, Director, TAPD; Sue Farlinger, RD, FAM RDG

Date: Sept., 2009