



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

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Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)

(Nanaimo) [Loose Papers] Nanaimo

July 17, 2007



Canada



Introduction

- The Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) is designed to support the long-term economic viability of BC commercial fisheries and the sustainability of fisheries resources.
- It supports establishing fully integrated commercial fisheries, where all commercial harvesters fish under common and transparent rules, with a higher standard of accountability for all resource users, and strengthened collaboration and cooperation amongst users.

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Context – Fisheries Interests

Commercial Fisheries

- The commercial industry is facing many challenges including environmental change, new conservation requirements, uncertainty around access, global competition, and domestic and international market pressures.

First Nations

- Many BC First Nations are seeking increased commercial fisheries access as a building block for economically sustainable communities and greater self-sufficiency, as well as, a greater role in fisheries management -- many assert an Aboriginal right to fish commercially.

Other Interests

- Recreational fisheries seeking more certainty and stability around access, and other groups are pursuing non-harvest interests.

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Context – Key Reports

- In 2004, two reports provided recommendations on how to address problems in management of Pacific fisheries:
 - First Nations Panel on Fisheries
 - Joint Task Group on Post-treaty Fisheries
- General support for:
 - Co-management, with increased input to decision making
 - commercial access for First Nation communities through voluntary licence retirement
 - More flexible management regimes to optimize harvests and maximize value.
- In addition, the recently finalized the First Nations Fisheries Action Plan recommends, in part, greater commercial fisheries access and participation in decision-making.



Integrated Commercial Fisheries

- In moving forward, Integrated commercial fisheries will be based on the following principles:
 - common and transparent rules with all commercial fishers treated equitably;
 - Improved conservation and economic performance through strengthened enforcement and compliance regime; improved catch reporting and monitoring; fish traceability;
 - greater transparency & certainty whereby First Nation and non-native fishers will have clearly defined shares in the commercial fishery; and,
 - clearly separated First Nation commercial and Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) allocations, with recognition of priority of FSC access after conservation.

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PICFI Overview

• PICFI...

- adopts a balanced approach, advancing essential reforms advocated by industry leaders while addressing BC First Nations' interest for greater access to commercial fisheries;
- lays the foundation for all industry participants, First Nation and non-First Nation, to work together on harvest strategies to maximize the value of commercial fisheries; and,
- provides greater certainty around the participation of BC First Nations in the commercial fishery, while supporting sustainable First Nation communities and greater economic self-sufficiency.

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PICFI Details

- PICFI is a \$175 million, 5-year initiative, developed to support the implementation of much needed reforms.
- It includes the following four key elements:
 1. First Nation participation in integrated commercial fisheries BC-wide in advance of treaties through Voluntary Commercial Licence Retirement;
 2. First Nation Capacity Building to support the development of First Nation commercial fisheries enterprises;
 3. Fisheries Accountability Measures to support enhanced fisheries monitoring, catch reporting, greater enforcement and enable the development of a traceability system; and,
 4. New Pacific Co-Management Models to establish new mechanisms for increasing the collaboration of resource users in commercial fisheries decision-making.

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1. First Nation Participation in Integrated Commercial Fisheries

- Acquiring commercial fisheries access (licences, quota) on a voluntary basis for transfer to First Nations.
- Where appropriate, vessels and gear will also be acquired.
- Acquisition and delivery of access will build on existing processes and programs with input from First Nations and Industry.
- Development of delivery design will be guided by best practices and lessons learned (e.g., separation of politics and day-to-day business management decisions) from the implementation of the Marshall Response Initiative.

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PICFI Elements

2. Capacity Building

- To support development of First Nations business planning and management, and fisheries training and mentoring requirements.
- Directed toward supporting effective use of commercial access by First Nations and the development of business management skills.
- Will build on First Nation successes in BC with respect to fisheries and economic development initiatives, and experiences gained elsewhere e.g. Marshall Response Initiative, Harvard Project, etc.
- DFO will seek collaboration with other federal departments (e.g. HRSDC, INAC, WED) in the delivery of this element.



3. Co-Management

- Aimed at establishing new mechanisms or structures for involving First Nations and stakeholders in fisheries management decision processes, including:
 - building on existing relationships with BC First Nations, to coordinate their input into fisheries policy development; and
 - Adopting new-approaches to integrated commercial fisheries decision-making processes, at a region-wide or watershed/coastal area level.
- Objective is to facilitate joint problem-solving among interest groups, and better achieve sustainable resource management approaches that address conservation goals.

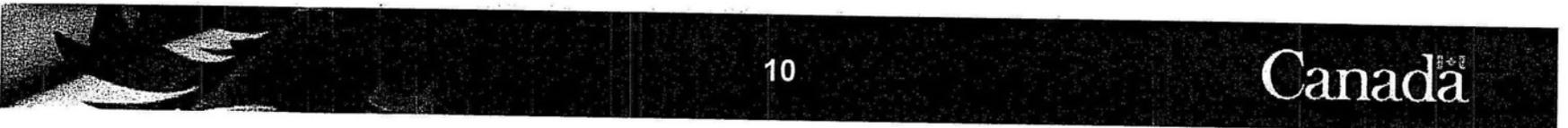
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4. Enhanced Accountability Measures

- Will include enhanced fisheries monitoring, catch reporting, and enforcement, in support of share-based management approaches.
- Will enable development of a new traceability program to address emerging market-place and food safety issues.
- A concrete step towards implementing the recently announced "Ocean to Plate" initiative in Pacific Region.
- Initial steps are planned for the 2007 salmon season in Lower Fraser, with expansion to other areas and fisheries in subsequent years.
- Key components include: mandatory landing sites for Area E fishers with a minimum 35% catch verification, and independent catch verification for First Nations

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Program Implementation

Implementing First Nation Elements of PICFI

- PICFI is designed, in part, to facilitate First Nation participation in integrated commercial fisheries while building a foundation for, and facilitating the transition to, comprehensive treaties. It would be guided by the following principles:
 - First Nation participation in integrated commercial fisheries would be addressed in a manner consistent with the treaty process;
 - Participation in the initiative is voluntary;
 - responsive to First Nations differing interests, priorities and capacities around increased participation in commercial fisheries and co-management
 - Emphasis on greater accountability/modern and transparent governance for all harvesters, with greater participation in integrated commercial fisheries by First Nations, subject to certain conditions;
 - Opportunities to negotiate access would be available to all First Nations located in areas where DFO manages the fisheries resources, whether or not they are in treaty negotiations; and,
 - Conservation of fisheries resources remains paramount -- greater First Nation fisheries access would not put additional pressure on the resource.

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Outcomes

- PICFI supports achieving the following outcomes...
 - a higher standard of reporting and monitoring for all resource users in support of conservation objectives;
 - increase ability to meet conservation objectives by strengthening enforcement levels;
 - strengthened cooperation and collaboration amongst users;
 - set the stage for improved economic performance;
 - greater certainty around access and allocation for all participants;
 - Jobs and incomes for First Nations in commercial fisheries and related areas.





PICFI Next Steps

- Engage key representatives of First Nations, industry, and others in a dialogue on a program and delivery design that is as effective as possible in achieving the objectives of the initiative.
 - Develop clear and transparent criteria and principles for the initiative to facilitate consistent delivery on a province wide basis and support broader reforms.
 - Seek to establish working groups to scope options for specific program elements (e.g., design of process for obtaining access).
 - Develop a broader engagement approach for scoping program design and delivery options (e.g., who needs to be involved, in what, where and when?).
- Start delivering some program elements through existing programs, including implementing enhanced accountability measures in Lower Fraser salmon fisheries in 2007.
- Begin program delivery through new processes in 2007-08 fiscal year.

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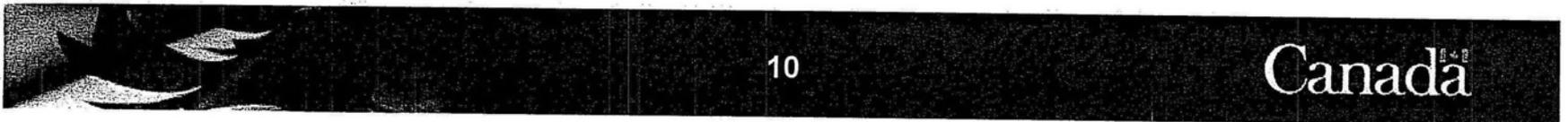


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