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Your file    Votre référence

Our file    Notre référence

Dear Licence Holder:

**COMMERCIAL SALMON DEMONSTRATION FISHERIES BACKGROUND**

Since 2005, the Department has been working with commercial salmon fleets and First Nations to implement share based management approaches in the salmon fishery consistent with Pacific Fisheries Reform and the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI). To help move the salmon fishery forward, the Department has implemented salmon demonstration fishery projects to explore different options to determine which reforms might work, and which might not. Creative and innovative solutions have been discussed and have already been implemented for some fleets (for reports on some of these projects see: [http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species/salmon/policies/default\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species/salmon/policies/default_e.htm)).

In addition, the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board (CSAB), the provincial Ministry of the Environment, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have been involved in a process to renew and revive the commercial salmon sector. This process has been named the Sub-Committee on Options for Review and Evaluation (SCORE) and a report has been completed. While consensus was not achieved in the report, there is general agreement that Area Harvest Committees should have autonomy to determine catch sharing and fishery management arrangements for their own area. A major component of this work is to determine how share based fisheries will work.

For 2009, the Department plans to continue to develop full fleet, share based, salmon demonstration fishery projects with Area Harvest Committees where there is strong support for moving forward. To provide an indication of the level of support within each commercial fleet, a survey has been developed by the Department to allow licence holders to express their level of support for moving forward with demonstration fishery projects.

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While the surveys do not describe the specific details of share based fishery projects that may be developed, a strong level of support will be used to provide a mandate for Area Harvest Committee representatives to develop demonstration fishery projects with the Department that support alternative management arrangements that:

- Maintain or improve management control and conservation performance in the fishery, and;
- Promote the use of clearly defined shares to improve manageability and industry viability, and;
- Increase the ability of harvesters to work cooperatively to harvest available surpluses and to take on greater responsibility for control and monitoring of their fishery.

In addition, demonstration fishery projects will only proceed to implementation where Area Harvest Committees and the Department agree on the project details consistent with the design elements listed above.

The Department has mailed out surveys to all licence holders in each area. The surveys will be opened and counted with representatives from the Department and the Commercial Salmon Advisory Board present. Please read the survey carefully and if you have any questions please contact Jeff Grout (Regional Resource Manager – Salmon at 604-666-0497 or [Jeff.Grout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Jeff.Grout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)) to seek clarification.

It is anticipated that the results of the survey will be released by January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. For fleets where there is strong support for proceeding, the Department will require a detailed project proposal to be developed by the Area Harvest Committee and submitted for evaluation. Detailed proposals will need to address how the management approach meets the design elements outlined above.