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Fisheries and
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Gestion des pêches et
de l'aquaculture

Assistant
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Your file Votre référence
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Our file Notre référence
EKME # 865477
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY MINISTER

2009 COMMERCIAL SALMON DEMONSTRATION FISHERY PLANNING

(Information Only)

SUMMARY

- This note outlines the management approach planned for continued expansion of share-based demonstration projects with commercial salmon fleets for 2009.
- The Department mailed survey packages (TAB 1) in early December 2008 to all commercial salmon licence holders in each commercial salmon fleet (i.e. A to H representing gear/area fleets, maps attached in TAB 2) to gauge their support for proceeding with share-based demonstration fisheries in 2009 for their fleet. Results from the surveys will be used to inform development of demonstration fisheries for these fleets for 2009.
- Where there is strong majority support for proceeding, the Department will work with Area Harvest Committees (AHCs) to develop demonstration fisheries that will proceed on a full fleet basis using existing commercial licences. Where there is a slim majority in support of proceeding, demonstration projects may be considered on the merits of individual project proposals. Otherwise, all vessels will participate in a competitive, derby fishery as in past years.
- There continues to be strong support among licence holders for the Area F troll chinook individual transferable quota (ITQ) demonstration fishery that has been in place for the last four years (2005 – 2008). This fishery will proceed again on a full fleet basis in 2009, but the fleet will also be surveyed to gauge interest in developing demonstration fisheries for other stocks or species (e.g. North Coast coho).

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Background

- In 2008, the Department worked with AHCs to develop full fleet demonstration projects for four of the eight commercial salmon fleets, including northern troll, northern and southern seine, and Johnstone Strait troll.
- For 2009, Department staff will continue to advance Pacific Fisheries Reform and share-based management approaches for the commercial salmon fishery by working with willing fleets to develop demonstration fishery projects. The move to share-based management also supports implementation of the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI).
- Many individual licence holders from all of the commercial salmon fleets have requested that the Department continue to move forward with share-based management approaches, including fleets where AHCs have indicated there is not an interest in proceeding.
- To facilitate planning prior to the season, the Department mailed survey packages (TAB 1) in early December 2008 to all commercial salmon licence holders to gauge their support for developing share-based salmon demonstration fisheries for the main stocks or species harvested by their fleets.

Analysis / DFO Comment

- There is continued strong support among licence holders for the Area F troll chinook ITQ demonstration fishery that has been in place for the last four years (2005 – 2008); surveys will seek feedback on the level of support for pursuing share-based arrangements for other stocks or species for this fleet.
- Support for proceeding with share-based demonstration fisheries among the other seven commercial fleets is mixed.
 - There is expected to be continued support for proceeding with demonstration projects in the two seine fleets and the Johnstone Strait troll fleet, based on strong support on surveys for the 2008 demonstration fishery projects.
 - The support for proceeding in the three gillnet fleets and the West Coast troll fleet is uncertain as these fleets have not been polled in the past with the exception of one gillnet fleet (Area D) which had 43% support for a joint southern gillnet, seine and troll demonstration project for Fraser River sockeye in 2008. However, many individual licence holders have expressed support for proceeding.
- While the material distributed to licence holders does not describe the specific details of share-based fishery arrangements that may be developed, results from the surveys will confirm the level of support in all salmon fleets early in the planning process for 2009.
- A strong level of support will be used to provide a mandate for AHC representatives to develop full fleet demonstration fishery projects with the Department that support alternative management arrangements for 2009.

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- Proponents of demonstration fishery projects believe that the direction to share-based management outlined by the Department is the right approach to achieve resource sustainability, commercial industry viability and effective transition to First Nations post-treaty fisheries.
- There will be concerns among some licence holders about the Department's plans to impose quota style fisheries in all of the commercial salmon fleets without majority support. However, demonstration projects will only proceed to planning and implementation for full fleets where there is strong majority support from the fleet, or, in the case of a slim majority, if individual demonstration projects can be developed that have strong support from the AHC and meet management considerations. Demonstration projects will be for 2009 only and all commercial licence holders will be treated equally.

Next Steps

- Where there is strong support (e.g. >2 out of 3 licence holders responding to the survey), the Department will work with AHCs to develop share-based demonstration fisheries to be implemented on a full fleet basis using existing commercial licences and conditions of licence for 2009.
- Where there is a slim majority in support of proceeding, demonstration projects may be considered on the merits of individual project proposals. Pacific Region will decide based on advice from the AHC on the nature of the proposal, the level of support within the AHC, and an assessment of how the project will contribute to management objectives. Otherwise, all vessels will participate in a competitive derby fishery as in past years.
- In addition, demonstration fishery projects will only proceed to implementation where AHCs and the Department agree on the project details.
- A separate briefing note outlining specific demonstration fishery projects that have been developed for 2009 will be submitted once project details have been worked out (i.e. Spring 2009).


David Bevan

Attachments (2)

TAB 1 - Commercial Salmon Demonstration Fishery Survey Package Example
TAB 2 - Maps of Commercial Salmon Licence Areas A to H.

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