

First Nations Fisheries Council

DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION

Sport Fishing Lodge Certification Program



The objectives of the certification would be to:

- help discriminating customers choose which lodge that they want to book based on the endorsement of the Council;
- support and reward ethical and responsible practices of sportfishing lodges;
- increase awareness of sportfishing lodge operators and their clients of First Nations concerns;
- foster dialogue between lodges and First Nations within whose territories they operate;
- raise funds which could be directed back into fish-oriented local First Nations programs.

The process of developing the program would include:

- Support in principle from the First Nations Fisheries Council;
- One on one discussions with a number of key First Nations who have large amounts of sportfishing with their territories (NTC, Haida, Oweekeno/Wuikinuxv, Campbell River, etc.).
- Initial discussion with the Sportfish Alliance and the Sportfish Advisory Board about the concept.
- Discussion with First Nations at fall community sessions and February Fisheries Forum.
- Development of program and assessment of funding requirements;
- Implementation of program.

The concept would be that lodge operators who chose to participate in the program would need to sign onto a protocol and agree to:

1. Acknowledge aboriginal rights and title are asserted by First Nations in the area in which they operate;
2. Meet on a regular basis (at least annually) with any local First Nations within whose territory they operate;
3. Practice sustainable and responsible fishing practices;
4. Participate fully in catch monitoring programs;
5. Agree to independent arbitration (arranged through the Fisheries Council) if a local First Nation raises concern about operating practices or adherence to this protocol;
6. Agree to provide guests with literature related to First Nations history and culture (which would be provided by the Fisheries Council);
7. Encourage guests to participate in the First Nations Fisheries Council sustainable harvest initiative through the purchase of a pin for \$20.

The \$20 from the sale of each pin would be allocated as follows:

- \$12 would be divided among local First Nations within whose territory the lodge operates, to be used for fishing related programming.
- \$2 would go to the cost of the pin.
- \$6 would go toward the development of the information material to be given to fishing clients, and other advertising, education, and awareness.