

# A new Relationship Visions of Co-Management

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# What is Co-management / Collaborative Fisheries

- ❖ The use of terms like “co-management” is diverse and if you ask 20 people you’ll get 20 different answers.
- ❖ Collaborative fisheries governance is the process of reaching shared outcomes and resolving differences among community, fishing sectors and governmental interests in a manner consistent with the conservation and sustainable management of our salmon resource and the responsibilities held by First Nations, federal and provincial governments. Improved collaboration leads to more effective decision-making with a broad basis of support and more enduring outcomes....Sigurtson process

# Why Collaborate

- ❖ Issues of priorities of access, rights, and privilege cause increasing divisiveness and unrest between and among governments and stakeholders;
- ❖ Growing public concern about the future of our salmon resource and the on-going conflicts amongst users about access and allocation of harvestable surpluses;
- ❖ Uncertainty exists over the long term effects that climate change will have on ecosystems and communities.
- ❖ Issues are more complex and harder to resolve, with more demands to be met from more elements of society;
- ❖ Governments at all levels do not have the capacity to meet these challenges on their own;
- ❖ Reconciliation with FN

# Why Collaborate

- ❖ good governance is an essential ingredient of effective fisheries management.
- ❖ Need a recursive process in which two or more [people or organizations] work together toward an intersection of common goals —by sharing knowledge, learning and building consensus...
- ❖ Currently there is an unbalanced power relationships [real or assumed]
- ❖ Currently there is resistance to change [even after the start of the collaborative process]
- ❖ There is a legal and Constitutionally protected aboriginal interest
- ❖ First Nations need a more substantive role in resource management decision-making;
- ❖ Fishing sectors and their supporting economic base need better certainty of access over the longer term;

# The spectrum of co-management

Existing processes include a variety of fishery and ecosystem management decisions making

The level of influence within these processes varies, largely based on the type of decision:

e.g. habitat restoration, area and time considerations in fishery planning, addressing a conservation issue all have different levels of decision making.

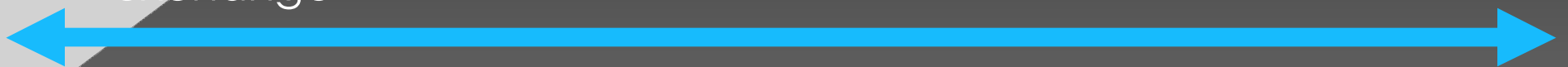
There is a desire to move from the left to right in this continuum.

Information exchange

Advice

Participatory Decision Making

Recommended Decision Making



# Toward a vision for co-management ingredients

- ❖ parties must commit the human and financial resources required for a facilitated process.
- ❖ Sufficient incentives will be required for the parties to do the required work.
- ❖ The required resources must be identified by DFO to initiate these discussions in good faith and provide the necessary support to the resulting watershed process
- ❖ The negotiation of a watershed agreement will benefit from a clearly defined pre-negotiation, negotiation and finally, implementation phase.
- ❖ a clearly mandated First Nation structure
- ❖ between the parties regarding their respective goals and aspirations

# Toward a vision for co-management ingredients

- ❖ The complexities of creating a First Nations table with sufficient mandate should not be understated.
- ❖ DFO must confirm their commitment to developing and resourcing a co-management process
- ❖ First Nation/DFO working group (FRAWG), does preliminary work and makes recommendations regarding such things as: common visions and goals, the efficiencies and mutual benefits arising in modern management decisions being considered for the Fishery, and the obtaining of flexible mandates and the establishment of consensus building decision making processes.
- ❖ The parties must develop a negotiating process that is accountable to its principles, has the support of senior levels of governments, and actually moves the issues along.

# Toward a vision for co-management ingredients

- ❖ Distinctions between the components of consultation (information sharing, understanding the interests and concerns, and seeking the necessary accommodation) will be helpful when clarifying the purposes of certain meetings or actions
- ❖ This will include, securing the commitment by an operative number of First Nations to use an inter-tribal table that: develops the mandate and authority to represent collectively those First Nations of the River (until the entire watershed participates) on matters of collective interest and concern, i.e. having both the authority and ability to act at the watershed level. First Nations from all regions need to be participating and need to be committed in the short and long term to finding solutions, including resolving long-standing disputes.

# Toward a vision for co-management ingredients

- ❖ DFO must develop a transparent and engaged chain of authority. For example, if Deputy Minister and Ministerial approval is required for any new agreement, it will be necessary to have a headquarter's representative committed to either participating in the negotiation phase or being available when required by the negotiating table.
- ❖ As a minimum ADM of Fisheries Management, the Regional Director of Treaty and Aboriginal Policy, Aboriginal Affairs in Ottawa, and the requisite Department of Justice (regional and national) representatives need to be meaningfully engaged in the process.
- ❖ The person(s) hired needs to carry the respect from all parties, have sufficient knowledge of the fisheries issues and be committed to assist in shaping and implementing the pre-negotiation and negotiation phase

# Toward a vision for co-management ingredients

- ❖ A team of people who have the attention and support of senior levels of First Nation and Canadian governments, and access to the necessary technical expertise, who are committed to see the process through to completion is a significant pre-requisite
- ❖ A minimum five year commitment to these negotiations is required
- ❖ Introduce a facilitated/mediated dispute resolution process for pre-season and in-season management decisions sends a real signal that there is an interest in finding a better way of making the tough in-season decisions which are the foundation for much of the conflict.
- ❖ Choose a facilitator/mediator pre-season who is required to participate as an observer during all in-season conversations, meetings etc. Fully informed and most importantly, able to assist the parties in a timely manner.

# Toward a vision for co-management ingredients

- ❖ DFO holds the final decision making seat, and too often exercises it in a way that builds continued distrust.
- ❖ fundamental shift in the administrative relationship between aboriginal resource management agencies (ARMA) and DFO that would serve to create security and efficiency
- ❖ accomplished by moving beyond B Base program funding to a mature partnership based on collaboration

# Toward a vision for co-management ingredients

- ❖ Fully integrate the science capacity of Aboriginal Resource Management Agencies with DFO and other federal agencies as appropriate
- ❖ Fully integrate resource management and protection responsibilities of DFO and aboriginal resource management agencies on the river system
- ❖ Fully integrate technical capacity at the ARMA level with DFO [and Environment Canada]