

Economic Access Working Group Meeting

July 20, 2010

Conference Call



FIRST NATIONS
FISHERIES COUNCIL

Attendance:

Co-Chair Russ Jones (Haida Fisheries Program, PSC, FNFC),

Brian Toth (Executive Director UFFCA, AAROM in the upper Fraser, Biologist for Carrier Sekani and Lheidi T'enneh)

Chris Cook (salmon and herring commercial fisher, on the IMAWG, FRAWG, Aquatic Resource portfolio for Namgis Band)

Deana Machin (FNFC Co-Management Coordinator, FSCWG, CMWG)

Alex Gagne (FNFC Policy Analyst, AWG, CMWG)

Violet Hill (Native Fishing Association)

Co-Chair Angela Bate (DFO, Pacific Region)

Wilf Luedke (Chief of Salmon Assessment South Coast)

Regrets - Gary Alexcee (Kitsumkalum), Dave Moore (Chehalis Indian Band), Saul Milne (FNFC Policy Analyst, CMWG, EAWG), Jeff Grout (Salmon Manager), Kim West (TAPD), Brigid Payne (TAPD)

Guests: Mike Staley, IAS International, Salmon Shares Analysis for FNFC

Agenda:

1. Review proposed agenda
2. Introductions
3. Background/Context
4. FN Caucus of EAWG
5. Introductions (DFO joins conference)
6. Background/Context
7. Terms of Reference
8. EAWG Workplan
9. Scheduling Next Meeting
10. Conclusion

Meeting Notes:

5. Introductions (DFO joins conference)
 - Both DFO and First Nations introduce respective WG members

6. Background/Context

- Joint priorities under the Commitment to Action – identified by DFO and FNFC over a year ago
- Discussions have been slow to date
- DFO Member: Moved away from talking about shares to more broadly talking about economic access, so need to understand more about that
- First Nations Member – economic access, was fairly strong in First Nations Fisheries Action Plan – broader and more inclusive than just salmon
- DFO Member - Background on PICFI and policies
 - DFO has no formal policy for economic access
 - Generally increasing FN access to pacific fisheries
 - Direction around integrated pacific fisheries
 - So have the PICFI program, increasing commercial and economic access, capacity for First Nations management,
 - At same time the Minister announced move to defined shares for pacific salmon fisheries - demonstration fisheries and inland fisheries
 - Moving toward a share based management approach – shared view that this can meet both conservation and economic objectives – would not supersede existing allocation policies
 - Potential benefits – translating coastal licenses to in river licenses, enhance economic viability in commercial sector by increasing flexibility , recognizing that there are differing views among First Nations
 - Multi disciplinary working group within the department for how to address this issue
 - Developing a discussion paper on salmon shares, some support to the FNFC on First Nations' views on salmon shares
 - Complexity is bogging down DFO to some extent. Lots that we need to work together on

Discussion:

- First Nations Member – coastal FN very concerned about moving shares in-river. Concerned with the how the buy-back was conducted. Economic disasters up and down the coast with the state of the fishery – not seeing any economic benefits. No First Nations involved in the decisions for how the licenses are decided upon. Very frustrating process to date.
- DFO Member – licenses relinquished through program to support in river fisheries. License came from groups that lost ability to conduct commercial fisheries, voluntary program – willing seller, willing buyer. Most of the licenses, to support in river fisheries, First Nations on coast interested in diversifying access to non salmon species. Always a trade-off. Department does want to work with First Nations to help them meet their needs. Licenses in the PICFI inventory still being used for in river. APP licenses will be distributed to FNs on coast
- First Nations Member – who gives out the licenses
- DFO Member – short term opportunities – no licenses issued to date. PICFI staff has worked through groups that apply to the program. Economic opportunity to make use of the licenses that are in DFO inventory

- First Nations Member – is DFO's working group internal
- DFO Member - economist, fisheries science, fisheries management etc. Putting a discussion paper together
- First Nations Member - can this working group review before it gets distributed more broadly?
- DFO Member – yes
- First Nations Member – would like to do this collaboratively
- DFO Member – other stakeholders will be watching this closely because they have an interest as well
- Mike – CSAB also took a stab at the salmon shares issue. Didn't get to the detail needed. More work needs to be done. And it should be done collaboratively. Would be good if this group could meet with DFO's multidisciplinary group before they get too far down one path.
- DFO Member - will find and circulate the CSAB paper for information. Angela will also send out some more detail.
- First Nations Member – if these WGs are going to work, they need to be strong. Should meet in-person. Need to know exactly what we will be working on in these working groups. E.g. PICFI – seems to be scattered all over and no clear picture on what the program is doing. People are frustrated
- Need to have clear idea on what DFO expectations and FN expectations of this working group are

7. Terms of Reference

- First Nations Member - Economic access includes salmon shares, so want to change the name of the working group is EAWG. Angela OK with that.
- First Nations Member – wants to see a rough draft of the workplan soon.
- Re time commitment
 - Angela – fairly significant time commitment – is this appropriate,
 - First Nations Member - think we need more time in the beginning
 - First Nations Member – don't think it is unreasonable if we want to accomplish something before the end of fiscal. Also does say a minimum time commitment – could be more if needed.
 - Compensation - for working group members.
- Only change will be for name of group.
- ACTION FOR RUSS AND ANGELA: Since no quorum today, need to follow-up with members not here today.

8. EAWG Workplan

- Collaboration on the DFO discussion documents – want to have the EAWG meet with the DFO interdisciplinary group. Get List of Names from Angela -
- Angela will circulate some existing information
- PICFI – need some feedback on the access issues. Where did they get things right?
- This group could provide some review/advice on the PICFI program

- DFO expecting the DFO mid-term report in August (from the DFO midterm review of PICFI) – DFO will have to respond to that
- Demonstration fisheries – e.g. groundfish fishery was a pilot program for several years, then it became an individual quotas e.g. rockfish etc
- Chris asked about coastal ‘allocations’ – why can’t there be something similar to what is in-river
 - Policy issues – applies to non-salmon species too
 - DFO can bring in people for particular discussions on non-salmon fisheries
 - ACTION – Add this under membership in TOR
- Allocations on non-salmon species

9. Scheduling Next Meeting

Next meeting – in person, try for Vancouver

- August 25, Wednesday in person Location (DFO) to be determined.
- September 27 - in-person

Action Items:

ACTION 1 – Russ Jones, Angela Bate: Follow-up with members not here today for next meeting and updates

ACTION 2 – Angela Bate: Contact DFO interdisciplinary group to set up meeting options with EAWG

ACTION 3 – Angela Bate: provide the following documentation, Review of commercial demonstration fisheries (2008), PICFI Summary, Inventory of licenses and short term distribution, broad criteria for the program, existing information from the DFO interdisciplinary group

ACTION 4 –Saul Milne: ToR revision, DFO can bring in people for particular discussions on non-salmon fisheries

ACTION 5 – Saul Milne: rename Salmon Shares Economic Access to Economic Access Working Group

ACTION 6 – Saul Milne: Provide framework for EAWG workplan

ACTION 7 – Saul Milne: Provide claim form for First Nations participants