



FIRST NATIONS  
FISHERIES COUNCIL

**Perspectives on Co-Management  
November 3, 2010**

## Perspectives on Co-Management

- Why is co-management the theme of the 2010 Fisheries Assembly
- Principles
- Definitions & key discussion areas
- Questions and response requests

## **Why is co-management the theme of the 2010 Fisheries Assembly**

- Co-management has consistently been identified as a priority both by First Nations and by DFO.
- Although some individual communities have moved forward with elements of co-management there are some issues that need to be addressed on a broader basis.
- FNFC was given a mandate through resolution at the FNS, UBCIC, and BCAFN to help move forward these discussions.

## **Why co-management?**

- WSP Strategy IV – integrated strategic planning
- Oceans Act - integrated management
- PICFI - Co-Management component
- DFO – Ecosystem Science Framework
- First Nations assert title and rights which include a right to manage.
- Previous Policy Dialogue forums, Visions have focussed on co-management.
- First Nations Fisheries Action Plan

## **B.C. First Nations Fisheries Action Plan - Principles -**

- Ecosystem approach
- Conservation
- Sustainability
- Shared responsibility
- Accountability
- Diverse approaches and benefits
- First Nations ownership
- Stewardship

### **Definition?**

- Can be collaborative management, cooperative management, co-management
- There is no formal legal definition.
- May include multiple scales, tiers, activities and mechanisms.
- There are many diverse examples of arrangements called fisheries co-management.
- When defining co-management parties should outline the specific parameters of their co-management initiative.

# First Nations Fisheries Action Plan

Statement of Unity (p. 9)

*On the basis of respect, recognition, accommodation and reconciliation of aboriginal and treaty rights, First Nations in B.C. will advance common positions on fisheries matters – exercising our inherent title and rights – through a united front, a united voice, to build effective working relationships with government and third parties.*

# First Nations Fisheries Action Plan

Statement of Unity (p. 16)

*First Nations in B.C. will together plan and manage sustainable fisheries in order to ensure fisheries conservation and position First Nations as active fisheries managers and decision-makers at regional and provincial levels. By working together in fisheries management, First Nations will conserve fisheries resources for future generations.*

## **Key discussion areas for today**

- Governance
- Tiers
- Scales
- Activities
- Mechanisms

## **Challenges today...**

- learn from each other.
- outline parameters/ boundaries of our expectations.
- get into specifics.
- think about priorities, actions, time frames.
- identify in a concrete way what is achievable.

# Some things to think about...

- characteristics of effective co-management.
- barriers co-management and how might we address them.
- primary issues or areas we need to address to move forward.
- the highest priority areas / mechanisms in terms of building First Nations capacity.
- at what scale(s) should DFO and First Nations be focusing the majority of efforts and resources?
- what specific resources or tools might be helpful in terms of moving forward with co-management?
- what role might existing organizations (aggregate bodies, the ITO, the Fisheries Council, etc.) play in a new co-management structure?



- Related issue of Fisheries Council representation...
- We started off with 6 FNFC Council members appointed by the FNS, UBCIC, and the BCAFN, but heard from communities that they did not see themselves represented in this structure.
- We held community meetings, developed discussion papers, and met to debate the options.
- In the end B.C. First Nations agreed on 14 Council members associated with 14 regions.