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Governance and Co-Management

First Nation Fisheries Assembly

November 2-4, 2010

Prince Rupert, BC



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Governance

- Governance?
 - How people organize themselves to participate in management





Governance

- Governance is a central theme in DFO's approaches to resource and ecosystem management.
 - e.g. "Improved Governance" is key to Fisheries Renewal
- DFO recognizes that effective involvement of First Nations in decision-making process is crucial
- For this involvement to be meaningful, participants (both DFO and First Nations) must be supported by clear governance structures,
 - link of accountability between individuals involved in collaborative processes and their respective constituencies.
- This "accountability" (aka "mandate") is especially important at the advanced end of the co-management spectrum.



Governance cont'd

- What constitutes an effective governance structure will vary with the specifics of a given decision-making process and its varied participants.
- DFO supports Tier 1 work to strengthen First Nation- First Nations structures for working together.
- Similarly, how DFO is coordinated internally to respond to First Nations issues and interests is an important consideration.





Governance cont'd

- Designing co-management requires an mutual understanding of our respective governance structures and our respective priorities.
- Also requires that DFO and First Nations consider how to fashion our governance and priorities to enable collaboration.
- This workshop provides an important opportunity for DFO and First Nations to exchange ideas on how to best combine our governance thinking and efforts in support of sustainable resource management.



- *"Collaborative fisheries governance is the process of reaching shared outcomes and resolving differences among all sectors and governmental interests in a manner consistent with the conservation and sustainable management of our salmon resource. Improved collaboration leads to more effective decision making with a broad basis of support and more enduring outcomes".*
– ISDF, 2006

