



FIRST NATIONS
FISHERIES COUNCIL

Co-Management and Scales
November 3, 2010

Co-Management and Scales

- What do we mean by scales?
- Varying strengths of authority
- Management through 'nested' scales
- How and why are decisions made at different scales?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for co-management at each of the scales?
- Question

Background

- Centralized and sectoral approaches to fisheries management have proven increasingly ineffective at addressing title and rights issues, and in addressing critical social, environmental, economic and cultural values.
- There is a trend in fisheries management to move away from the single species/activity approach to a more integrated management approach.
- We need to understand how decisions impact First Nations communities and to look at how communities want to be engaged in decision-making to protect their title and rights.

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What do we mean by ‘scales’?

- Scales are the spatial or geographic area within which a decision is made and its impacts or effects are felt.
- Some decisions are made at a very local scale (decisions about how a particular counting weir will be operated), while some will be made at a more broad scale (what overall standards will be set for data collection for stock assessment projects).
- Some species or habitat impacts may be managed within a particular coastal area or watershed, but the framework for those decisions is made for a more broad area.

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What scales are relevant to fisheries, watershed and marine management?

- Local/community/ First Nation
- Tribal Council/ Aggregate/Region
- Sub-watershed/Watershed
- Ecosystem (based on species or habitat considered)
- Province/ Pacific waters
- National
- International

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Strength of Authority

- When considering the development of a co-management framework, First Nations and DFO will need to consider what decisions are most appropriately made at what scale.
- We also need to think about how decisions are made where there is no clear established mechanism to bridge authorities across scales.

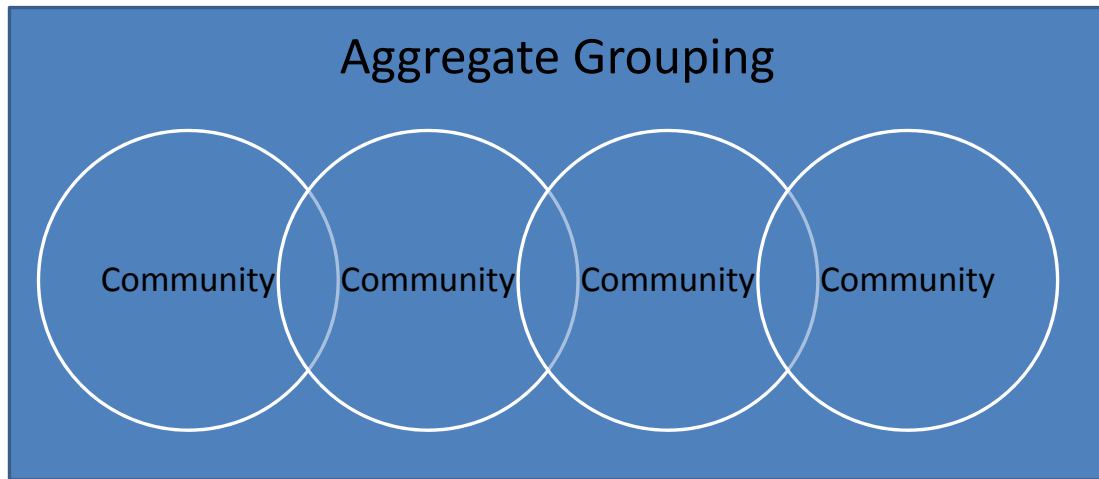
First Nation Geographic Scale	Strength of Authority	Government Organizations	Strength of Authority
	HIGH		LOW
Local (Nation Level)		Field Officer	
Regional/Aggregate Level		Field Officers/Managers Area Chief/ Area Director	
B.C. Wide Level		RDG/Regional Director ADM/DNA/Minister	

Table 2: Opposing Strengths of Authority for First Nations and DFO

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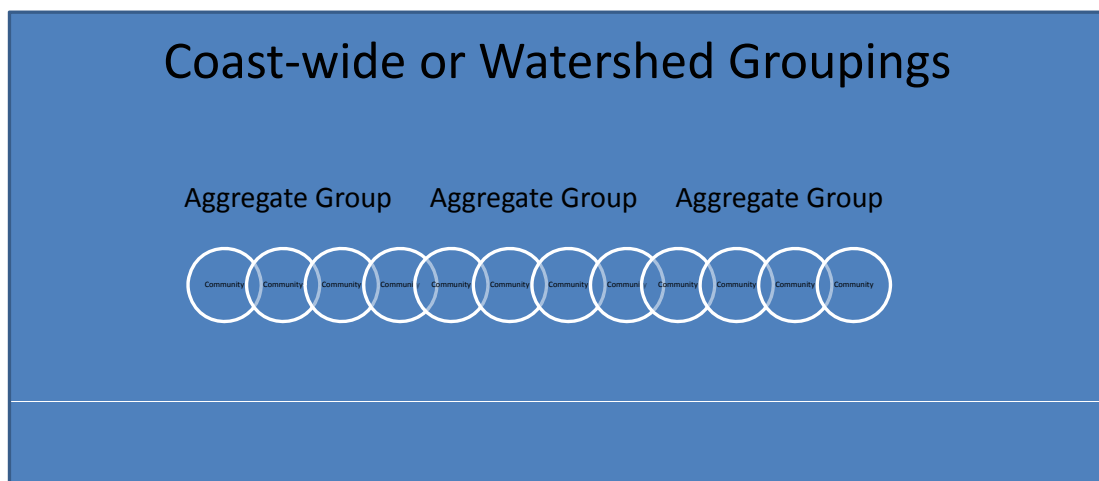
Nested Scales

Communities cooperate in aggregates



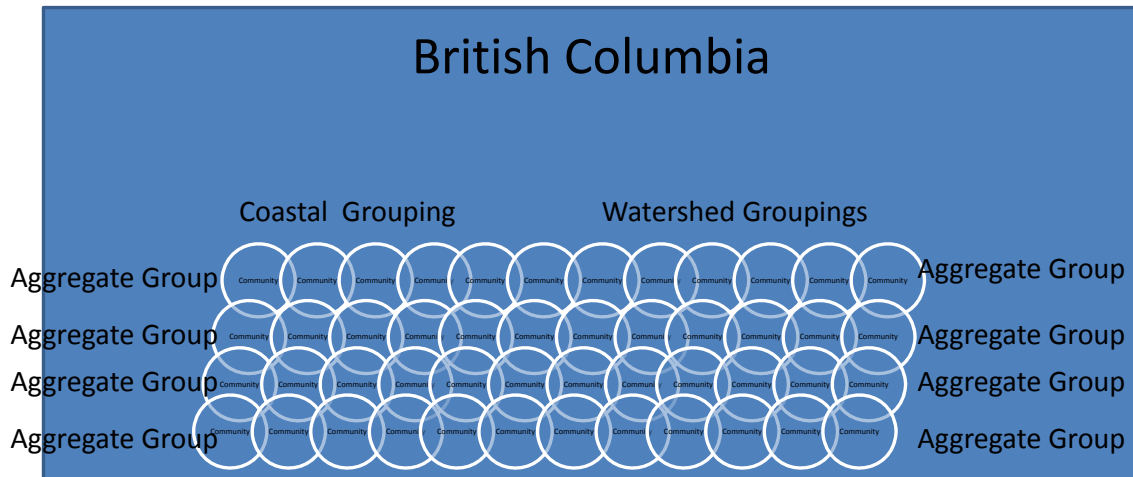
Nested Scales

Communities and aggregates cooperate on a coast-wide or watershed-wide basis



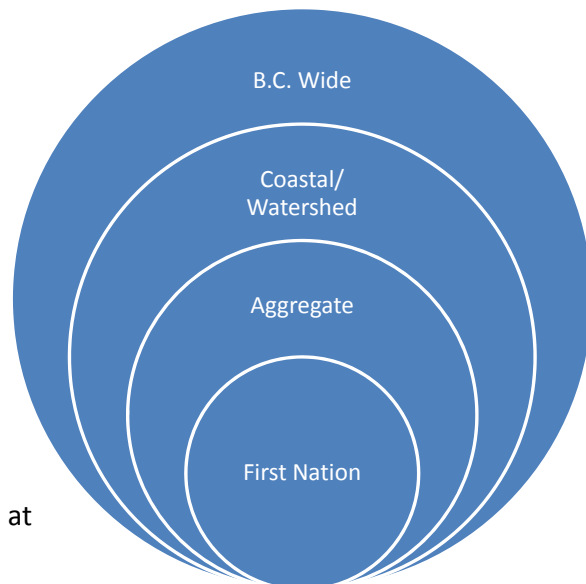
Nested Scales

Communities cooperate on a B.C.-wide basis on issues of common interest and concern



Nested Scales – aquaculture example

- Policies related to Aquaculture regulation and management framework
- Joint training, management boards, ecosystem and traditional science, enforcement capacity, etc.
- Development of plan frameworks, engagement strategies, and broad management mechanisms.
- Ability to review local applications and provide input on licenses, capacity to engage in monitoring, enforcement, etc.
- In many cases participation in processes at larger scales will help First Nations to articulate their concerns to government earlier in the decision-making process.



Challenges and Opportunities of Various Scales

- Capacity and resources are different at each scale.
- It makes sense for the individual First Nations to play a lead in some roles, and for more broad organizations to help bring together larger numbers of First Nations in more broad decisions.
- Building capacity to move into decision-making roles in co-management can itself lead to connections between the community and the aggregate scales.
- Title and rights always rest at the community scale, and nothing in this approach takes away from an obligation of government to consult and accommodate at the local scale.

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Questions:

1. Which management functions are best handled at the **local** scale?
2. Which management functions are best handled at the **regional/aggregate** scale?
3. Which management functions are best handled at the **B.C. wide** scale?

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