

Summary of Mechanisms and Activities Small Group Discussion:

A) What are the priority activities around which we should be enhancing our co-management relationships? B) What co-management mechanisms best reflect the fisheries co-management aspirations of First Nations communities in British Columbia?



A) Mechanisms

Bilateral boards that consider all sources of information

- Need to have strong linkages to DFO-NHQ
- Need to have an effective bilateral process in place – whereby First Nations are engaged properly before stakeholder groups
- Need to have effective dispute mechanisms built in
- Need to operate at the proper scale
- Need to tie into, and be informed by, the local community scale
- Work and processes must be transparent

Explore the development of a joint policy forum for First Nations and DFO policy peoples

Need to develop more Bilateral technical panels where First Nation and DFO technicians can inform decision-making

Work towards the development of recognition legislation

- Which respects the constitutionally protected rights of First Nations

Overarching Considerations:

- Need to better incorporate the views of First Nations into all structures currently in place, and planned for the future
- Need to speak a common language and have agreed upon definitions
- Need to explore what effective governance structures look like
- Any mechanism needs to be flexible to allow for changing circumstances
- In all cases, all mechanisms need to include a strong Tier One processes to allow First Nations to develop a common voice

B) Priority Activities:

Access and Allocation

Stock Assessment

- Including data collection

Marine Planning

- With a strong government to government foundation

Habitat protection and stock rebuilding

- Include TEK

Explore what effective Governance Structures look like

- How are decisions made so that they are inclusive of First Nations in a meaningful manner?

Enforcement

Development of FN Management Structures

- Need to have equal authority for First Nations in a government to government forum
- Need effective resources in order to work

Education

- Cross cultural education for government officials
- Education for the general public to better understand FN issues

Developing technical capacity in First Nation communities

Overarching Considerations

- Need sufficient capacity to participate!