

# Food Social & Ceremonial Fisheries Working Group



**FIRST NATIONS FISHERIES COUNCIL  
FALL ASSEMBLY**

**NOVEMBER 2-4, 2010**

## Membership

### First Nations:

- **Chief Walter Joseph (Co-chair)** - (Office of the Wet'suwet'en / Skeena Fisheries Commission)
- **Megan Moody** - Nuxalk Nation (Bella Coola) / Oweekeno-Kitasoo-Nuxalk Tribal Council
- **Nicole McClelland** - Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw First Nation, Land and Resource Manager
- **Ernie Victor** - Cheam Indian Band, Councillor
- **Mark Duiven** - Skeena Fisheries Commission, Deputy Commissioner
- **Tony Roberts Jr** - Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River Indian Band) / Atlegay Fisheries Society

### DFO:

- **Brigid Payne (Co-lead)** – Sr. Policy Advisor, Treaty & Aboriginal Policy, Vancouver
- **Sarah Murdoch** – Regional Director, Treaty & Aboriginal Policy, Vancouver
- **Paul Ryall** – Resource Management, Vancouver
- **Rob Lamirande** – Director, Treaty Policy & Programs, Ottawa
- **Barry Huber** – Aboriginal Affairs Advisor, BC Interior Area

## Objectives and Scope



- The WG will work to identify broad opportunities to make progress on elements of FSC management
- The WG focus will be on recommending broader, province-wide strategies for moving forward in support of issue resolution, not on direct intervention in local FSC management matters
- The WG will not replace bilateral, community-level communications or negotiations between DFO and First Nations on FSC management.

## Objectives and Scope



- The Working Group will foster a detailed understanding of:
  - different perspectives on FSC
  - what is required to give effect to FSC fisheries and
  - various issues and challenges associated with FSC fisheries in BC



## Background & Context



- The BC First Nations Fisheries Action Plan highlights the importance of First Nations Section 35.1 rights for access to resources for Food, Social, and Ceremonial purposes and the right to manage fisheries resources.
- The priority of FSC fisheries is recognized in DFO fisheries management plans and policies, and is a major consideration in the management of all fisheries.

## Progress to Date



- The FN Fisheries Council was established in late 2007, and since then, there have been on-going discussions between BC First Nations and with DFO related to FN access to fisheries resources.
- Given the widespread First Nations interest in this topic, in 2009 the FNFC advanced the idea of a joint FSC working group

## Progress to Date



- A joint DFO-First Nations “launch crew” did preliminary work planning starting in late 2009/early 2010
- In June 23<sup>rd</sup> formal membership was established, and the group has been meeting approximately monthly since
- Currently in the process of developing a workplan

# Proposed Workplan Elements

- FN/DFO FSC Working Group is in the process of developing a workplan that recognizes cultural importance of FSC fisheries and is attempting to balance numerous technical management and policy considerations
- Specific elements of the draft workplan include:
  - Identification of data and information needed for achieving management objectives of FSC and other fisheries , and how to reconcile the differing views on how this information should be collected, used and shared?
  - Case studies of existing management systems to identify specific issues, best practices and “areas for growth”
  - Development of operational guidelines for FSC management and draft policy recommendations
  - Communications and engagement strategy

# Linkage to Assembly Theme of Co-Management

- In each of the elements of the workplan (information collection, case studies, operational guidelines, engagement), various elements of planning & decision making related to FSC will be examined.
- The evolving role of planning and management structures at various scales will be considered, and proposals for improvements may be advanced:
  - local level (e.g. DFO / First Nations planning for specific FSC fisheries)
  - watershed or ecosystem scale (e.g. Fraser Forum, Skeena Watershed planning)
  - Regional level (FNFC interactions with DFO related to FSC management, First Nations linkages into IFMP processes)

## Questions facing the working group



- How to reconcile the institutional needs of DFO as a fisheries management agency and First Nations' inherent authority & jurisdiction, which includes important cultural elements that are not easily incorporated into the government management system?
- How to adequately account for the sustenance, health, social and cultural values of FSC fisheries within a management system based on broader socio-economic value?
- How should the more technical / operational aspects of the working plan (objective C) be balanced against the workplan elements that look at FSC policy issues?
- What is the best way to make the group's efforts relevant in the face of the many, pressing local FSC management issues?

## Key Questions for Discussion



- What are your views on the plan of work proposed?
- Do you have any views on the “outstanding questions” raised in the previous slide?
- Are there other critical issues about FSC should be considered from a province-wide perspective?



## Proposed Workplan Priorities



- Foster an ongoing communication and engagement strategy to ground truth process and information with BC First Nations
- Using case studies - analyze management systems currently in place in order to identify best practices, management challenges and opportunities for growth.
- Gather and develop information to advance a common foundation of understanding on FSC/Section 35(1).
- Work towards the development of a DRAFT policy recommendations and Operational Guidelines on FSC / Section 35(1).
  - respectful and workable to both parties
  - subsequently presented and broadly ground truthed with B.C. First Nations and within DFO