

Economic Access Working Group Meeting

October 28, 2010

401 Burrard Street DFO

Vancouver

Attendance:

Russ Jones (FNFC Co-chair), Angela Bate (DFO Co-chair), Dave Moore (Chehalis Indian Band), Chris Cook (Namgis Band) Saul Milne (FNFC), Brigid Payne (TAPD), Gary Alexcee (Kitsumkalim), Brian Toth (UFFCA), Violet Hill (Native Fishing Association), Stacey Martin (DFO), Rita Purdon (DFO)

Regrets - Kim West, Wilf Luedke (Chief of Salmon Assessment South Coast) Jeff Grout (Salmon Management), Barb Snyder (DFO)

Guest: Bill Shepert (Lax Kw'alaams), Paul Ryall (A/Director, Resource Management – for one item only)

Meeting Objectives:

1. Identifying Themes from PICFI Workshop
 2. Workplan Development
 3. Confirmation of Workplan Objectives
 4. EAWG Presentation to EAWG Assembly in November
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Opening Comments:

DFO's core EAWG members include:

- Angela Bate (DFO Co-chair)
- Barb Snyder
- Jeff Grout
- Brigid Payne
- Stacey Martin
- Rita Purdon

DFO membership has been adjusted to accommodate the change in EAWG scope of work from salmon shares to include economic access to other fisheries. DFO membership will stay at six and draw on others attend depending on the agenda.

Paul Ryall asked if he could provide a brief overview of recent work by DFO Ottawa relating to improved transparency, predictability and accountability in commercial allocation decision making.

Review of PICFI Workshop:

Reviewed and discussed PICFI implementation issues that were raised at the workshop held in Vancouver on October 27, 2010. These included:

- First Nations need to be better involved in PICFI decision making
- Interest in PICFI demonstration projects and allocations on the coast instead of just commercial licences
- Some licences such as geoduck and sea cucumber not being offered for sale and need to look at other options besides “willing seller”
- Criteria for allocation and distribution of salmon (interior-coastal particularly)
- Differences in resource availability and PICFI nominal allocations in the north coast and south coast
- Criteria for distribution of non-salmon access along the Coast
- Length of time to process applications, training and business plans
- Expansion of PICFI, what are timelines, what support can First Nations provide?
- Extension of PICFI
- Should PICFI be buying licenses offered for sale above market prices? Generally, feedback from the workshop was that PICFI should stick to market value for fisheries access.
- Relationship between FSC access and commercial access
- Lack of First Nations participation in the Access Relinquishment Team that provides advice on licence prices
- Including the allocation for gear in a First Nation’s nominal allocation
- Need for more discussion around salmon shares
- The need for improved information sharing

Discussion:

- Regarding licences not being offered for sale, PICFI is just one DFO program, there were recommendations on non-voluntary programs, DFO may need to consider them outside of PICFI
- DFO is looking at alternative ways to providing First Nations access to geoduck and will also look at other high value species, including sea cucumber.
- Explore flexibility in licensing relating to gear and boat, and geographical restrictions
- Need to learn from demonstration projects and case studies and use this in developing future arrangements
- DFO is doing work in Ottawa on licensing rules but this will take time and may not help with changes requested to PICFI
- Licenses don’t belong to First Nations so we can’t borrow and this limits what we can do economically, license is the limiter not the gear. While any licence “belongs” to the Crown, DFO recognizes there are challenges with how communal licences are provided and will work with First Nations to look at ways of providing longer term access.

Workplan Development and Confirmation of Objectives:

See revised workplan for details.

DFO Allocation Engagement meeting in Vancouver on November 26th:

Paul Ryall provided a brief overview. Topic is allocation in a general sense. Focus is how to provide a transparent, predictable and accountable process around future changes in fisheries allocations or shares. Ottawa group has done some work to outline a proposed process, inviting 10 to 15 people including 5-6 First Nations for 2 to 3 hours, focused on national fisheries scale. Looking for interest from First Nation EAWG members in attending an upcoming meeting (Nov 26).

EAWG Presentation to FNFC Assembly in November:

Format will involve a presentation by the workgroup followed by questions from the floor.

Next Meeting:

- Face-to-face meeting scheduled in Vancouver on November 30, at Union of BC Indian Chiefs boardroom.

Action Items:

- FNFC (S. Milne) to update the Workplan for the Assembly
- FNFC (S. Milne) to draft power point for EAWG presentation
- DFO (A.Bate) provide comments and DFO input into EAWG power point
- DFO (P.Ryall) formally invite EAWG members to meeting on Allocation on November 26 2010.
FNFC (R. Jones) to check with FNFC about additional participants.
- DFO FNFC (A.Bate, S.Milne) identify and host teleconference on short and long term distribution focus

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