

Economic Access Working Group Meeting

September 27, 2010

401 Burrard Street DFO

Vancouver

Attendees:

Angela Bate (DFO Co-chair), Chris Cook (Namgis First Nation), Alex Gagne (FNFC), Violet Hill (NFA), Russ Jones (FNFC Co-chair), Wilf Luedke (DFO), Stacey Martin (DFO), Saul Milne (FNFC), Deborah Phelan (DFO), Rita Purdon (DFO), Barb Snyder (DFO), Kim West (DFO)

Regrets:

Gary Alexcee (Kitsumkalum Band), Jeff Grout (DFO), Brigid Payne (DFO), Brian Toth (UFFCA)

Guests:

Gary Wilson (NFA)

Meeting Objectives:

The primary objectives of the meeting were to undertake discussions on:

- priorities for the working group
- further development of the draft work plan

Key Issues Discussed:

Review of Draft Meeting Record

- A brief review of the draft meeting record from the August 25, 2010 EAWG session took place, with the Co-Chairs agreeing to provide feedback on the draft to S. Milne prior to finalization of the meeting record and its subsequent posting to the FNFC website.

Co-chair Updates

- A. Bate advised that the Autumn 2010 Access Relinquishment round was underway and that application packages were in the mail to all eligible licence holders, with a deadline for applications of October 26, 2010.
- R. Jones advised that a productive FNFC conference call took place the week prior and additional calls may be arranged by the FNFC's Executive Director.
- R. Jones also confirmed that the FNFC Fisheries Assembly would be held in Prince Rupert November 2-4, 2010 and that an agenda, which would likely include time for a work plan presentation from each of the FNFC working groups, was being developed.

Distribution of Access Discussion

- A brief discussion on short-term distribution took place, with an update by DFO advising that 418,000 lbs of halibut quota and 219,000 lbs of sablefish quota were distributed

through short-term, one-year agreements to approximately 20 coastal First Nation PICFI aggregates.

- Working group members identified some concerns with short-term distribution, including the difficulty in gearing up in the short term.
- In regards to short-term distribution of salmon access, members were advised that PICFI salmon access (and some ATP salmon access) was provided to in-river applicants in support of demonstration fisheries.
- It was generally agreed that further discussion regarding access and distribution (both short and long term) was required.

Work Plan Discussion

- The draft work plan, which had been further updated during the Tier 1 morning session, was reviewed.
- Discussion took place on the five proposed EAWG objectives, which currently consist of:
 - Working collaboratively to improve PICFI access implementation
 - Exploring alternative management systems for non-salmon and salmon shares
 - Involving First Nations in decision making as relates to economic access
 - Continuing the development of First Nations interests and programs
 - Maintaining an effective working group
- Roles, timelines and deliverables associated with specific activities were reviewed.
- Key highlights of the discussion identified the need for the working group to:
 - Review and understand policy issues and the current PICFI process
 - Determine current First Nation participation in the commercial fishery
 - Explore opportunities to improve PICFI outcomes from a First Nations perspective
 - Foster a shared understanding of First Nation priorities for PICFI
 - Develop effective engagement mechanisms
 - Provide guidance in development of tools for conversion of licences to allocations
 - Work collaboratively to prepare a salmon shares discussion paper
 - Hold a PICFI access and distribution workshop with PICFI participants
 - Review results of the PICFI mid-term review and develop an evaluation framework for PICFI
 - Support development of post-PICFI plan

Access and Distribution Workshop Planning

- The remainder of the session focussed largely on planning for the PICFI Access & Distribution Workshop, identified as a priority by working group members.
- Agenda items to include:
 - Introduction to the Economic Access Working Group

- Relinquishment process overview
 - Review of access relinquished to-date
 - Review of criteria used for short-term distribution of non-salmon access
 - Discussion of in-river salmon allocation and demonstration fisheries
 - Discussion regarding key principles/criteria to be used for long term distribution
 - Identification and discussion of challenges and next steps
- In regards to workshop logistics, it was agreed that:
 - The proposed date for the workshop would be October 27, 2010
 - 1-2 representatives from each of the 25 PICFI groups would be invited to participate
 - DFO would host the event, but would work with the FNFC on the invitation process and agenda development

Next Meeting

- The next EAWG face-to-face meeting was proposed for October 28, 2010.

Action Items:

- FNFC (S. Milne) to update the August 25, 2010 draft meeting record and provide to R. Jones and A. Bate for review prior to posting to FNFC website.
- DFO (A. Bate) to provide a summary of the short-term salmon allocation to the EAWG.
- DFO (B. Snyder) to re-distribute criteria used for short-term distribution to the EAWG.
- DFO (B. Snyder) to provide existing licence categories to G. Wilson to help inform the licence bank project.
- DFO (S. Martin) and FNFC (S. Milne) to work on development of statement of work for international buyback initiatives literature review project.
- DFO (K. West) to provide information regarding the Strategic Partnerships Initiative to the EAWG.
- FNFC (S. Milne) to update the draft work plan, incorporating points raised at the meeting
- DFO to deliver an Access & Distribution Workshop, with agenda developed in collaboration with EAWG/FNFC.

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