

# **Economic Access Working Group**

## **Meeting Record**

### **November 30, 2010**

#### **Union of BC Indian Chiefs – 342 Water Street, Vancouver, BC**

#### Participants:

Gary Alexcee (Kitsumkalum Band), Angela Bate (DFO), Chris Cook (Namgis First Nation), Violet Hill (Native Fishing Association), Russ Jones (Haida Nation, FNFC), Deana Machin (FNFC), Stacey Martin (DFO), Brenda McCorquodale (FNFC), Saul Milne (FNFC), Dave Moore (Chehalis Indian Band), Rita Purdon (DFO), Brian Toth (UFFCA),

#### Regrets:

Alex Gagne (FNFC), Jeff Grout (DFO), Brigid Payne (DFO), Paul Ryall (DFO), Barb Snyder (DFO), Kim West (DFO)

#### Meeting Objectives:

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

- finalization of the work plan
- identification of short term priority activities
- review of options for community dialogue sessions

#### Key Issues Discussed:

##### Review of Draft Meeting Record

- A brief discussion regarding the format of meeting notes took place, with general agreement that meeting records will provide a summary of discussions, including highlights of issues and action points, but will not capture meeting discussions verbatim.
- Action items from the September and October 2010 meetings were discussed, with status updates on specific items provided, as was required.

##### Debrief from 2010 FNFC Fall Fisheries Assembly

- In regards to DFO feedback from the Fisheries Assembly, the importance of sharing feedback and the desire to get DFO's perspective on meeting outcomes was expressed.
- EAWG members were advised that the Department was in the process of drafting a note outlining the messages heard during the session.
- Working group members highlighted some of the PICFI messages that they heard at the Fisheries Assembly, including:
  - First Nations would like increased licensing flexibilities to allow for greater opportunities to fish their access
  - Some First Nations expressed concern that their input has not been adequately incorporated in to the PICFI program, to-date
  - The need for increased First Nations engagement and improved communication on program progress

- Working group members agreed to the importance of communication and acknowledged the need to communicate both more frequently and more broadly.
- There was agreement from participants that the FNFC Fall Fisheries Assembly provided a worthwhile and productive forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

#### Post-Workshop PICFI Update

- Members were advised that the Access & Distribution Workshop meeting record would be ready for distribution shortly, as would the document regarding average licence values to-date that was being developed, per the commitment made at the Workshop.
- Members were further advised that the current relinquishment round was complete, with agreements sent out to applicants with a deadline for response of December 06, 2010. Confirmation that the DFO website would be updated to reflect those acquisitions in early 2011 was also provided.
- A brief discussion took place regarding short-term distribution, with members advised of the following:
  - PICFI is proceeding with another round of short-term distribution of herring and prawn
  - Only those licences currently in the inventory are available for use in the short-term distribution
- EAWG members were reminded that short-term distribution is a temporary measure and, unlike long-term distribution, is not directly tied to completed business plans and does not represent the full package of access that PICFI participants will be receiving.
- Members highlighted the need for long-term access for planning purposes and suggested that a minimum duration of five years of access would be required, especially if getting into new fisheries.

#### Review & Finalize the Draft Workplan

- Working group members were advised that the draft workplan from November was presented at the Fisheries Assembly, however, a final version is required to go forward to the FNC-DFO Joint Executive for approval in January.
- The draft plan was further reviewed at the meeting, with discussions focussing on the desired outcomes and key activities.
- Key highlights from the workplan discussion focused on the need to :
  - Benchmark current First Nations access in order to track changes and determine trends
  - Coordinate processes and incorporate available information into key activities
  - The need to focus on the development of a communication strategy to present a clear and accurate picture of the PICFI program
  - The need to link activities to related discussions taking place for each of the fisheries
  - The need to engage regarding a post-PICFI plan
- The need to be realistic about timeframes for many of the workplan activities was also highlighted, especially in light of the limited number of contractors and resources available.
- It was acknowledged that proceeding with the development of Statements of Work for some of the proposed activities would be a useful first step in moving forward, while still

allowing flexibility in regards to incorporation of associated process outcomes and available information.

- Finally, it was agreed that workplan discussion updates would be incorporated into the next version of the plan prior to its review and finalization by the EAWG Co-chairs.

#### Discussion Regarding Proposed Community Dialogue Sessions

- A draft proposal to conduct coordinated community dialogue sessions for all four joint FNFC-DFO working groups was discussed.
- The EAWG was advised that the draft proposal, which contained a number of potential session options, had been presented to all of the working groups and that the Aquaculture Working Group already had some meeting dates selected for early 2011.
- Clarification regarding some of the option details contained in the draft meeting proposal was provided, with the understanding that the proposal had been developed as a starting point for discussions only.
- There was an acknowledgement that the EAWG was the only working group to have been engaged in Tier 2 discussions since its inception, as well as recognition that the objectives and approach of EAWG may preclude undertaking joint workshops with the other FNFC working groups.
- The proposal to undertake an EAWG workshop with a broad group of participants (beyond, for example, just PICFI applicants), followed by smaller, regional, Tier 2 sessions, was discussed.
- Despite good discussion, there was acknowledgement by the group that additional consideration would have to be given to the format and structure of the dialogue sessions. There was also recognition, however, that engagement should be taking place early in the new calendar year and should be as coordinated as possible with other working group sessions
- It was further agreed that the proposed budget and available funding would also have to be discussed in more detail and that DFO's Consultation Secretariat, which does have some resources available to support dialogue sessions and the engagement of First Nations, should be linked in to all planning discussions.

#### Next Meeting

- An EAWG teleconference call was scheduled for January 05, 2011 at 1:00pm
- The next EAWG face-to-face meeting was proposed for January 28, 2011

#### Action Items:

- DFO (A. Bate) to follow-up regarding the status of DFO's summary from the Fisheries Assembly.
- DFO (A. Bate) to follow-up regarding the salmon shares discussion paper.
- DFO (A. Bate) to provide a summary of PICFI salmon licences used in the in-river demonstration fisheries.
- DFO (A. Bate) to follow-up with K. West to provide information regarding the Strategic Partnerships Initiative to the EAWG.
- FNFC (S. Milne) to finalize August/September/October draft meeting records, ensuring that they adhere to the agreed to summary format.
- DFO (S. Martin) to draft the November 30, 2010 meeting record.

- FNFC (S. Milne) to update draft workplan, incorporating points raised at the meeting, and forward to R. Jones and A. Bate for final review.

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