

Tier 2 (FN & DFO) Meeting Notes

Co-Management Working Group

September 21, 2010

1pm – 4pm

UBCIC Offices

Attendance:

- Howie Wright (Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department / FNFC /Gitksan Nation)
- Catherine Rigg (Socio-Economic Planner, Haida Fisheries Program)
- Jordan Point (Musqueam Indian Band)
- Greg Wadhams (Councillor, Namgis First Nation)
- Ross Wilson (Heiltsuk Integrated Resource Department)
- Saul Milne (FNFC Policy Analyst)
- Alex Gagne (FNFC Policy Analyst)
- Brenda McCorquodale (FNFC Executive Director)
- Corey Jackson – DFO
- Brigid Payne – DFO
- Deborah Phelan – DFO
- Gerry Kelly - DFO

Regrets:

- Pete Nicklin (Biologist, Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance)
- Deana Machin (FNFC Co-Management Coordinator)

Tier 2 Meeting Notes:

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review Agenda

3. Review draft meeting notes from July 20, 2010 teleconference

4. Overview of DFO Policies/Initiatives with relevance to co management

- In the DFO policy context, focus on key driver and trends in the department, moving from directive policy to operationalization
- Within PICFI, co-management is a key driver – DFO working together to improve the fishery with FN and others

- Improve DFO's ability to co-management
- Wild Salmon Policy - framed around building on the science foundation, for strategy 4 integrated planning, framework could be explored by the WG
- Fisheries Reform - improved governance, sustainable fisheries framework, there is a statement from the department, but not a lot of guidance here
- Oceans Act, and Oceans strategy and action plan, predates 2000, DFO has the most comprehensive policy guidance on working with FN and others, policy and operational (paper), it could be applicable to our work
- PINCIMA, another place to get at useful info
- Habitat, guidelines around engagement could be useful
- Interim guidelines to fulfill the duty to consult and accommodate FN, for DFO this is a critical component of co-management, but co-management goes beyond C&A to joint decision making
- There is a lot of policy statements and commitments that the government have made on wanting to move forward with working on co-mgmt, the challenge is that without specific guidance in terms of implementation, there is less clarity in the implementation of these policies
- DFO Regional and Area processes underway (e.g. FRAWG and Forum process) which are more connected to local processes
- Do not have a guidance document about how to work at each of the scales.
- There is flexibility and the opportunity to work together to advance mutual interests, and work on shared implementation initiatives
- Looking for assistance on how to design the process for input – want to work together to develop a framework for working together on the topic of co-management
- AFS, fisheries planning emphasis, some restoration work and stock assessment
- In 2004, AAROM program was implemented - aimed at supporting FN building capacity on at aggregate levels, oceans planning example, and governance structure, ground up strategy, issues around priorities and what are we building
- Treaty process – INAC is the lead agency, there is a vision and certain objectives related to the treaty process
- Consultation Framework, National policy on consultation generally, not FN focused but broader, it goes with a tool kit for good processes
- Work with FAM and Oceans, IOAC for PINCIMA meeting today in Prince Rupert
- FAM advisory bodies, including IHPC and GIAB and looking at shellfish

Discussion

- Need to have clarity and understanding of the differences between DFO's fiduciary obligations which are separate and distinct from advisory processes
- Concerns related to the numerous Tier Three advisory processes

- FN have a rightful place in decision making, and we need improved consultation in our territories - frustration is high and there is a history of mistreatments that are difficult to overcome and build trust but have a relationship with our conversation today,
- Food safety and security and sustainability,
- We are all expending a lot of energy across the province, emphasize a co-management framework that gives local and areas processes the best effect
- Working Group emphasis should be on Tier One and Two
- We do not want to develop prescriptive Tier Two framework, we need to maintain flexibility,
- Some Tier 1 and 2 processes meet some of our core objectives like the IFMP etc.
- We need to change the conversation so that when we roll out the IFMP it has already considered FN plans and includes them, i.e. consultation prior to developing rather than doing on the back end after the plan is in place
- Our resources are in sensitive areas, sometimes not enough for our FSC, we need to plan for the future together, we have not done that in the past, the opportunity to discuss is great we need that with the DFO for all of our interests,
- Need to change the way we think about planning – think about jointly defining the allowable activities in each area that become the policy going forward, and then manage from there – it is a better model for ecosystem resilience. Also allows for more local management (management boards) on a government to government basis
- We have different drivers that we need to bring down to the local levels
- Having effective processes on Tiers 1 and 2 can have value for Tier 3 engagement

5. Identify Potential Working Group Priority Issues / Areas

- Common visions and principles - in an ideal world a common vision would be great, even dueling visions would be good
- Capacity needs to be there to co-manage, what are the short and long term objectives?
- What tools do we have? etc. environmental scan,
- What is the priority area for capacity development?
- What problem are we trying to solve? Need to defining the problem statement
- What are the characteristics of things that have worked in co-management processes that we could use for a framework? This can help us build a broader vision
- Need to define expectations

Discussion

- What are successful characteristics of co-management? What has worked in relation to our interests? If we can identify these, it will help us get traction
- Scope - We know we need a framework, but what is the scope/focus? Is it fisheries? Is it habitat?

- We need to identify our parameters for shared decision making
- Can DFO appoint someone from Ottawa to the working group so we can get co-management buy-in from a national level
- Needs to be inclusive of treaty and non-treaty

6. Co-Management Workplan Development

- *see draft workplan attached
- When we are talking about capacity, what is the resourcing? What are the constraints the parameters? What is the low hanging fruit?
- Medium to long term our budget constraints get worse, in the short term AAROM and PICFI has some resources
- In terms of financial requirements to support the process, we are currently struggling to support basic travel and consulting costs for people to be involved and PICFI supports the FNFC policy analysts. Working Groups to identify workplan activities and associated costs, e.g. estimate consultant/contractor fees.
- Objective is to give tools to FN and DFO to manage within their territories
- “Flying Squad” - pool of people to help develop land use plans and to work with communities on the planning and reporting, we can do that through the FNFC
- This is timely, national work on templates with an objective of making things better, there will be engagement around approaches in November, we are interested in doing that,
- Criteria for effective processes is something we can talk about not comprehensive, but we can roll that into the community sessions

7. FNFC Fall Assembly: Co-Management Theme

- *see draft Assembly Agenda attached
- Discuss potential sessions/key issues for Co-Management Working Group

8. Wrap-up

- Next Meeting: Friday October 22nd, 9am -4pm, Vancouver
- Meeting Adjourned