

## Tier 2 Teleconference Meeting Notes: Food Social & Ceremonial Fisheries Working Group Meeting July 23, 2010

### Attendance:

- Chief Walter Joseph (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)
- 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)
- Deana Machin (FNFC Co-Management Coordinator)
- Saul Milne (FNFC Policy Analyst)
- Brenda McCorquodale (FNFC Executive Director)
- Brigid Payne (Working Group Co-Chair, Sr. Strategic Policy Advisor, TAPD)
- Kaarina (Regional Director of TAPD)
- Rod Lamirande (DFP – HQ, Director of TAPD)
- Paul Ryall (A/Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Management and Cohen Commission Liaison)

### 1. Introductions:

- *First Nation Working Group Members:* Chief Walter Joseph, Mark Duiven, Ernie Victor, Megan Moody, Tony Roberts Jr, Nicole McLelland
- *DFO Working Group Members:* Brigid Payne, Kaarina McGivney, Paul Ryall, Rob Lamirande

### 2. Review Agenda

### 3. Background/Context

- The FNFC worked with DFO to develop a joint ***Commitment to Action and Results*** – an MOU that identifies 4 priority areas that FNFC and DFO could work together to make progress on: Section 35.1 Fisheries, Co-Management, Aquaculture and Economic Access
- Establish 4 working groups to work on each of the priority areas. The WGs will each develop their own workplans, and will report regularly to the joint FNFC-DFO Executive. The WGs are designed to have an equal number of FN and DFO representatives and will meet regularly to make progress on the issues identified in their workplans.
- During the eight months that the FNFC-DFO joint executive were finalizing the *Commitment to Action and Results*, the FNFC and DFO worked together in an interim group, the “FSC Launch Group” to maintain momentum on discussion related to FSC issues, to identify information and background materials that would be useful for the WG.

- Launch Group participants were Brenda McCorquodale, Mark Duiven, Don Hall, Kaarina McGivney, Brigid Payne, and Paul Ryall
- Launch Group had several teleconferences to broadly discuss the issues and concerns that FN and DFO encounter when dealing with and addressing FSC issues.
- The Launch Group has recommended that a starting point for the FSC Working Group may be to summarize Information Needs for Fisheries Management (e.g. state of FSC fisheries, utility of catch monitoring, quantifying FSC needs, etc), Operational Guideline and their Applications (consistencies and inconsistencies across Areas), and Case Studies that highlight FSC issues. (see Feb 5 and May 21 Launch Group meeting notes)
- The Working Group is not bound to these proposed workplan items, but we do need to work on jointly developing the WG workplan. Need to identify key objectives within the workplan, i.e. how we deal with them, how we develop the plan and how we follow up on meetings
- Add First Nation Protocols to the list of priority issues to be discussed

#### 4. Review Working Group Terms of Reference

- Review the WG Terms of Reference
- The FNFC will post meeting notes and other WG information on its website to be accessible to First Nation members, communities and fisheries organizations
- Working Group will operate on an annual basis according to its work-plan
- The Working Group will report regularly and be accountable to the joint FSC-DFO Executive.

#### 5. FSC Discussion

- Haven't been many opportunities for FN and DFO to talk about FSC issues at a regional level; many aspects of FSC occur at a local level, but there are benefits to FSC discussion at a broad level
- Recognize there will be local level issues that are raised and we should talk about how we will manage those discussions and keep the Working Group focus on regional issues/discussions
- Regarding the three priorities:
  - Information needs: What information do we need to be effective managers of the resource
  - Case Studies: What do we want to learn from the case studies?
  - Operational guidelines: What are the practical operational guidelines that can be used in fisheries management?
- Ultimately, FSC is a challenging topic we need focus and to prioritize and narrow our scope and achieve outcomes to demonstrate success
- Need to have a common understanding of the current FSC management framework, how it is managed and what is required to manage fisheries; DFO

- Need to address local FSC issues but in a more regional way
- Important to start with the same information and documents, and make sure there is a scoped understanding of our themes, so we don't limit ourselves
- Food and social needs from a cultural perspective also needs to be considered; FN use and management and stewardship of resources comes from our indigenous languages and cultures that are the foundations of our understanding
- Would like to have one of the next meetings in a community/location where we could engage at the local level and observe a fishery (Ernie offered to host at Cheam)
- First Nation protocols are our laws; would like DFO to have a deeper and broader understanding of First Nation laws
- Relationships and connections between communities based on family and trade relationships
- Conflict seems to arise when First Nation laws and worldviews come up against DFO policies
- Policy vs. aboriginal laws and protocols; DFO's approach seems to changing on the ground and by management area – this has been a topic of discussions amongst FN, maybe we need to see where and when conflict arises
- Maybe we can use the case studies to look at an issue from two perspectives (DFO and FN) to see where there is common understanding and where there is divergence; these points need to be flushed out so we can try to meld our perspectives and keep track on key issues
- To have a meaningful examination of case studies, we need to see what the comprehensive policy is today, links to traditional law etc
- One of the on-going policy issues is Section 35.1 mobility (aka adjacency) and First Nations are frustrated at the lack of progress with this issue
- We should get at what are some of the issues from each of the regions so we can understand the areas' issues and we can identify what is working what is not
- FNFC can help to pull together some information on FSC issues from various regions to provide a broad BC wide overview of FSC issues
- Concerns raised regarding DFO decision rules on priority of allocations of FSC vs sport fishing and the data requirements for that decision making process; too much discretion in the current process given to local resource managers often siding with recreational fisheries. What are the policies with respect to recreational fisheries in areas of FSC fisheries? This relates to information concerns that FN have of how fisheries are managed.
- Timing of fishery openings when First Nations can access their FSC can also be problematic – e.g. openings when there are few fish doesn't meet FN needs for access; openings at same time as other user groups
- We should start to describe the issues so we can target the case study parameters.

## 6. Workplan Development

- From DFO – need to see more of DFO policies and how they apply to FSC (1 part of information needs); all existing documents that are used

- From First Nations - we need to articulate what guides our approach to FSC e.g. indigenous worldview, cultural connection, laws etc.
- May be better to flush out the workplan in person - we need to narrow the scope before we get going, and to give time to allow both parties to think about what they are looking for, to populate our themes and have some pieces in place.
- We could take a blended approach, start now and keep the door open for opportunity on ongoing development, key themes that are emerging that would be helpful.
- How do we forge a new relationship between DFO and First Nations on FSC? That could be part of our workplan the issues we have identified. Relationships at the global basis have been missing and this discussion can help the local areas.

Next Meeting Date:

To be confirmed - September 13, DFO or UBCIC