

Skeena Fisheries Commission



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR THE NEXT 7 GENERATIONS

**FNFC CO-MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 2011**

Skeena Fisheries Commission



- The Skeena Fisheries Commission was formed through an inter-tribal Memorandum Of Understanding in 1985
- It brings all Nations with an interest in the Skeena River system together, under an umbrella prescribed by traditional law, to work for the conservation of the resource for future generations.
- Aboriginal population in the Skeena corridor is about 15,000 people.
- Funding is mostly from the federal government (AAROM & PICFI)

Management functions performed by fisheries management organizations



- Decision making and resource planning
- Stock assessment and escapement monitoring
- Fishery monitoring
- Enforcement and compliance
- Research
- Habitat and enhancement
- Data gathering and analysis for resource planning
- Creating benefits for fishers and communities
- Ongoing training and education

Examples of On-going Collaboration



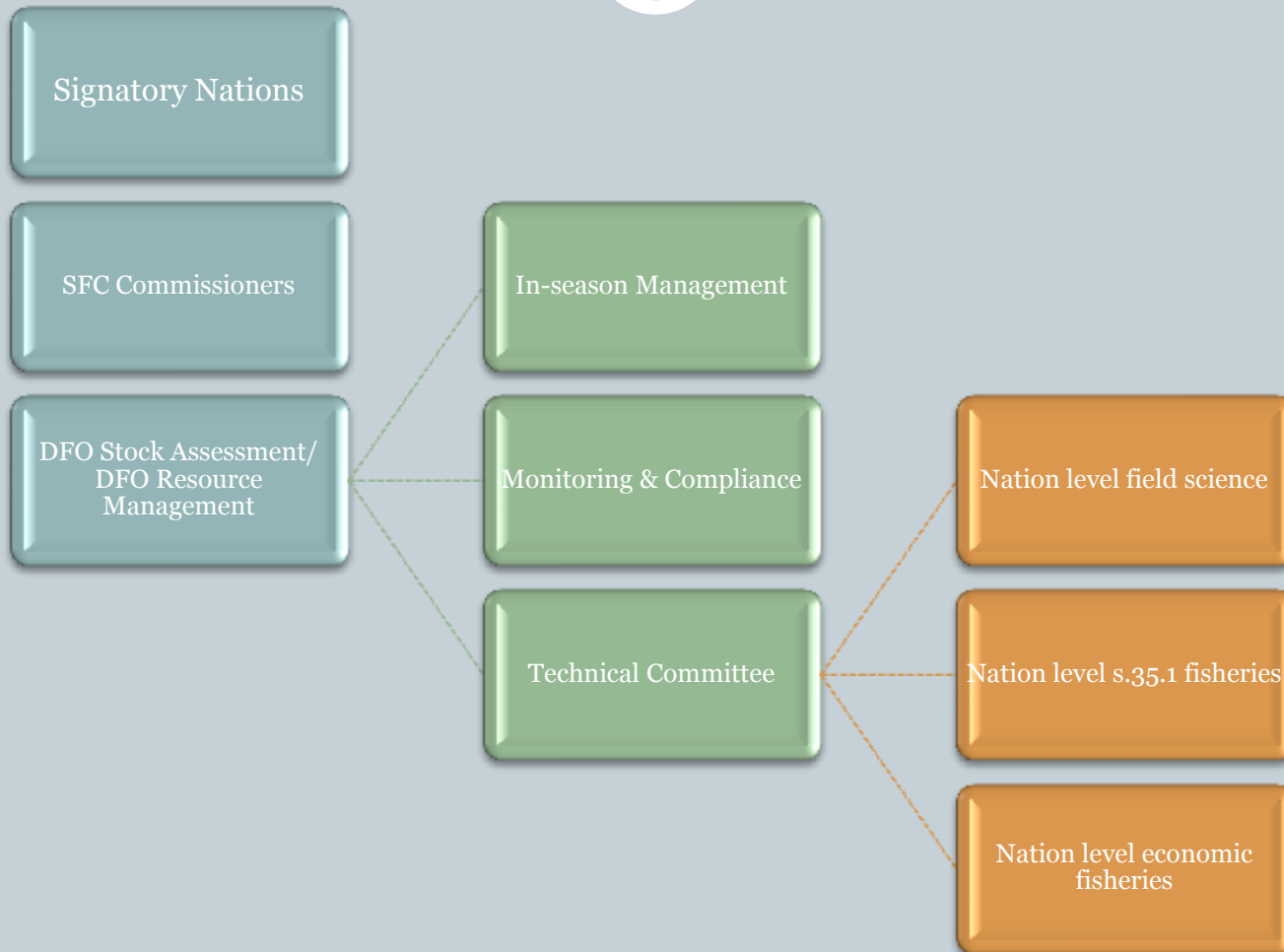
- Inter-tribal fisheries organizations
- Regional tribal treaties
- Regional economic development projects that bring together aboriginal, provincial and municipal governments
- Some intersectoral conservation initiatives
- Community-based policing initiatives

SFC Works with DFO to Achieve Collaborative Management

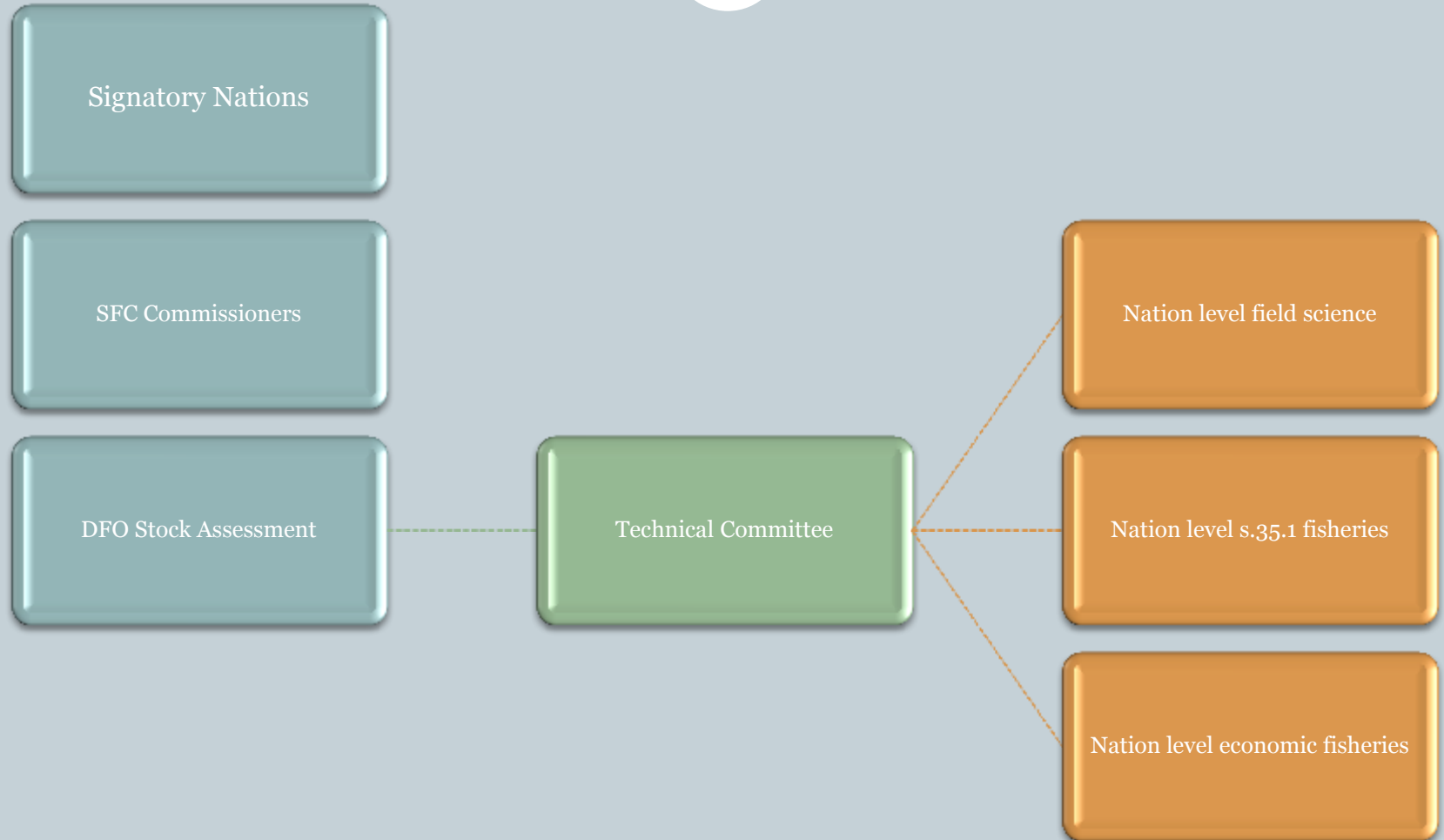


- The SFC meets with the DFO regarding the annual Integrated Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Salmon
- The SFC is consulted whenever in-season changes to the IFMP are proposed
- The SFC is consulted before commercial fishing openings are announced
- Monthly technical meetings of the SFC biologists and DFO staff to discuss technical and scientific issues
- Collaborate with DFO C&P on a community-based model
- Collaborate with DFO on monitoring of all fisheries – aboriginal, commercial, recreational

SFC In-season Operational Structure



SFC Structure – Showing Technical Committee



Characteristics of the SFC Technical Collaborative Processes



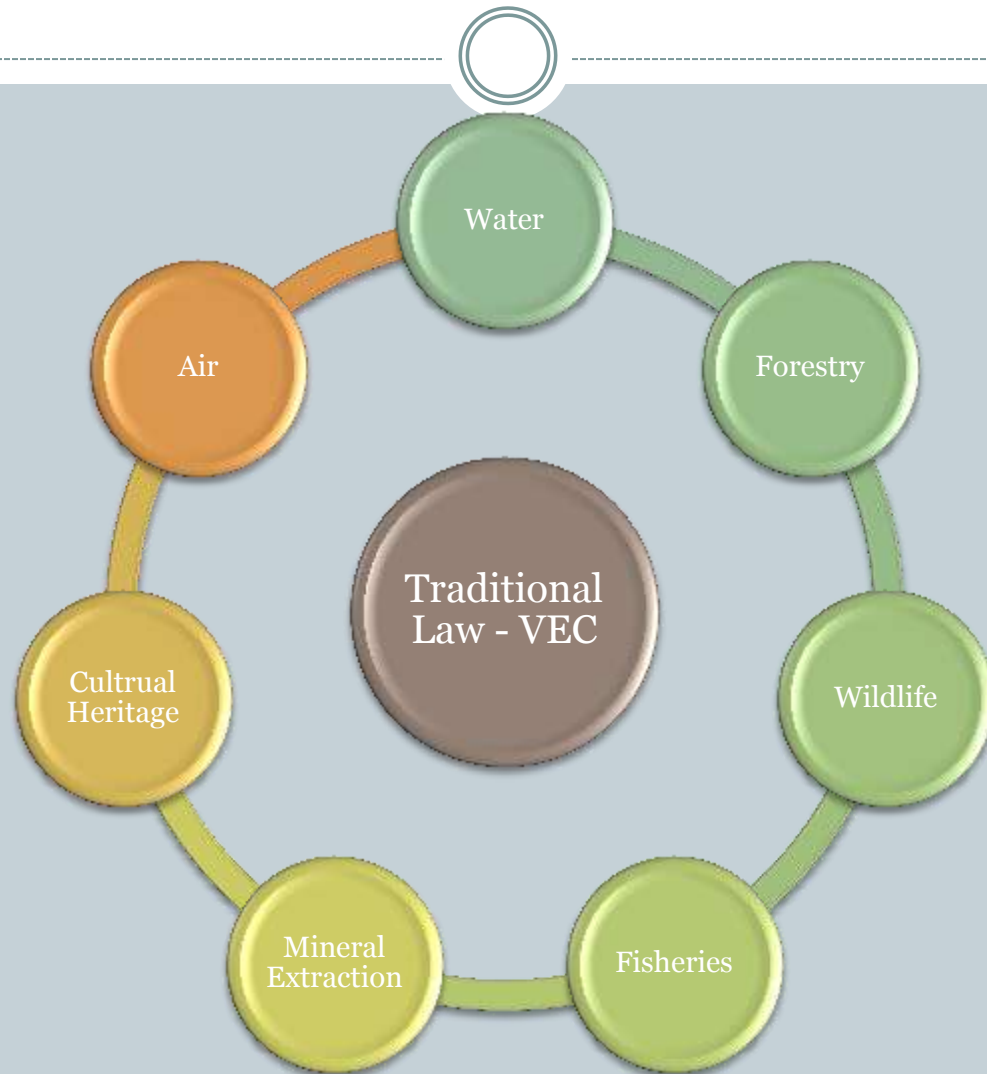
- Recursive – participants reflect and recapitulate
- equality between participants and groups
- Process is **Flexible** and **Resilient**
- Shared vision - ToR
- Positive mindset
- Works toward common goal (consensus of what the science data means and elimination of redundancy in field work)

Policy, Science and Environmental Assessment



- SFC works with signatory nations on many issues related to the protection of the fisheries resource and water
- EA assessment of proposed mines is an example (we work in gaps where DFO cannot because of DFO's legislated mandate)
- Includes cultural heritage resources
- We are very interested in all aspect of water conservation and management

EA is a Natural Extension– SFC works with Signatory Nations to apply their policies and regulations over all resources



The Outlook in BC



- At this point SFC has become a credible partner with the DFO.
- The Provincial and Federal Government have withdrawn much of the funding for their own management activities
- Various programs that used to fund native and community groups have been cancelled
- The potential to expand in fisheries management is limited by our small budgets
- Developments such as the Laroque decision restricts DFO funding methods
- As government withdraws from fishery management more work is contracted out.
- Intercepting these contracts provides a source of funding to technically capable First Nations and enables us to undertake other unfunded management activities.

Is the SFC a Model for Other First Nations?



- Extending the SFC experience to other First Nations groups in Canada may be difficult.
- The reduction of government funding for relatively simple field tasks makes it more difficult for First Nations groups to begin the management of fisheries resources and finance the development of technical expertise.
- The currently significant source of new money is research funding through the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Successful projects under this program require sophisticated scientific input and direction which is out of reach of most village-based groups.
- To some extent funding for technical training and resource data collection is available through the ongoing British Columbia land claims treaty process in the form of Treaty Related Measures. These funds might help other First Nations.

Science Collaboration is Critical in Protecting Rights



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- **2010**
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