



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

# Co-management and the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)

Community Dialogues – Fall/2008



Canada



## What is co-management?

- The use of terms like “co-management” is diverse. No distinction is made or intended between alternative definitions in this discussion.
  - Example phrases in use:
    - Adjective: Co-, Collaborative, Cooperative, Integrated, Shared, Participatory
    - Noun: Management, Governance, Decision making, Stewardship, Engagement, Planning, Process, Structure, Model
    - Combined phrase: Co-management process, Participatory decision making, Collaborative Governance, Collaborative management, Integrated planning,
- The Minister’s message in 2007: the goal is for harvesters and other interests to become more involved in the management of fisheries.



## Why move toward co-management?

- Effective co-management processes are an important attribute of successful management systems.
- Effective co-management processes...
  - provide transparency through more inclusive approaches,
  - build support and understanding,
  - create greater sense of “ownership” or accountability,
  - increase adaptability and flexibility of the management system,
  - lead to more robust decisions.
- Eco-certification of fisheries demands effective governance / co-management processes.



## What is DFO's commitment to improving co-management?

- There is a comprehensive policy framework:
  - Oceans Act
  - SARA
  - Aboriginal Policy and Governance
  - Sustainable Development Policy and Strategy
  - Wild Salmon Policy
  - National Habitat Policy
  - DFO Strategic Plan and Pacific Region Implementation Plan
- Programs and Initiatives which provide on the ground support:
  - PICFI
  - Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Ocean Management (AAROM)
  - Wild Salmon Policy implementation pilots
  - Oceans Action Plan
  - Regular operational programs, e.g. fisheries management, watershed planning
  - First Nation Treaty implementation
  - SARA initiatives



## But isn't there already a wide range of co-management processes influencing decisions?

- These existing processes are engaged in a variety of fishery and ecosystem management decisions.
- The level of influence within these processes varies, largely based on the type of decision:
  - e.g. habitat restoration, area and time considerations in fishery planning, addressing a conservation issue all have different levels of decision making.
- There is a desire to move from the left to right in this continuum.

**Information  
exchange**

**Advice**

**Participatory  
decision making**

**Delegated  
decision making**



*Government perspective on the influence continuum*





## Shift in collaborative governance means moving...

| From:  | To:  |
|--|--|
| reliance on expert knowledge                                   | integrating local and expert knowledge.  |
| single objective:<br>such as species specific biological goals | multiple objectives:<br>ecosystem approach accommodating<br>biological, social and economic considerations |
| centralized / authority based<br>decision making               | decentralized / consensus based<br>decision making   |
| Working with single interests                                  | Engaging multiple interests, being<br>inclusive  |





## Other important considerations for co-management processes.

- DFO's obligations to engage First Nations, new obligations under Treaties.
- Need processes to be self-sustaining.
- Delivery at various geographic scales,
  - from local area/ watersheds to aggregates or coastal areas to large ocean ecosystem areas to the provincial scale.
- Need strong linkages between processes,
  - link area based, species or fishery based, or issue based processes.
- Need credible and accessible information.
- Need to coordinate between various government programs.



In addition, we've heard many concerns about existing processes, including:

- Lack of transparency, not being inclusive.
- Lack of tools for communication, information exchange, or decision making.
- Lack of understanding, motivation, or incentives to collaborate.
- Unclear expectations, roles and responsibilities.
- Too much to ask of volunteers, need for support



## What's happening now?

- PICFI co-management
  - More effective processes for First Nations to work together and with others in addressing resource sustainability and fishery viability issues.
  - More effective multi-interest co-management processes, including tools, information, capacity, and support
- Wild Salmon Policy implementation (area-based planning pilot in Barkley/Alberni)
- Oceans Action Plan (PNCIMA governance model)
- Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM bodies)
- Watershed initiatives in the Fraser and Skeena watersheds.
- Local round tables (Cowichan, Alberni, other)
- First Nations involvement in technical processes (PSC, Somass, etc.)
- SARA recovery planning



## What are we doing in PICFI to improve co-management with First Nations?

- Increase the capacity for First Nations to engage in collaborative governance processes.
  - Application process is being developed.
  - Could support the creation of centers of expertise for groups of First Nations similar to AAROM. (e.g. fishery management expertise, scientific services, fishery monitoring, etc.)
- Support the First Nation Fisheries Council technical working group
  - to provide advice and develop options for addressing common issues
  - (e.g. training, business planning, defining shares, process considerations, etc.)



## What about multi-interest co-management?

- Support emerging integrated processes or linking with other initiatives at local, ecosystem and provincial scales
- Inventory and analysis of existing processes
  - Identify best practices, strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.
  - Analysis of Aboriginal participation in multi-interest processes.
  - Review of specific examples of decision-making (e.g. Fraser River chinook)
- Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum:
  - Broad discussion on governance, access and benefits, compliance and monitoring, and watershed management.
- Advance the development of defined shares in the commercial salmon fishery to promote integrated management.



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Thank you for listening

Next: Discussion items



Canada