



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



Supporting Integrated Commercial Salmon Fisheries

Moving to Share Based Management

Community Dialogues – Fall, 2008



Canada



Background

- Pacific Fisheries Reform (2005)
 - resource sustainability – Wild Salmon Policy
 - commercial fishery self reliance, self adjustment
 - First Nations fisheries access
 - strengthened co-management
- Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) (July, 2007)
 - Supports Pacific Fisheries Reform agenda with emphasis on First Nations participation in commercial fisheries, co-management and improved fishery monitoring.
- Share based management is not new;
 - Examples in groundfish, shellfish and herring



Clear direction on salmon shares

“A key component of effective Pacific integrated commercial fisheries is to increase the involvement of fishers in the management of the fisheries, and to move toward clear harvest sharing arrangements for the salmon fishery.”

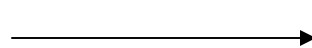
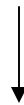
Minister Hearn, July 16th, 2007

– PICFI announcement



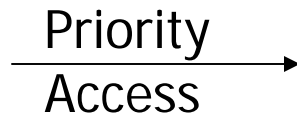
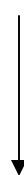
How are salmon allocated?

Total Returning Stock



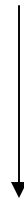
Conservation - Spawners

Total Allowable Catch

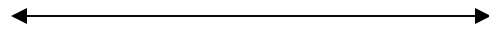


First Nations
Food, Social and Ceremonial

Total Non-FSC Allowable Catch



Recreational
Fishery



Commercial
Fishery



Expected Benefits of Defining Shares

- Conservation and fisheries sustainability facilitated
 - addressing Wild Salmon Policy objectives – selective harvest
 - lower fishing effort reduces risk of over-fishing
 - move away from competitive style fisheries – emphasis on maximizing value
 - stronger incentive for collaboration and stewardship with greater certainty and sense of “ownership”.
- First Nations fisheries;
 - in-river commercial harvest
 - flexible strategies to meet community objectives - splitting shares?
 - improved ability to manage for FSC access
- Commercial fishery better able to self-adjust
- Enhanced catch accountability and compliance through dockside validation and audits



Challenges

- Who gets what share? Licence holders, fleets, First Nations
- Developing transferability rules
 - Flexibility to meet conservation objectives
 - Flexibility to meet fisheries viability objectives
 - Concerns about excessive concentration of shares
- Different views on self-adjustment mechanisms and associated costs of fishing;
 - Individual transferable shares or quotas
 - Inactive harvesters
- Fishery monitoring;
 - need for dockside validation and audits to ensure compliance with catch shares – confidence in compliance essential
 - must address potential high-grading and minimize release mortalities
- Need mechanisms for collaborative management of shares



Additional challenges

- Technical complexity
 - Shares of what? Species, conservation unit, management unit
 - Is TAC defined and is required biological information available?
 - Need a mechanism to address overages and underages within and between years.
- Regulatory and policy changes may be required to enable greater flexibility
- Coordination with BC on in-river fisheries
- To maximize compliance with shares, support of commercial harvesters is critical
- Are there implications for other fisheries?
 - First Nations food, social and ceremonial fisheries
 - recreational fisheries



Work to date

- Commercial Salmon Advisory Board report
- Discussions with First Nations
- Engagement
 - Community meetings
- Data system development
- Demonstration fisheries
 - In-river
 - Commercial



Inland First Nations Demonstration Fisheries Experience to date

- Skeena, Upper Fraser, Shuswap, Siska and Chehalis
- Proper planning/marketing and alignment of harvesting, transportation, and sale are required.
- Coordination among First Nations is important
- Local handling and processing may provide value added opportunities
- Potential partnerships between First Nations and coastal harvesters being explored



Commercial Salmon Demonstration Fisheries

Experience to date

- Seine and troll fisheries - most demonstration fisheries have involved individual shares with transferability (ITQ's)
- Full fleet demonstration fisheries in 2008 easier to manage and enforce than split fleet fisheries
- Given dynamic nature of salmon returns, in-season adjustment is a major challenge
- Efficiencies required to make dockside validation affordable
- Growing support for some form of share based fishery because status quo is not sustainable



Next steps

- Plan for commercial and First Nations demonstration fisheries in 2009 to expand on lessons learned to date.
 - In-river feasibility
 - Application in a variety of coastal fleets
- Continue to engage First Nations and commercial fishery stakeholders in development of share based management system to guide approach in 2009.
- Continue to develop technical basis for share based commercial fisheries