



# Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)

## Co-management and Enhanced Fisheries Accountability

Fall Community Dialogue Forums  
October/November, 2007



## Why improve collaboration and fisheries accountability?

- Challenges to achieving conservation of aquatic resources and sustainable fisheries are significant and complex.
- Many fisheries are characterized by conflicts over allocation and access, actual harvest levels, and the quality of catch information.
- Several reviews have identified the need for substantial improvements in fisheries monitoring and catch reporting to better achieve conservation objectives.
- Conflict and lack of trust among harvest groups are preventing effective collaboration.
- Progress has been made in recent years, but successful fisheries management requires strengthened co-management processes.



- Effective catch monitoring and reporting in all fisheries is required to achieve conservation of fisheries resources, to manage to defined shares, and to foster a spirit of trust and common purpose necessary for effective co-management.
- PICFI supports creating conditions that will enable fishery participants to work together to achieve sustainable fisheries benefits and healthy fisheries resources for present and future generations.



PICFI will support co-management at two levels:

1) Co-management among First Nations:

– supporting First Nations coming together to address common issues, and to coordinate and inform participation in multi-sector processes, and bi-lateral processes with government.

2) Co-management among all fishery participants:

- aimed at broad multi-lateral processes, including First Nations, the recreational and commercial fisheries, the environmental community, other orders of government and the public in fisheries management decision-making.



## Co-management

- **Responsibility:** Participants in co-management processes must be accountable to their constituents and lend their support to agreed outcomes.
- **Adaptive Approach** – Build on best practices and look for improvements to existing processes as much as possible. However, there may be gaps that require new approaches.
- **Sustainability** – New co-management processes must be sustainable in the long term and must include a funding strategy as part of the design work.
- **Scale and Scope** – improvements to co-management should be pursued at a range of geographic scales and cover both operational fisheries management and broad policy issues.



## Co-management among First Nations

Support collaboration among First Nations to address fisheries management needs and resource sustainability objectives common to First Nations.

- Strengthened policy capacity at a regional level in support of First Nations interactions with other fishery interests and governments.
- Coordinated approaches to addressing broad fisheries policy and management issues.
- First Nations are working closely with each other within watersheds or coastal zones.
- First Nations are working effectively with other fishery interests.



## Multilateral Co-management

Strengthen existing processes or create new processes to improve collaboration among fishery participants and with government, and increase the accountability of participants for mutually beneficial outcomes.

- Multilateral processes that are inclusive of all relevant interests.
- Multilateral processes contributing to effective pre-season and in-season fishery decisions that are well supported by all fishery participants.
- Multilateral processes to develop strategic directions and policies that are effective, financially sustainable and well supported by fishery participants.



## Co-management feed-back:

- Need to include First Nations traditional ecological knowledge and local knowledge of others in addition to scientific knowledge.
- Co-management is time consuming and participants should be paid.
- Some decisions should be delegated locally.
- Need clear roles and responsibilities and description of expectations for co-management.
- First Nations need to meet to work out matters that affect them at different geographic scales.



PICFI will support the following approaches to improving the quality of fisheries information;

- Enhance fisheries monitoring, catch reporting and enforcement to support conservation and fisheries sustainability objectives, and to gain the confidence of all harvesting groups.
- Support the development of a BC seafood traceability program in collaboration with First Nations, industry, BC, other federal departments, recreational harvesters and other interests.



## Enhanced Accountability

- **Consistent Standards:** Common monitoring and reporting standards for all fisheries reflecting conservation objectives, integrated and share-based management obligations and potential traceability requirements.
- **Higher Standards** – More rigorous conservation requirements and the move to share based management, as well as eco-labelling and traceability requirements will require higher monitoring and reporting standards in many fisheries.
- **Sustainability** – Enhanced fisheries monitoring programs will be funded by harvesters in those fisheries where this doesn't occur already. PICFI provides an opportunity to develop efficient and effective programs and technologies that will be sustainable in the long term.



## Enhanced Fisheries Accountability

- Well documented, high level of compliance with fishery regulations and catch shares.
- Accurate, timely, verifiable and accessible catch data from all harvesters, providing mutual confidence in catch levels.
- Costs of enhanced catch monitoring programs are borne by fishery participants.
- A seafood traceability program has been collaboratively developed.



## Enhanced Fisheries Accountability feed-back:

- Catch monitoring and reporting needs to be stream-lined and made more affordable.
- Need more incentives to promote better compliance with catch reporting requirements.
- All fishery monitoring information should be shared.
- All fisheries need to be monitored, not just the commercial.
- “We are all two-legged otters.”



# Key Questions

1. What more can be done to facilitate effective working relationships and collaboration both among First Nations and among all interests in the fisheries?
2. What are some steps we could take to advance fisheries co-management? For example – In which watersheds or coastal areas are fishery interests willing to test more effective and integrated co-management approaches?
3. What can we do to work together to achieve timely, accurate and consistent fisheries monitoring and reporting of catch data?
  - Develop additional tools or activities to facilitate improved monitoring (e.g. Improve catch monitoring programs for similar fisheries)?
  - Increase involvement in the development of a Pacific fisheries commercial traceability program (i.e. sustainability and food safety from harvest to final sale)?
  - Other?