



Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)

First Nations Commercial Fisheries Access
and Capacity Building

Fall Community Dialogue Sessions
October - November, 2007



Why increase First Nations commercial fisheries access?

- Supports First Nations fisheries aspirations based on asserted Aboriginal rights and title, treaty negotiations, and economic development objectives.
- Supports integrated commercial fisheries in advance of treaties.
- Provides impetus for improved and more consistent fishery monitoring.
- Supports the development and implementation of much needed reforms to some commercial fisheries to improve sustainability and viability.
- Promotes strengthened co-management among commercial fishing interests and with other resource interests.



1. Communal Commercial Fisheries Access through PICFI

- Support for establishing First Nation owned and operated commercial fisheries businesses that addresses the priorities and aspirations of communities;
- Opportunity to obtain a diverse range of access through voluntary retirement of existing commercial licences or quota, including vessels and gear where necessary;
- Encourage formation of First Nations groups to facilitate greater diversification of licence portfolios and sharing of expertise and infrastructure among communities;
- Obtaining access through PICFI will require meeting certain criteria including having a business plan, training plan, transparency etc.



2. Acquiring Access

- Acquisition of access will be done through voluntary retirement of existing commercial licences or quota (and vessels and gear where necessary) building upon existing processes.
- Commercial access acquired will match the priorities of First Nations identified through business planning process.
- Provide opportunities for commercial harvesters who wish to exit the industry or re-profile their licences and quota.

3. Capacity Building

- Provide First Nations with the tools necessary to support successful and sustainable community owned and operated commercial fisheries businesses.
- Support First Nations in attaining the knowledge and skills necessary to fish safely and successfully.



Market-based and Transparent: Access acquired through voluntary retirement of licences or quota on a “willing buyer/willing seller” basis.

Value for Money: Government obligation achieved through a strategic process to maximize value for money, by adopting a multi-species, multi-year, BC-wide approach. One process for acquiring access will be used for all DFO programs (ATP, AAROM, PICFI).

Best practices: Program design and implementation strategies will build on lessons learned and proven best practices

Flexible approach: First Nations will determine priorities and objectives for participation in commercial fisheries, and for associated capacity building.

Coordinated delivery: Need strong linkages between all PICFI elements. Coordinated administration of PICFI delivery through the ATP and AAROM.

Collaboration: Support to facilitate collaboration and partnerships with the private sector, other FN enterprises and government agencies.



Obtaining access through PICFI will require:

- a long-term strategic business plan supported by the community (modification of what is required for ATP);
- business management capacity;
- a legal structure for the commercial fisheries enterprise;
- methods for designating who fishes under the communal fishing licenses;
- methods for distributing benefits (jobs/profits) to community members;
- clarity around roles of Band Council(s), community members, and fishers;
- description of accountabilities for fishery business managers; and,
- a training plan that supports developing the skills of community members to work for the fisheries business.
- **Others?**



Process for Obtaining Access Through PICFI

- PICFI funding (capacity building) will support the process for establishing First Nation owned and operated commercial fisheries businesses through:
 - community meetings necessary for establishing priorities, needs and gaps in capacity – (e.g., facilitated meetings, obtaining advice from experts);
 - the development of business plan and long-term strategy that matches the priorities, needs and gaps;
 - the development of strategic training plans, from deckhands to captains;
 - the creation of the enterprise (e.g. cost of incorporating); and,
 - **other things??**
- In addition, DFO will support and coordinate the participation of other government departments and non-profit organizations in the development and implementation phases of the businesses.



PICFI funding will also be available to support the implementation of the business and training plans for the duration of PICFI. (Note - Strategies will be needed to build self-reliant businesses beyond this period):

Business Management

- obtaining the expertise to manage the business (business manager, accounting, planning, marketing, partnering...);
- information management tools and the expertise to use them;
- **other things??**

Training

- training coordinator to manage and oversee implementation;
- technical training, such as, navigation, first aid and safety training from recognized institutions to meet Transport Canada regulations;
- fisheries training – possibly through certified mentors to transfer fishing skills.



- First Nation owned and operated commercial fisheries businesses, guided by a business plan, are successfully fishing a diverse portfolio of licences;
- First Nations have the skills and the tools to successfully operate all aspects of the business;
- Fisheries businesses providing jobs and incomes for community members and generating profits;
- A single efficient and collaborative process for acquiring commercial fisheries access for transfer to First Nations, that provides good value for money; and,
- Greater certainty of access for fisheries participants.



1. Input from Technical Workshops

- Mixed views on First Nations capacity to address inter-tribal distribution of available access and capacity building funds in PICFI time frame, e.g. coastal/inland distribution.
- More support for First Nations to work out sharing at a watershed, coastal zone or AAROM level.
- Healthy fish stocks and viable fisheries were considered as important factors in determining the type of access desired by First Nations.
- There was interest in developing strategies to acquire licences or quota in high valued fisheries even though the cost might be high.



2. Input from Technical Workshops

- Some First Nations might consider commercial fisheries businesses as a part of a diverse, multi-sector economic development strategy.
- Need to be sensitive to existing capacity and have flexible timelines. A licence bank was suggested as a way of holding and using licences until First Nations were ready to incorporate them into fisheries enterprises.
- Issues raised requiring further discussion – retirement of reduced fee licences through PICFI, relationship between ATP and AFS.



1. Key Questions

1. In addition to the requirement for a business plan, what considerations should guide the distribution of fisheries access? Examples to stimulate discussion:
 - a. Attaining balance among First Nations groups;
 - b. Consideration of species that occur in the general area of First Nations seeking access;
 - c. Maximizing benefits that flow back to First Nations communities.
 - d. Others? What else should be considered?
2. What are your views on the licences that may be eligible for retirement through PICFI? e.g. reduced fee licences, stacked licences, married licences



2. Key Questions

3. What types of expertise should be obtained to support DFO's licence retirement decisions?
4. Within the scope of PICFI, how can we best support First Nations' capacity to fish commercially and to manage a commercial fishery business?
5. What roles might AAROM groups, industry, existing educational institutions, First Nations from Atlantic Canada, and others have in implementing training and mentoring programs?