

DFO Access and Distribution Workshop Summary

On October 27, 2010 DFO held an Access and Distribution Workshop at the Joe Mathias Centre in North Vancouver. PICFI participants were invited to attend the one-day session to receive an update on the Access and Distribution element of PICFI, provide input on the approach for access relinquishment and contribute to a discussion on criteria for the distribution of access.

Key highlights from the session included updates on the access acquired to-date (\$59.4M for 258 licences, 6.3% Halibut TAC and 4.8% Sablefish TAC), review of the processes for the valuation and relinquishment of licences (the deadline for the latest round of applications was October 26, 2010), a review of short-term distribution to-date and a good discussion on potential criteria for distribution of long-term access.

There was considerable discussion regarding PICFI in-river salmon allocations, as well as on the need to explore options for acquiring high value licences such as Geoduck and Sea Cucumber for coastal nations. A number of potential criteria for distribution of long-term access were suggested and discussed by participants.

The need for the PICFI program to continue to secure access and begin long-term distribution was also expressed during the session, as was the desire by participants to be engaged in PICFI decision making processes and to continue with a two-way, ongoing exchange of information with DFO. It was agreed that the workshop had provided a good foundation for further discussion amongst the broader PICFI group as well as other First Nations not participating in PICFI and that delivery of a follow-up workshop, in collaboration with the First Nations Fisheries Council, should be scheduled early in 2011.

If you would like the full minutes to this meeting, please contact: Kelly Binning at Kelly.Binning@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the PICFI program, please contact:

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