

**Response to Feedback provided on:
“A Vision for Recreational Fisheries in BC (2008-2012)”**

**Part I: Community Dialogues 2008 Final Report, One World Inc. February 4, 2009
Section 5.0 Recreational Fisheries Vision, pp. 21-24: Summary Highlights and
Common Themes**

Comment	Response
1. Confusing, provocative or inconsistent wording	Language in the document has been revised or removed where possible to address concerns
2. The document should include more substantive, science-based and BC specific information	Figures and numbers have been updated and clarified
3. Need better catch accounting and to direct licence fees towards such programs	This issue is addressed as a key principle in the Vision document and is being addressed by the DFO, Province of BC (MOE), Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) Visions Working Group. Many initiatives and activities are underway to improve catch monitoring.
4. Should distinguish between individual recreational fishermen and sport fishing lodges	The parties to the Vision document did not accept this request.
5. Need more engagement between other sectors and the recreational fishing sector	The current DFO policy is to encourage dialogue between sectors and this is occurring through a number of fora (e.g. IPHC, ISDF, HAB). The SFAB and recreational fishing community participate in numerous consultation and engagement activities with other stakeholders and First Nations. Current processes are being reviewed to address time, cost and productivity issues.
6. Insufficient timeline for submissions	DFO extended the original deadline of August 31, 2008 to December 30, 2008
7. Need to distinguish between First Nations rights to food, social and ceremonial (FSC) and recreational fisheries in terms of priority and allocation	This is addressed in Principle 4 of the Vision document.
8. Should consider different rules and fees for non-residents	This issue will be reviewed in current licensing and management programs within DFO and the Province of BC in consultation with the SFAB. Non-residents currently pay higher fees.

Comment	Response
9. Need to find creative ways to address monitoring and enforcement concerns e.g. requiring mandatory reporting etc.	This is addressed in Vision document as a key principle and through Strategic Goals Four and Six. The issue is being reviewed by the DFO, Province (MoE), SFAB Visions Working Group. The SFAB is a full participant on the Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum Monitoring and Compliance Panel.
10. Should develop a process for the SFAB/recreational fishery and First Nations to work together on common concerns. Post SFAB meeting notices on website	This is addressed in Strategic Goals Seven and Three. The SFAB and the recreational fishing community participate in numerous consultation and engagement activities with First Nations in local SFACs, at the watershed level and through regional fora and integrated harvest committees. Such activity is valuable and supported by the SFAB. SFAB Main Board and regional committee minutes are currently posted on the DFO Consultation website – http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/fisheries-peche/smon/sfab-ccps/index-eng.htm
11. Need to find ways to generate more economic “spin-off” socio-economic benefits in local areas e.g. tourism with First Nations	This is the focus of Strategic Goals Two and Five in the Vision document. The parties to the document are fully supportive of this sort of initiative/activity
12. Need discussion on habitat and enhancement issues e.g. create buffer zones, provide priority access for stewardship work	Habitat and enhancement issues are addressed in Strategic Goals One, Four and Six in the Vision document. The SFAB/recreational community has a strong commitment to protection, enhancement and restoration of habitat. Providing preferential access to groups undertaking stewardship work is not consistent with current DFO policy.
13. The strength of the resource would be realized from a collective recreational, commercial and First Nations vision and management approach.	Strategic Goal Three addresses this comment. The Vision for Recreational Fisheries in BC is one where all sectors work together on integrated approaches
14. Parties would appreciate information on how their feedback has been considered.	The Visions Working Group (DFO, Province of BC, SFAB) has attended many fora to explain the context for the Visions document and its content and the document has been amended to address key concerns. DFO has provided written responses to several organizations, the public and First Nations and information on further developments will be posted on the DFO website.

Part II – Comments submitted via the DFO Website

<p>15. Concerns about Principle 6 - <i>“The unique needs of the recreational fishery, such as stable and predictable fishing opportunities, will be explicitly considered and clearly reflected in the integrated fishery management plans”</i>.</p> <p>Concerns about commercial and recreational needs being considered at the same time</p>	<p>Principle 6 has been revised. Recreational and commercial fisheries are both legitimate users of the fisheries resource. Concurrent consideration of the needs of each sector is one of the goals of integrated fishery management plans.</p>
<p>16. Concerns about uncontrolled access, growth and management of the recreational fishery</p> <p>17. Disagree with comments about economic benefits of the recreational fishery</p>	<p>These issues will be addressed through improved sharing of factual information and improved communications. Tidal water licence sales dropped dramatically in the mid-1990s when chinook non-retention was implemented and have experienced slight reductions in recent years (Fig. 1, p.7). There are numerous regulations in place for the recreational fishery which are noted in the <i>BC Sport Fishing Guide</i>. The Province of BC conducts periodic economic surveys which show a difference in the economic benefits measured for each sector.</p>
<p>18. The SFAB process is not inclusive, transparent and accountable.</p> <p>Concerns about the SFAB and meeting notification process</p>	<p>These issues will be addressed through improved communications. An outline of the SFAB process is posted on the DFO website. SFAB regular meetings are open to the public and related information is posted on the DFO Consultations website along with DFO and SFAB contacts.</p>
<p>19. The purpose of the document is not clear about what it means about allocation and previous policies</p>	<p>The introduction section has been revised to provide greater clarity.</p>
<p>20. Concerns about recreational catch accounting data/programs and economic data</p>	<p>These issues will be addressed through improved information and communications. DFO, the Province of BC and the SFAB strongly support improvements to catch accounting and economic data for all fisheries.</p>