



**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS  
FISHERIES INSTITUTE**

Indigenous Program Review

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**Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative  
Presentation – St. John's Nov 9, 2017**

## What We Heard

Attendees were given a slideshow presentation on the rationale and history for the Pacific and Atlantic Integrated Commercial fishery Initiatives. The presenters then explained how the previous two programs would inform a rollout of the northern program with changes made where necessary to account for the unique circumstances in the north. A comment, question and answer period was held after the presentation.

### Comments, Questions and Answers

- *“Business Development Team not going to be of help to us. Some fisheries resource people AICFI helped fund we could use that. 1<sup>st</sup> Biggest thing we realized is AICFI followed substantial influx of funds following Marshall in terms of quota, access to resources ie: buy crab quota, sea cucumber quota. We would need to focus on that.”*
- *“From Innu perspective there are two things: 1<sup>st</sup> Whatever the program will be will meet a need in the Innu nation. In general, we are starting from a small effort. One boat, some allocation of shrimp. Some groundfish. 2<sup>nd</sup> All aspects would be useful. There are other programs when at a low level. You hope to combine with other programs to mix/blend to make things happen. Nine groups looking for a million dollars a year. That means less than 100,000 a year for each. Starting at a base of 100,000 is not a good starting point when aboriginal economic development is involved. From an Innu perspective, we would hope the situation in Nunavut doesn't apply where people in treaty are excluded. Positive note. If through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF), you can even attempt to leverage 20% that would be one for the keys going forward. Since AFF was divided, under if this program, will have nominal approach to all 9 jurisdiction.”*
- Participants stressed there are unique challenges to operating in Nunavut. They stated how Nunavut has historically not had access to federal programs. The area has had challenges developing in-shore fisheries. They stressed taking a big picture, nation-building approach to fishery development, adding not to just look through an economic lens but through a social-economic perspective.
- *“Our youth in the fishery have an appetite to be heavily invested. What I'd like is some kind of adaptable plan through time, looking at emerging fisheries. This would be a benefit to business planning or research, paired with significant investment. Those would be most important starting points. Down the road, once it is established you need*

*training management pieces. It would be beneficial for each individual community be able to adapt their needs.”*

- *“I’ve been involved for quite a few fisheries. We try to hire people in our communities. It’s a hard place to learn. Younger generations wants to work in the industry, also expand horizons. Only way moving ahead is all moving together with a common goal.”*
- *We have managed over to time to acquire 14 vessels. We’re not treaty, not Indian Act so it is more difficult to get into the fishery. We had to have mortgages. Our most recent partnership is with Innu and Colwood band on surf clam. We are looking at sustaining what we have and building on it. We have not been able to partner with brothers and sisters on mainland. The best thing to happen lately was partnership with Innu.”*
- *“You are faced with a huge challenge. 7 million dollars is woefully inadequate. You need to deliver a message back to the department about the needs that are so great over such a huge geographic area with such diverse fishery needs. We are disappointed on the commercial fishery view because there is too much of an emphasis on the community basis, Pat’s organization and ours take profits and reinvest in our communities. An example how this has helped is in Grace Fjord. We engaged one of our vessels in a research project where the community told us we would find shrimp and we found shrimp. This resulted in a winter through-the-ice fishery. We distributed the catch to elders and community feasts. We also provided each of four communities with traps to fish. If it had not been for our profits, this community based food security program would not have existed. Our organization is committed to continue this. **What we really need is program to allow us to expand our fishery base. Funding to buy quotas.** Under Allocation Transfer Program in Newfoundland and Labrador, different communities have acquired quota. That provides opportunity to generate funds to reinvest. Our investment from our fishery far exceeds what CanNor invests. **We are also concerned how diluted this program will become.** That it won’t meet needs of communities in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut. You will have to tailor this to logistics and things of that nature in communities looking to use NICFI. Because of Marshall funding and AICFI, those communities are there. There is a huge gap between communities that want to use NICFI and AICFI. You have to catch up.”*
- Participants from Labrador stated that John G. Paul was able to speak for Atlantic and NFLD, but they don’t have one voice to speak for them and they will need to figure that out.
- Participants mentioned recent example of taking quota from a monopoly in lobster fishery in one fell swoop and giving to First nations is example of what can be done to increase First nations Participation in the Fishery.