

January 17, 2018

National Indigenous Fisheries Institute  
PO Box 352  
Sydney, Nova Scotia  
B1P 6H2  
feedback@indigenousfisheries.ca

SENT BY EMAIL

Dear National Indigenous Fisheries Institute (NIFI),

Thank you for taking the time to consider our feedback related to the Indigenous Program Review (IPR) of the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI). Outlined below are a series of comments related to the technical elements of PICFI programming, specifically related to commercial fishing enterprises (CFEs). These comments were articulated at the 2017 CFE Forum, held on November 27 and 28. We understand many of these comments to also be consistent with the feedback provided at the IPR regional meetings in Kamloops, Nanaimo, and Vancouver. The feedback provided in this letter represents broad input from the CFEs collectively, as these issues impact all CFEs.

Significantly, there is a need for *increased communication between the parties that deliver CFE programming* (ie. Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Business Development Team (BDT), and First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC)) and CFEs regarding roles, responsibilities, and program governance and decision-making processes (ie. the Application Review Committee (ARC), and Business Development Management Committee (BDMC)). Additionally, CFEs are looking to DFO to ensure that the business development operational capacity employed by DFO to aid CFEs is transitioned to a model that is *driven by, and operates with greater accountability* to, CFEs, and that PICFI programming is functioning to increasingly utilize and grow capacity within CFEs. Beyond these broad long-term visions for program delivery, other recommendations for changes to PICFI CFE programming include:

- Transitioning the timeline of funding decisions to occur earlier in the fiscal year, rather than September-December, in order to support CFEs more efficiently and effectively planning for and utilizing BDS funding
- Increasing CFE operational funding

- Aiding larger projects that advance CFE long-term strategic business expansion goals through multi-year funding dedicated to large multi-years projects
- Allocating additional funding specifically dedicated to enhancing and supporting internal operational capacity development and succession planning
- Clearly outlining application eligibility criteria related to how BDS funding may or may not be utilized
- Ensuring messaging from local DFO representatives and from DFO national headquarters is transparent, clear, and consistent
- Facilitating increased opportunities, beyond the CFE Business Development Forum, for CFEs to collaborate and network, not only with other CFEs but also with industry
- Clarifying the operational services that the BDT provides, BDT deliverables, and how DFO measures the success of the BDT

In addition to a technical review of PICFI, CFEs expect to participate in the policy review of the program to address broad issues related to PICFI design and delivery.

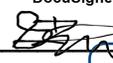
Finally, we recognize the benefit and economic opportunities that the PICFI program has provided, and appreciate the efforts of the DFO staff that we work with on a regular basis. This review is a chance for all parties to participate and reshape this program to ensure effective and streamlined program delivery. Reviewing programming holistically, and ensuring all parties involved in PICFI program delivery have the opportunity to provide feedback provides the best chances of optimal success for all participants.

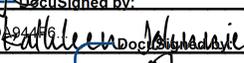
We look forward to the inclusion of our comments and concerns in the forthcoming NIFI report on PICFI programming, and to receiving a response to the content in this letter.

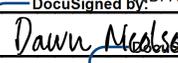
Sincerely,

The Pacific CFE INterim Steering Committee, which includes:

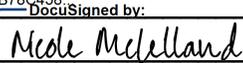
Shawn Baybutt, Riverfresh  
 Kathleen Johnnie, Hul'q'umi'num Fisheries  
 Tina Jones, Mama'omas LP  
 Dawn Nicolson, MDMG  
 Andy Olson, Tsu-ma-uss  
 Tess Baker, Salish Seas Fisheries  
 Nicole McLelland, Gwabilis Fisheries Society

DocuSigned by:  
  
 4F51B247DA944F6

DocuSigned by:  
  
 96DFAFD015D140F

DocuSigned by:  
  
 1E7FB196C70441D

DocuSigned by:  
  
 40EDD4A2B78C458

DocuSigned by:  
  
 B25159011E6047D...

Cc:

Kevin Fram, Senior Director, Aboriginal Programs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
([kevin.fram@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:kevin.fram@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))

Tyler Collie, Director, Aboriginal Program Division, Pacific Region, Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada ([tyler.collie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:tyler.collie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))

David Lau, A/Manager, Enterprise Development, Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries  
Initiative, Fisheries and Oceans Canada ([david.lau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:david.lau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca))

Jordan Point, Executive Director, First Nations Fisheries Council ([jordan@fnfisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:jordan@fnfisheriescouncil.ca))