

FEEDBACK FROM COMMERCIAL FISHING ENTERPRISES PACIFIC REGION-PICFI PROGRAM

National Indigenous Fisheries Institute
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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). The feedback provided in this letter represents broad input from the CFEs collectively, as these issues impact all CFEs. Respectfully, as related in the forums, the needs of both Coastal communities and Inland communities differ and funding needs to be flexible to geographic needs and developmental stages of each community or region.

Outlined below are a series of comments related to the technical elements of PICFI programming, specifically related to commercial fishing enterprises (CFEs). Some of 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.

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), Business Development Management Committee (BDMC) and the CFEs. 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:

- Substantially increasing CFE operational funding to allow CFEs flexibility to enhance and support internal operational capacity development, increased community outreach or other regional specific productive needs.
- Substantially increasing the Resource Acquisition funding to achieve the stated goal of increased participation of Aboriginal Commercial Fishermen.
- Collaboratively designing practical , fair application eligibility criteria related to how BDS and SPI funding may or may not be utilized effectively.
- Allowing use of SPI funding for due diligence and advance planning.

- Ensuring messaging and policy introduction from Regional and National DFO representatives is transparent, clear, and fair to all CFE's.
- In consultation with each region develop increased opportunities, beyond the CFE Business Development Forum, for CFEs to collaborate and network.
- Clarifying the operational services that the BDT provides, business experience of BDT staff, BDT deliverables, and how DFO and the CFE's measures the necessity of BDT services.
- Aiding projects that advance CFE long-term strategic business expansion goals through multi-year funding opportunities.
- 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
- CFE input to advance yearly planning and budgeting with annual transparent reviews of DFO and BDT spending, fairness and performance.

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

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 reshape this program to ensure effective and streamlined program delivery of the original objectives. Reviewing programming holistically and ensuring all parties involved have the opportunity to have meaningful input provides the best chances of optimal success for B.C. Aboriginal communities.

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,

Andy Olson

Cc: PICFI CFE Group and communities, Kevin Fram, Senior Director, Aboriginal Programs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (kevin.fram@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) Tyler Collie, Director, Aboriginal Program Division, Pacific Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (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)