

# National Indigenous Fisheries Institute Indigenous Program Review

Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries  
Initiative – An Overview

Autumn 2018

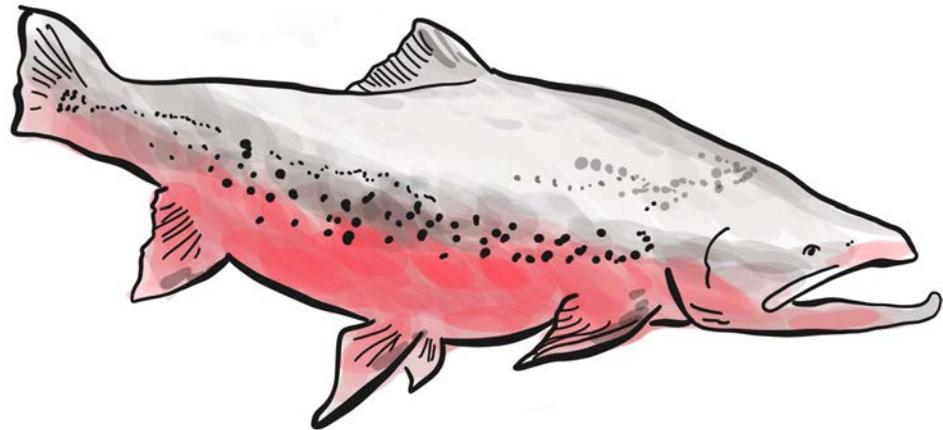


**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS  
FISHERIES INSTITUTE**  
Indigenous Program Review

**INSTITUT NATIONAL DES  
PÊCHES AUTOCHTONES**  
Examen des programmes autochtones

# Overview

- National Indigenous Fisheries Institute
  - Who we are and what we are doing here today
- Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative
  - Sharing more about the developing program
  - Will continue to be informed by sessions across the North
- Planning fisheries businesses in the North
  - Different business scales
  - Supportive of food security
  - Training and infrastructure needs
  - Markets and industry know-how
- Summary and Next Steps

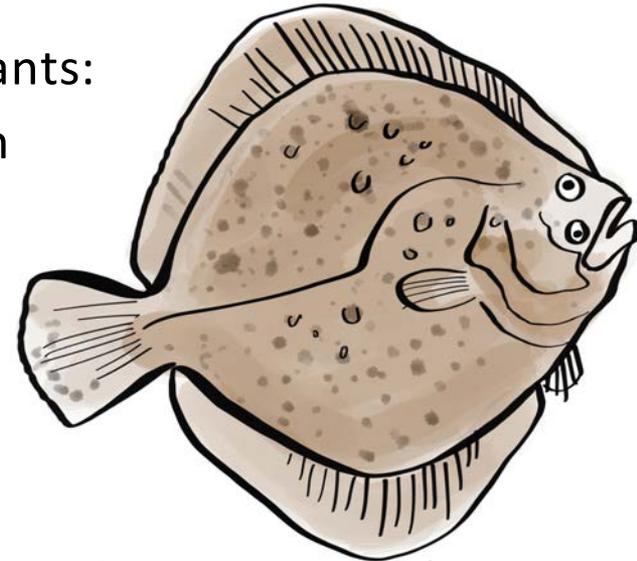


# National Indigenous Fisheries Institute

- Technical organization began in May 2017
- Promote program design and development consistency across Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Indigenous programs
  - Indigenous Program Review first task – includes engaging communities on the Northern Commercial Fisheries Initiative
- Board of national and regional Indigenous executives
  - Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
  - Sahtu Region, Northwest Territories
  - Assembly of First Nations
  - Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
  - Ulnooweg Development Group
  - First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia
  - Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation

# The Northern Program

- Appropriate to the North, modelled on Atlantic/Pacific programs:
  - Proven commercial fisheries can be driver for socio-economic development and self-sufficiency in Indigenous communities
  - Must meet unique needs and issues of participants:
    - Highest overhead costs, short fishing season
    - Local food security
- Eligibility:
  - Groups located where DFO manages a fishery (not covered by Atlantic/Pacific programs)
  - Land-claim groups that have not been eligible for DFO programs in the past
- Broad interest in participation
  - Limited resources for first two years (in second year now)
  - Entering business planning and development stage



# Northern Program Design Development

- Focused on capacity-building:
  - Business planning and development
  - Harvest and management training
  - Business expansion and diversification opportunities
- Building on lessons learned and best practices in Atlantic / Pacific:
  - Appropriate Indigenous organization(s) to deliver program
  - Business development team
  - Performance metrics (e.g., jobs, revenues, etc.)
  - Initial years focussed on business planning and development
- Informed by communities across the North:
  - Discussion paper and engagement activities



# Business Planning and Development

- Important things to consider while planning:
  - How will the development of your business be managed?
  - What capacity do you need to manage your business and its development?
  - What expertise will you need from a business development team, such as:
    - Emerging fisheries
    - Fishing technology (new gear)
- What will be the scale (size and scope) of your business?
  - Priorities and aspirations: today, in five years, in 10 years, and beyond
  - Food security and food distribution can be built into the program
- Let's look at business scales in more depth...

# Subsistence, Artisanal and Commercial Fisheries Production

Fisheries generally move through three stages:

- **Subsistence** fisheries undertaken by families and communities
  - Focused on local needs
- **Artisanal** fisheries often derive from subsistence activities
  - Generally closely related (same gear, same people, same locations)
  - But provide for sale of products to people outside food production circle
- **Commercial** fisheries focus on commercial scale production
  - Involve larger or very large vessels, large volumes of product
  - Revolve around modern shore-based processing or on-vessel processing
  - All product designated to go to commercial market place



# Economics and Options related to Development

- **Subsistence** fisheries can have monetary components
  - But, often do not
  - Focused on family, food security and local distribution
- **Artisanal** fisheries have sale components
  - But sales and use of money that come from sales stay within the network (families) that produces and sells products locally
- **Commercial** fisheries all monetary
  - Ability to achieve and sustain profit is what determines relative viability

## Fisheries Development

### Subsistence



### Community-based



### Commercial



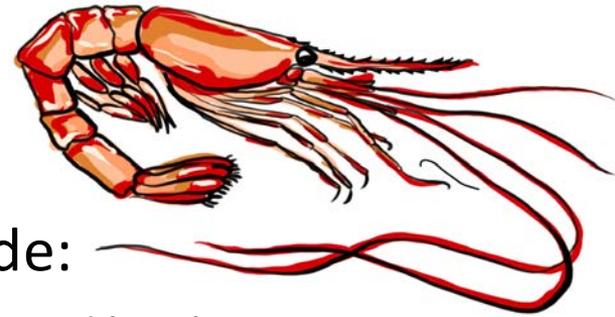
# Northern Fisheries: Realities

- Cost of production a challenge when studying potential of northern fisheries to enter into a commercial scale
  - With ALL commercial fisheries worldwide, single largest variable is cost of energy
  - When cost of production (with energy included both for capture, processing and transportation to market) exceeds potential margin, commercial fisheries become non-viable
- Subsistence and artisanal fisheries do not work this way
  - Subsistence fisheries focus on food and food security
  - Artisanal fisheries generally use money from sales to offset cost of food production



# Evolution toward Commercial Production

- Inshore commercial fisheries have several factors and components that need to align before they can reach commercial threshold:
  - Consistency of production volumes
  - Consistency of Quality Control in terms of capture and processing (generally to government standards)
  - Ability to move processed product to marketplace within boundaries of acceptable margin (cost of energy to transport)
- Different for offshore, large-vessel fisheries
- Transition when the business case can be made:
  - From subsistence/artisanal to commercial determined by the community (unit of production)



# Transition: Support Food Security

- Interim and very valuable step for many northern community-based fisheries in continuum of fisheries development:
  - **Redistribution within own communities** and local institutions (hospitals, elder care facilities, school programs etc.)
- Serve needs of local people **first**
- Integrate Northern fisheries program with other programs that support overall community welfare though food supply security:
  - Ensure young and elderly have full access to best food
  - Community freezers



# Support Food Security

- Integrate generations in terms of learning production, processing and distribution skills
- Build local economy by providing steady employment in a food security program
  - Can be combined to include terrestrial species and sea mammals



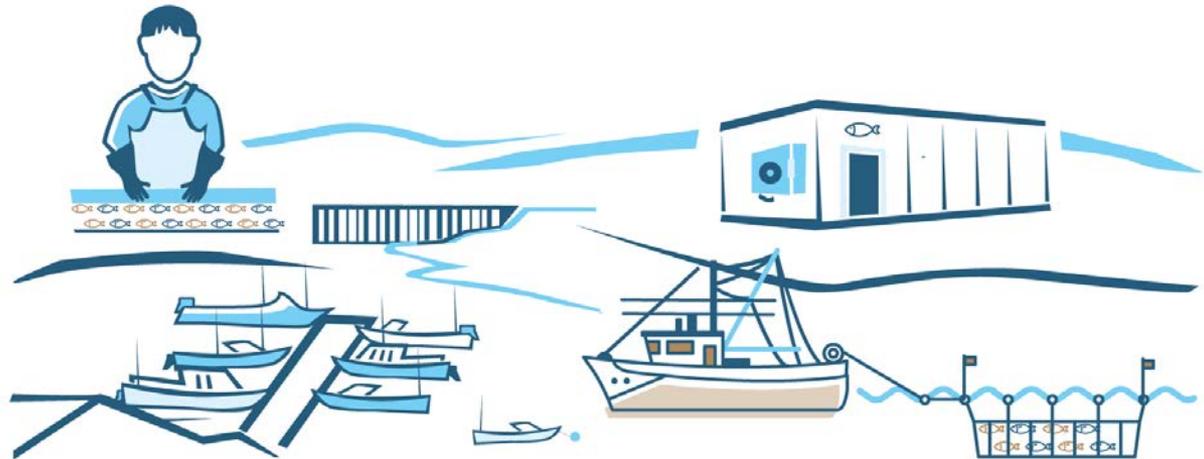
- Will lead to commercial production if community decides to go in this direction
  - Prioritizes local needs before commercial interests
- Let's look at other business development needs...

# Training and Infrastructure Needs

- Harvester Training
  - Skills to safely and effectively harvest different fish and shellfish
  - Qualified captains and crew with vessel maintenance skills
  - Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium
- Fisheries Business Management Training
  - Running the business (managing workers, finances, distribution, etc.)

- Infrastructure Needs

- Vessels and gear
- Landing sites
- Processing facilities
- Community freezers



# Markets and Industry Know-How

- Markets exist for virtually all species in the North:
  - Market placement and access depend on cost of production: the closer markets are to point of capture, the better
- Governments could working together with producers to develop a “buy local policy” directed at:
  - Resource developers
  - Government institutions
  - Tourism operators and cruise ships
- Initiative could jump start transition toward commercial fisheries:
  - Ensures localized market and floor volume of production
- Institute can help with business development:
  - Working with producers to access correct markets for their products
  - Debunking myths, misconceptions, outright lies and misrepresentations
  - Always ready to help when folks are ready: Contact us



# Summary

- **Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative**
  - Ready to start planning and development stage later this year
- **National Indigenous Fisheries Institute**
  - Can play important role in helping communities and government integrate effort for best possible results
- **Options exist relating to fisheries development**
- **Food security and food distribution** can be built into the program
  - Affords opportunities for broad collaboration in program design and implementation



# Next Steps

- Completion of Institute engagement in November
  - Western and Central Arctic
  - Yukon
  - Lower Mackenzie
- Interim Report planned
  - Before full phase two Indigenous Program Review report
- Feedback still invited
  - Discussion paper on [indigenousfisheries.ca](http://indigenousfisheries.ca)
  - Email [feedback@indigenousfisheries.ca](mailto:feedback@indigenousfisheries.ca)
  - Lines of communication always open

