

National Indigenous Fisheries Institute and Indigenous Program Review

Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program and Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative PLENARIES

January 25, 2018 – Moncton

indigenousfisheries.ca



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
FISHERIES INSTITUTE
Indigenous Program Review

INSTITUT NATIONAL DES
PÊCHES AUTOCHTONES
Examen des programmes autochtones

Purpose of this Plenary

- Opportunity to review and confirm:
 - What we received in submissions
 - What we heard during workshops
 - What we heard by phone, via email, and during meetings and other interactive sessions
- Opportunity to get more information:
 - Focus on areas of consistency
 - Understand other views and issues brought forward
 - All input will inform final report

Our Agenda Today

- Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program
 - Discussion Paper conclusions and submissions received
 - Workshops/Other Sessions: What we heard in Moncton, St. John's, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Vancouver and Yellowknife
 - Initial Conclusions and Steps: Facilitated Q&A
- Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative
 - Discussion Paper conclusions
 - What we heard at the workshop in November
 - Identified Gaps: Facilitated Q&A
- What's Next?
 - More submissions to Discussion Papers and today's plenary
 - Phase One Report and Phase Two Engagement

Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program

Discussion Paper

- Funding:
 - Inadequate funds to reach full potential
- Reporting:
 - Limited basis on which to measure performance and outcomes; especially, impact of groups in decision-making processes
- Services:
 - Lack standards on services groups may deliver
 - Inadequate oceans management component
- Relationships:
 - Not fully developed across department or with others
 - Opportunities for collaboration among groups
 - Overlaps with other programs

What We Heard: Funding

- Confirmed more funding needed:
 - Not kept up with inflation/increased costs
 - Does not reflect remote/area costs/demands of department
 - Not enough for communities left out
 - Should be predictable/multi-year
- Funding not timely:
 - Cash flow issues/reliance on credit
 - Impacts staff retention
- Funding not linked to other available funds:
 - Despite services and areas of service delivery interest complementing other departmental and federal mandates

What We Heard: Funding

- Funding for core services, not for projects:
 - Staff, contractors, and seasonal 'field' support
 - Sometimes forums/consultation of member communities
- Groups work hard to find other funding sources
- Other funding options (may require awareness-raising):
 - Multi-agency programs and new regional funds
 - Commercial/recreational fisheries associations and industries
 - Sharing expertise/equipment of other aquatic resource groups

What We Heard: Reporting

- Reporting onerous and/or inconsistent between groups and departmental programs:
 - A few find reporting requirements beneficial
 - Most support more fair and standard processes
- Reporting not properly tied to program objectives
- Reporting not reflective of strategic plans and objectives

What We Heard: Decision-making

- Participation in decision-making processes:
 - Lack true voice
 - More about attendance, as data and input largely not reflected
- Data collected and shared:
 - Not often incorporated into departmental decisions/management plans, but may be starting to change
 - Prioritized by some for use by Indigenous decision-makers
 - Standardized data sharing agreement may be beneficial

What We Heard: Indigenous Knowledge

- Not incorporated into decisions/management plans
- Need recognition of its value and importance
- May require cultural and/or other training at department:
 - Clear parameters of how it may be used
- May require capacity to strengthen Indigenous knowledge systems (e.g., investing in these systems):
 - Being coordinated/collected/ catalogued by groups
 - Being incorporated into specific projects

What We Heard: Services

- Service offerings not necessarily ideal:
 - Prefer flexibility, both coastal and inland
 - Menu of service offerings could be ‘standardized’, e.g., stock assessment, monitoring, data collection, traditional knowledge, capacity-building, remediation, restoration, etc.
- Technical expertise at too many meetings ‘biocrats’
- Inadequate oceans management component confirmed as well as inadequate inland/freshwater management
- Some have extensive youth/education activities (models)

What We Heard: Service Aspirations

- True/holistic co-management of fisheries and resources:
 - Oceans management
 - Inland water management
 - Research/attention to non-studied waterways/areas/anglers
 - Land-marine interface, socio-economic issues, climate change, toxicology/contaminants related to industry (cumulative effects)
 - Regionally run guardian program
- Higher-level science/data studies
- Emergency response in/near oceans/other waterways
- Youth engagement/capacity-building programs

What We Heard: Expertise

- Broad range of capacity and expertise across groups:
 - From program coordinator only to those with one or more biologist, technician, fisheries management coordinator, fisheries operations manager, communications coordinator, data entry/collection clerk, etc.
- Equipment:
 - Digital imaging sonar cameras, limnology tools, drones, water monitoring stations, boats, etc.
- In some cases, training and capacity-building:
 - Youth programs, fishing-related programs, computer skills, etc.
 - Career tracks, mentoring, internships, etc.

What We Heard: Technical Capacity Needs

- Collection of more baseline and ongoing data:
 - Fish stocks, habitat, oceans/freshwater, aquatic monitoring
 - Areas impacted by environmental spills/industrial development
 - Cumulative effects, environmental assessments
- More expertise and equipment (including maintenance):
 - Biologists, field technicians, data analysts, satellite offices
 - Communications, policy analysts, and proposal writers
 - Access to labs and results of research
- Community involvement:
 - Elders and youth in cultural training and stewardship
 - Education, certification and training to use field equipment

What We Heard: Relationships

- Extensive room for improvement with the Department:
 - Staff turn over at department/need to build internal capacity
 - Big gap with science and aquaculture (for most groups)
 - Respecting data and knowledge
 - Interdepartmental/governmental communication/coordination
 - Consideration of exec. swaps/secondment/cultural exchanges
 - More and consistent contact with officials
- Synergies/overlaps among programs:
 - Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy technicians / work plans and work of guardians complementary to aquatic resource program
 - Commercial program used to fund collaborative management & economic development opportunities/commercial licences for \$
 - Desire for guardian programs (some established)

What We Heard: Relationships

- With each other:
 - Potential models
 - Equipment/biologist/technician/
research result-sharing options
 - More interaction/sharing among marine/inland groups
- With member communities (& their technical experts):
 - Brought some together but may not always be right fit
 - Done for departmental convenience/purposes
- Program changes connected with truth & reconciliation:
 - Trust/open communication with departmental officials critical

What We Heard: Definition of Success

- Real/meaningful role in management decision-making:
 - Balanced reflection of Indigenous knowledge / western science
- Strong communications/community engagement
- Robust science capacity and field presence:
 - No more data gaps/areas with no information
- Enough fish to sustain communities and fisheries:
 - Healthy fish species and ecosystems
- Self-sustained, stable, long-term funding and staff:
 - Employment of Indigenous people in all categories
 - Diversified partnerships and sources of funding

BREAK

Initial Conclusions

- Funding and reporting should be streamlined:
 - Linked to other available funds and more flexible options
 - Reflective of program and Indigenous objectives
- Connections should be made to:
 - Remove barriers to funding and partnerships
 - Reflect service expectations/demands of department
 - Improve relationships and fill known gaps (e.g., with Science)
 - Align services and service delivery aspirations to partners
- Decision-making partnerships should be forged by:
 - Setting processes to include Indigenous groups and experts
 - Establishing a data-sharing agreement and parameters for the incorporation of data into decision-making **would require further engagement of any proposed options*

Initial Conclusions

- Any service offerings should:
 - Be flexible to meet unique ecosystem priorities of involved communities and identified technical capacity needs
 - Reflect full suite of service delivery options
 - Reflect service delivery needs / funding availability of federal mandates (e.g., Oceans Protection Plan emergency response)
 - Incorporate youth education / mentorship priority
 - Reflect best practices and models identified in workshops
- Relationship-building activities should be embraced to:
 - Facilitate executive swaps and secondments
 - Require staff knowledge of communities they [will] serve
- Performance management metrics should be aligned to:
 - Indigenous definitions of success

Engaging Fisheries and Oceans Sectors

- Institute taking some initial steps, based on submissions and workshop outcomes, to explore possible options:
 - 1. For aligning programs and Grants and Contribution funding**
 - 2. Improving access to, and relationships with, departmental sectors:**
 - Matching service offerings and delivery to federal mandates
 - 3. Building better interfaces with:**
 - Science, species at risk, and fisheries and oceans management in support of co-management

Initial Conclusions: Your Thoughts?

- Working sessions between Institute and Department at the end of February (prior to drafting final report)
- Facilitated Q&A

Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

Discussion Paper and Workshop Focus

- Program Design, Funding and Reporting:
 - Confirmed need for flexibility to meet differing enterprise needs
 - Funds necessary to accelerate business growth
- Business and Relationships:
 - Potential Business Development Team adjustments
 - More opportunities to expand and diversify
 - Fisheries management system improving
 - Training needs of harvesters and managers
 - Changing role of commercial fisheries liaison coordinators
 - More communications between Department and communities

What We Heard: Funding and Reporting

- Funding to sustain employment:
 - Retain staff with career path options
 - Align training with long-term careers
 - Flexible training funds, e.g., to purchase a training vessel
- Funding to accelerate business growth:
 - Access to capital to purchase, repair or upgrade gear or vessels
 - Option to use funds to increase access (quota in other fisheries)
 - Multi-year funding options for big purchases
 - Move 2.3 and 2.4 under 4.0
- Mixed views about reporting requirements:
 - Onerous for some

What We Heard: Business & Relationships

- Business development team valuable, but could:
 - Have more knowledge about communities
 - Consider other business expertise offerings
- More opportunities to expand and diversify:
 - Not aware part of current program
- Fisheries management system improving:
 - See value in using a system
 - Want to ensure functionality and ability to adapt to localized applications
 - Support features to produce internal reports

What We Heard: Business & Relationships

- Training needs of harvesters and managers:
 - Incredibly important aspect worth improving
 - Continuous need due to rotation of personnel
 - More professionalization of careers
- Role of commercial fisheries liaison coordinators:
 - Some communities outgrown need, but should remain option
 - Could increase science component of role and/or work more closely with technical teams in aquatic resource and oceans management groups
- Better communications between Department & communities

Discussion Paper – What We Heard: Gaps

- Expanding how performance measured:
 - Success factors from enterprise and community points of view
- Leveraging partnership opportunities:
 - Response to *Access to Capital* Discussion Paper
 - Atlantic Fisheries Fund and/or other funds to diversify & expand
- Identifying marketing opportunities:
 - New opportunities along value chain
- Facilitated Q&A

What's Next?

- We still want to hear from you **by end of February 2018**
 - Additional submissions to the Discussion Paper
 - More input on the What we Heard documents or this plenary
- Phase one final report **around end of March 2018**
 - Aquatic resource and oceans management program
 - Pacific and Atlantic integrated commercial fisheries programs
 - First given to Indigenous Leadership
 - Then given to Fisheries & Oceans Canada and published
- Phase two engagement:
 - Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and Fishery Guardian Program

**Thank You for Participating in the
Indigenous Program Review thus far!**