



ABORIGINAL FISHERIES STRATEGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

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NOTE:

The information contained in this report is believed to be accurate but is not warranted. Any errors or omissions are unintentional.

General Overview of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy

The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy (AFS) is a program that provides for the effective management of the Aboriginal fishery in a manner consistent with the *Sparrow* decision. This landmark Supreme Court of Canada decision found, among other things, that where an Aboriginal group establishes an Aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, this right, after conservation, has priority over any other user of the resource.

In accordance with negotiated, time-limited agreements, Aboriginal groups participate in the management of the fisheries and are provided with both allocations of fish and economic development opportunities. The Program applies where Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) manages the fishery, and where land claims settlements are not in place.

AFS Agreements

AFS Agreements are without prejudice to either party's position on Aboriginal rights. Agreements negotiated under the AFS contain an allocation to be harvested by the Aboriginal group, which is fished under a communal fishing licence. This allocation is determined after consultations with the group regarding their needs for FSC purposes. Agreements detail the conditions to be included in the communal fishing licence, such as quantities, time, gear used and data collection. Agreements may also contain other arrangements for the co-management of the Aboriginal fishery by the group and DFO, such as stock assessment, fish enhancement and habitat management projects. Commercial fishing and other economic development opportunities may also be negotiated as part of an AFS Agreement.

Fishing Plans

Fishing Plans, one component/schedule of an AFS Agreement, detail the numerical harvest levels which have been negotiated and established for FSC purposes.

These plans establish the Fishing Authority and the plan to monitor fisheries harvests by members of the community who have been designated on behalf of the community. The allocation sets the species and the quantities, times and gear to be used.

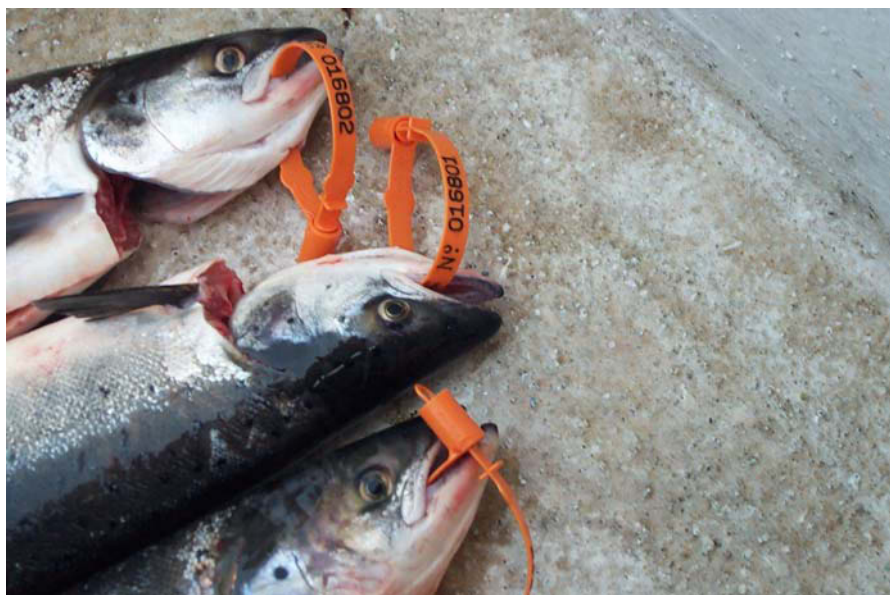
Communal Licences

The Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licence Regulations provide for the issuance of communal licences to Aboriginal groups. These licences include conditions for quantity of catch by species, gear, time and area of harvest, and disposition of fish. The conditions for designating fishers and the reporting requirements are also set out in the communal licence. Typically, communal licence conditions flow from the fishing plan within the AFS Agreement. However, where DFO cannot reach an agreement with a First Nation, a communal licence is issued. As per s.6(f) of the Policy for the Management of Aboriginal Fishing, the conditions will be minimal and will contain allocations based on the last offer made by DFO before termination of negotiations.

The communal licences are a way of providing the opportunity for Aboriginal communities to fish for FSC purposes consistent with the priority afforded them, while integrating the management of Aboriginal fisheries with all other fisheries.



Members of the Gitksan First Nation record and measure food salmon before it goes out to the Community



Tagged grilse taken as part of the Eel Ground FSC fishery (photo courtesy of Stephen Ginnish, Fishery Manager, Eel Ground First Nation)



Tahltan smokehouse near Bear Creek, Stikine River. Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon make up the group's FSC fishery.

National Perspective

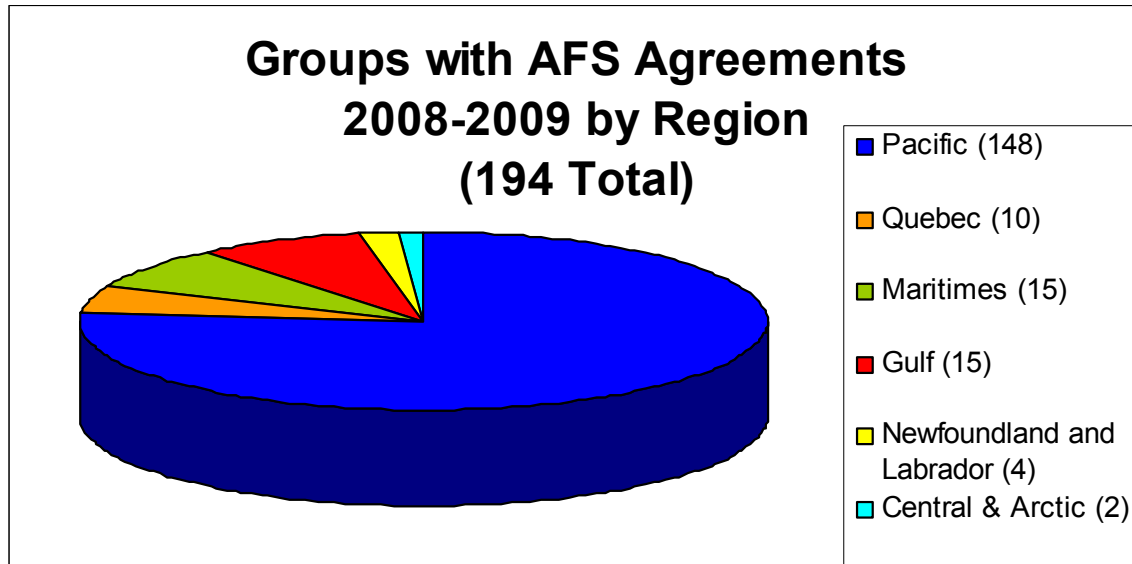
The AFS was funded at \$35,121,400 in 2008-2009. This included:

- a mandated amount of \$22,621,400 for co-management expenditures, including \$721,400 in Operations and Maintenance (O&M), and \$10,400,000 for the Allocation Transfer Program (ATP), including \$200,000 in O&M.
- \$2,100,000 was transferred to the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) Program at the beginning of the fiscal year to cover the portion of AFS activities now addressed in some AAROM Agreements.
- \$320,000 from the co-management mandate was transferred to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) for implementation of the Nisga'a Treaty and \$230,000 was transferred to INAC for implementation of the Labrador Inuit Association Treaty.

- \$55,000 in O&M was provided by Gulf Region to offset \$55,000 in Grants and Contribution (G&C) provided out of Headquarters (HQ) contingency funds for two additional Contribution Agreements with Esgenooetitj.
- \$78,962 was moved permanently from HQ to Pacific Region to cover a shortfall for the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council's AFS Agreement.
- \$348,030 was moved from AFS to AAROM and \$433,080 was returned from AAROM to AFS.
- \$328,540 was returned to the Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI) as partial repayment of funds provided to AFS from this Program in 2007-2008.
- \$550,000 was returned to the Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program (AIHP) as the final payment for funds provided in 2006-2007.
- \$423,500 in O&M was returned to Central Accounts as surplus to needs.
- \$90,000 in G&C was returned from Central Accounts as partial compensation.
- All of this resulted in a final AFS budget of \$31,337,610.
- There was some movement between co-management and ATP funding throughout the year resulting in final expenditures of \$21,175,802 in co-management G&C and \$9,585,018 in ATP.
- \$552,900 was spent in O&M.
- \$2,520 in O&M and \$21,370 in ATP G&C was unspent at year end.

194 AFS Agreements and Amendments were signed with 231 Aboriginal groups in British Columbia (BC), Yukon, Québec, Northwest Territories and Atlantic Canada. Some of these First Nations are funded under an Agreement with an Umbrella Group such as a Tribal Council, Watershed Authority or Native Council.

Groups with AFS Agreements



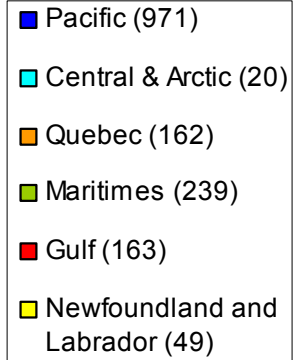
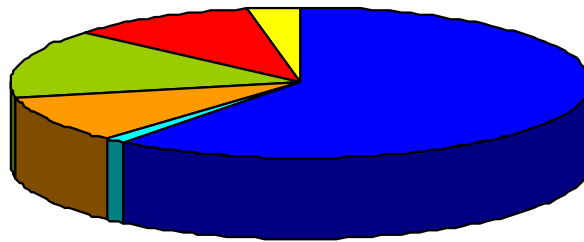
These AFS Agreements have resulted in the creation of 1,604 seasonal jobs in areas such as processing, monitoring and enhancement activities. 148 of those employed through the AFS are Aboriginal guardians, trained by DFO and employed by the Aboriginal group. The remaining 1,456 jobs were created nationally in the fisheries management field (habitat restoration, stock assessment, fisheries enhancement, etc.), and in the areas of consultation and economic development.

Employment Under the AFS – 2008-2009

| Region | Guardians | Others | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Pacific | 15 | 956 | 971 |
| Central & Arctic | 0 | 20 | 20 |
| Québec | 28 | 134 | 162 |
| Maritimes | 36 | 203 | 239 |
| Gulf | 40 | 123 | 163 |
| Newfoundland And Labrador | 29 | 20 | 49 |
| Total | 148 | 1456 | 1604 |

Aboriginal Employment by Region AFS 2008-2009

Total Employed - 1604



Expenditures by Region 2008-2009

| Region | Co-Mgmt G&C | Co-Mgmt O&M | ATP | Total Expenditures |
|--|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>PACIFIC</i> | \$13,808,802 | \$0 | \$5,124,500 | \$18,933,302 |
| <i>CENTRAL & ARCTIC</i> | \$150,000 | \$550,400 | \$0 | \$700,400 |
| <i>QUÉBEC</i> | \$992,770 | \$0 | \$3,140,518 | \$4,133,288 |
| <i>MARITIMES</i> | \$2,381,080 | \$0 | \$150,000 | \$2,531,080 |
| <i>GULF</i> | \$3,075,650 | \$0 | \$245,000 | \$3,320,650 |
| <i>NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR</i> | \$767,500 | \$0 | \$925,000 | \$1,692,500 |
| <i>HEADQUARTERS AFS</i> | \$0 | \$2,500 | \$0 | \$2,500 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | \$21,175,802 | \$552,900 | \$9,585,018 | \$31,313,720 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | \$31,337,610 | | Unspent | \$23,890 |

Allocation Transfer Program (ATP)

Background

In 1994 the AFS was amended to include the ATP. The ATP supports Aboriginal groups in achieving self-sufficiency through participation in commercial fisheries. The ATP facilitates the voluntary retirement of commercial licences and the issuance of new licences to eligible Aboriginal organizations in a manner that does not add to the existing effort on the resource. As a result of changes in 1998, funding may also be provided to purchase equipment, such as vessels and/or gear necessary for Aboriginal groups to fish these licences. Eligibility is restricted to Aboriginal organizations that have fisheries agreements with DFO under the AFS. It is a means to stimulate Aboriginal economic development opportunities and develop fisheries expertise in Aboriginal communities.

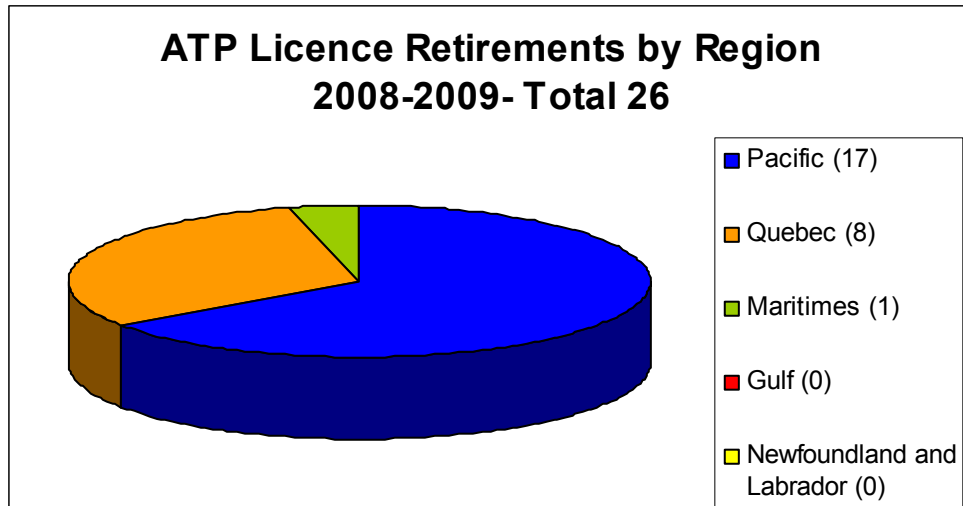


The 99' "Atlantic Optimist", an offshore fishing vessel purchased in the 2008-2009 fiscal year by the Innu Nation of Labrador with ATP funding.

National ATP Budget

As noted above, the ATP was funded at \$9,585,018 in 2008-2009.

26 licences were retired and the Department purchased or contributed towards four vessels. In addition various quotas, equipment and gear were retired nationally.



Pacific Region

The core budget for 2008-2009 in Pacific Region was \$19,885,960, which included \$13,885,962 for co-management and \$5,900,000 for the ATP. This includes \$100,000 in co-management O&M and \$200,000 in ATP O&M, and a permanent top-up of \$78,962 in G&C provided from HQ. \$550,000 was returned as the final payment to the AIHP for funds advanced in 2006-2007. The \$300,000 in O&M was returned to Central Accounts as surplus to needs. This resulted in a revised total Regional budget of \$18,933,302. \$13,808,802 was spent on Agreements with Aboriginal Groups, and \$5,124,500 was spent to retire licences. \$21,370 in ATP G&C funds was unspent at year end.

Number of Agreements

The following Agreements were negotiated in 2008-2009:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Comprehensive Fisheries Agreements/Project funding Agreements | 55 |
| Amendments to Agreements | 43 |
| Commercial communal fisheries access sub-Agreement | 1 |
| Commercial communal fisheries access sub-Agreement Amendment | 1 |
| Fisheries Agreements | 2 |
| Framework Agreement | 1 |
| Project Funding Agreements | 32 |
| Amendments to Project Funding Agreements | 17 |
| Total Agreements | 152 |

Employment

In 2008-2009 approximately 15 Aboriginal Fisheries Guardians were employed seasonally. Another 956 people were employed seasonally in other projects funded through the agreements. Please note that this information is based on final reports received for 2008-2009, or on preliminary projected estimates provided by the group at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Commercial Access

17 commercial licences were retired in 2008-2009 under the ATP in Pacific Region, as well as some quota, vessels and gear. Six licences have been allocated to First Nations and the remaining licences will be allocated under future AFS Agreements.

The following licences, quotas and vessels were acquired under the ATP in 2008-2009:

| Licence | Value |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Salmon seine Area A * | \$299,000 |
| Salmon seine Area B * | \$299,000 |
| Salmon gillnet Area C | \$65,000 |
| Salmon gillnet Area C | \$50,000 |
| Salmon gillnet Area D | \$65,000 |
| Salmon gillnet Area d | \$60,000 |
| Herring gillnet | \$43,500 |
| Prawn trap | \$519,000 |
| Prawn trap | \$515,700 |
| Crab Trap Area G ** | \$400,000 |
| Prawn trap ** | \$350,000 |
| Rockfish hook and line (outside) | \$135,000 |
| Rockfish hook and line (outside) | \$132,660 |
| Rockfish hook and line (outside) | \$140,000 |
| Herring gillnet | \$35,000 |
| Halibut with 28,367 lb quota | \$1,104,345 |
| Halibut with 23,408 lb quota | \$911,295 |
| Total | \$5,124,500 |

**bought as package for \$598,000*

*** brought as package for \$750,000*

Key Projects

Tahltan Fisheries Program (TFP): 2008-2009 Overview and Accomplishments



Johnny Sembsmoen, former TFP technician (now DFO) deploying a zooplankton net at Tahltan Lake, BC. Photo: DFO Yukon and Transboundary Rivers



Peter Etherton, DFO

Situated in a remote region of Northern BC the Tahltan, Iskut and Dease River First Nations people together make up the Tahltan Tribal Council (TTC). The Tahltan people harvest chinook, sockeye and coho salmon along the Stikine River, with most of the fishing activity occurring at an ancient fishing site at the confluence of the Stikine and Tahltan Rivers near the town of Telegraph Creek, BC.

The TTC have enjoyed a productive and respectful working relationship with DFO since the late 1970's. TTC involvement in DFO stock assessment programs dates back to that time, and through various programs and funding mechanisms, local hire and engagement in management processes has steadily risen. The introduction of the AFS in 1992 served to strengthen TTC's participation in fisheries management processes while providing for community based stock assessment projects, catch monitoring, and community education and outreach. The AFS program has enabled the creation of TFP and has provided the stable platform from which to build the technical and managerial capacity to expand into other fisheries management and stock assessment projects within the Stikine River Drainage.



Kerry Carlick, TFP technician, motoring up the Stikine in flooding conditions, Lower Stikine sampling project 2008. Photo: Peter Etherton, DFO

For example, TFP technicians play a key role in cooperatively delivering stock assessment programs on the mainstem Stikine, at Tahltan Lake and Little Tahltan River through a contractual arrangement with the Iskut First Nation. In 2008-2009, TFP provided technical assistance to coho and chinook coded wire tagging programs, a chinook mark-recapture program, smolt and adult enumeration at Tahltan Lake, adult enumeration at Little Tahltan, Lower Stikine commercial test fishery and sampling program, and worked cooperatively with the Taku River Tlingit on a DNA collection weir on the Taku River drainage.



Andy Carlick, DFO technician and TFP technician at Great Glacier Salmon, Stikine River. Photos: Peter Etherton, DFO



The TFP technical team is also contracted to carry out a large scale egg-take program (3.16 million eggs in 2008-2009) at Tahltan Lake through a project supported under the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). Numerous projects under the Northern Fund of the PST treaty have also been successfully delivered by the TFP.



*Sockeye salmon being prepared for egg take, Tahltan Lake 2008. Reg Dennis of TFP and Shawna Hartman of Triton Environmental.
Photo Ron Josephson, ADF&G*



Cheri Frocklage, Tahltan Fisheries Program Manager, prepares fertilized eggs for shipment to Port Snettisham hatchery, Tahltan Lake 2008.

Photo Ron Jacobsen, ADF&G

Tahltan Fisheries has also worked to provide technical assistance to numerous environmental assessment review processes, and has participated in field studies associated with impact assessment of fish and fish habitat associated with the mining sector.

In 2008-2009 the AFS program provided for two full time manager / coordinator positions, part-time administrative positions and five seasonal technical positions. Additional contracts and programs levered by the TFP were valued at close to \$500,000 and created roughly 45 person months of additional employment.



Aside from six person months of employment created for Tahltan Nation citizens, an additional 12 bear months of employment were created at the Little Tahltan weir project!. Photo: Bill Waugh, DFO.

Central and Arctic Region

In 2008-2009 the Central and Arctic Region had an annual AFS budget of \$350,400 in O&M and \$150,000 in co-management G&C funding. The Region received a top-up in O&M from Québec Region of \$200,000, resulting in an overall budget for this region of \$700,400.

Most of the AFS budget (\$306,414) was spent on Aboriginal fishery community projects and an additional \$243,986 was spent on consultations with First Nations including the funding of the Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee (GSLAC). In addition, \$150,000 was allotted to two Aboriginal organizations, the Dehcho First Nations and the Akaitcho Territorial Government, through Contribution Agreements.

Aboriginal Fishery Strategy Project Workplan – 2008-2009

| Group | Project | Date | Budget |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Hay River Métis Council | AFS Coordinator | May 5, 2008 – Aug. 29, 2008 | \$34,000.00 |
| Hay River Métis Council | AFS Coordinator | Sept. 15, 2008 – Mar. 27, 2009 | \$22,000.00 |
| Hay River Métis Council | Summer Fishery Worker | May 21, 2008 – Aug. 22, 2008 | \$14,000.00 |
| Katlocheeche First Nation | Summer Fishery Workers | May 22, 2008 – Aug. 22, 2008 | \$43,000.00 |
| Deninu Kue First Nation | Community Angler Surveyor | July 15, 2008 – Sept. 5, 2008 | \$13,200.00 |
| Deninu Kue First Nation | Summer Fishery Worker | May 15, 2008 – Sept. 7, 2008 | \$17,500.00 |
| Lutsel K'e First Nation | East Arm Recreational Fishery Monitoring Patrol | June 26, 2008 – Sept. 2, 2008 | \$33,000.00 |
| Lutsel K'e First Nation | Subsistence Harvest Survey | May 26, 2008 – March 23, 2009 | \$35,000.00 |
| Sambaa K'e Dene Band | Angler and Community Harvester Surveys | June 9, 2008 – Aug. 29, 2008 | \$30,964.00 |
| Fort Providence First Nation | Community Harvest/Angler Surveyor | June 4, 2008 – Sept. 1, 2008 | \$19,500.00 |
| Yellowknives Dene First Nation | Creel Survey – Yellowknife River | Sept 25, 2008 – October 29, 2008 | \$13,200.00 |
| Salt River First Nation | Tsu Lake Youth Camp | | \$13,200.00 |

| Individual | Project | Date | Budget |
|----------------|--|------|---------------------|
| Shawn Buckley | Field Assistance, Buffalo River Project | | \$1,250.00 |
| Shawn Buckley | Biological Sample Supplements – Purchase of Fish | | \$3,300.00 |
| Shawn Buckley | Biological Sample Supplements – Purchase of Fish | | \$4,000.00 |
| Bruce Townsend | Inconnu Project Wrap-up | | \$9,500.00 |
| Total | | | \$306,414.00 |

| Contracts | Budget |
|---|---------------------|
| AFS AAROM Workshop | \$30,000.00 |
| Community Boat Garages | \$20,000.00 |
| Community Attendance at Water Conference | \$30,000.00 |
| Community-based Monitoring Equipment | \$109,375.00 |
| Transport Canada MED Courses | \$6,475.00 |
| Consultations/Co-Management (Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee) | \$17,635.00 |
| Program Support (Admin., travel, contract support, etc.) | \$30,501.00 |
| Total | \$243,986.00 |
| Grand Total | \$550,400.00 |

Project Descriptions

The projects funded by the AFS in the Northwest Territories (NWT) for the fiscal year 2008-2009 have given eight Aboriginal organizations in eight communities, the ability to increase their involvement in the management of the resource. The partnership of the AAROM program with the AFS has been beneficial to fisheries management by promoting co- management between Aboriginal organizations and government agencies. In addition, this has helped to facilitate capacity-building within the Aboriginal organizations for future management of their resources.

Co-management fishery projects in 2008-2009 involved

- Capacity-building within the various Aboriginal organizations in the area.
- Assessing fish stocks, important to Aboriginal people, through itinerant angler creel surveys, community harvest surveys, sampling for age and growth data and measuring catch per unit effort.
- Conducting community surveys to gather harvest information and traditional knowledge of stocks and fishing patterns.
- Involving the Aboriginal community in finding solutions to fishery management problems.
- The promotion of and involvement in Science/Culture based youth camps and conservation education based projects which raise awareness and educate users on fisheries management practices.

Specifics – 2008-2009**Deh Gah Go'tie Dene Band, Fort Providence**

Digaa Enterprises Ltd. was contracted to hire a harvest surveyor who collected harvest statistics for the Fort Providence Aboriginal food fishery which occurs on the Mackenzie and Horn Rivers. This survey has now provided many years of harvest data to the community. The surveyor also conducted the Itinerant Angler Survey, which included collecting and recording catch information from anglers at the winter road crossing sites on the Mackenzie River and also from the sport anglers and Aboriginal harvesters at Horn River.

Deninu Kue First Nation, Fort Resolution

The Band was contracted to hire a community member to conduct the Little Buffalo River Angler Survey which was designed to collect information on the recreational fishery in response to concerns about declines in walleye and pike stocks. Another contract was awarded to the Deninu Kue First Nation to hire two band members to collect information on the recreational fishery in the East Arm of Great Slave Lake (GSL).

Lutsel K'e Dene Band, Lutsel K' e

The Lutsel K'e First Nation once again contracted to provide two workers to patrol the East Arm of GSL and collect information from recreational anglers. The First Nation was also contracted to hire a person to complete another year of an Aboriginal food fishery survey which provides harvest statistics useful in the management and allocation of fishery resources.

Sambaa K' e Dene Band, Trout Lake

The Band was contracted to monitor the recreational and subsistence fishery at Trout Lake by surveying and recording catch information from itinerant anglers and lodge guests and local user groups. The Band was also able to hire helpers for the lake trout stock assessment program conducted at this water body.

Katlodeeche First Nation, Hay River Reserve

The Band was contracted to provide one fisherman and fishing boat for the setting and lifting of scientific gillnets in the Hay River Domestic Area. This is the final portion of a three year joint project between the West Point First Nation, Hay River Métis Government and Katlodeeche First Nation to gather baseline information on the domestic area. The project was funded in partnership through the AFS and the AAROM programs.

Hay River Métis Council, Hay River*AFS Coordinator/Technician*

The coordination of the AFS program is facilitated by an Aboriginal graduate of a Renewable Resources Technology Program who is contracted through the Hay River Métis Council in Hay River. This person is responsible for overseeing the AFS programs with the various Aboriginal groups. The Coordinator trains and monitors seasonal workers and ensures that data is being collected according to current fisheries management protocol and is recorded in a clear and concise manner. The Coordinator also manages the organization and computer analysis of data collected from the various community studies and prepares reports and presentations for the various Aboriginal organizations/communities. The Coordinator also assists with the collection of whitefish and walleye biological data and aging structure samples from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation plant in Hay River.

Summer Fishery Worker

The Band was contracted to provide one fisher to assist in the setting and lifting of scientific gillnets in the Hay River Domestic Area. This is the final segment of a three year joint project between the West Point First Nation, Hay River Métis Government and Katlodeeche First Nation to gather baseline information on the Hay River Domestic area of GSL. The project was funded in partnership through the AFS and the AAROM programs. In addition, the fishery workers also assisted with the spring Buffalo River index netting project.

Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee (GSLAC)

The fish resources of GSL are shared by Aboriginal, commercial and recreational fisheries. At least six Aboriginal communities utilise GSL fish stocks for sustenance and over 90% of the participants in the GSL commercial fishery are of Aboriginal origin, although many may not be beneficiaries of claims presently being negotiated in the NWT.

The GSLAC makes recommendations to DFO on the health and maintenance of fish stocks and the management of the fisheries of GSL. Voting members represent the Dene and Métis First Nations who use the lake along with the commercial and sports fishing industries. Non-voting members represent DFO, the Government of the NWT and the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Meetings are held twice a year during the spring and fall.

Salt River First Nation - Tsu Lake Youth Camp

The Salt River First Nation was contracted to design, prepare and deliver a program involving the science and cultural aspects of natural resource management methods of conservation to the youth of Fort Smith at a camp located at Tsu Lake.

Yellowknives Dene First Nation

To address concerns over the harvest and conservation of the cisco stocks at the Tartan River Rapids of the Yellowknife River, a contract was given to the First Nation to hire two band members to conduct the collection of harvest information relating to the dip-net cisco fishery at the Rapids.

AFS / AAROM workshop

The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- review the work of AFS to-date and share results from work done in different communities across the north;
- learn how AFS is being utilized and implemented in other regions;
- assess whether we are meeting the objectives of the AFS program and the community needs;
- learn about capacity building and partnering potential of AFS and AAROM;
- hear about changes being made to the program at a regional level; and
- set goals for the AFS program in the NWT.

Key Project***Great Slave Lake Inconnu Con Ed Program Wrap-up***

Multiple projects developed in previous years, and known collectively as the Great Slave Lake Inconnu Conservation Education Program were concluded during this fiscal period. The objective of the project is to raise awareness and educate people of all ages on the state and importance on the Great Slave Lake inconnu population.

The first part of the project entailed enlisting a professional photographer / diver to record, (using audio and visual equipment) interviews with local hunters, fisherman, elders, and technical experts on the history and management of the Great Slave Lake inconnu. These interviews took place at several traditional fishing locations in the area including Slave River, Buffalo Lake and the Yates River. Interviews included past knowledge of where the inconnu were at certain times of the year, their abundance, how they were used, how they were prepared and how they were managed traditionally. Video footage was also taken of scientific sampling methods, commercial fishing techniques, various preparation methods and some underwater footage of fish habitat. All of this material was presented to DFO and the Akaitcho Territorial Government for archiving and future use as educational material. Funds in 2008-2009 were utilized to collate and edit all of the material and footage for this project and process it for distribution.

Québec Region

In 2008-2009, the Québec Region had an annual budget of \$3,240,000 for the AFS Program, of which \$200,000 was O&M. This \$200,000 in O&M was transferred to Central and Arctic Region as it was surplus to Québec's needs this year. A top-up in co-management G&C funds of \$102,770 was provided from HQ contingency funding. An additional \$990,518 in ATP funding was provided later in the year from HQ. All of this resulted in a final Regional budget of \$4,133,288. Of this amount, \$992,770 was spent on co-management arrangements, while \$3,140,518 was devoted to the retirement of fishing enterprises under the ATP.

Southern Québec

Fisheries Agreements

In 2008-2009, seven Innu groups and amalgamations of groups signed six AFS agreements. Two communities, Ekuanishit and Pakua Shipu, signed a joint agreement.

This year, a portion of the available funding was allocated to the recruitment of fisheries coordinators, theoretical and practical training (for a professional fishery diploma), and, in large part, to the ATP for the purchase of fishing enterprises. Six communities hired a consultant to help them consolidate and/or restructure their fishing enterprises.

Marshall Bands

The four Micmac and Malecite communities of the Gaspé Peninsula in Québec Region receive AFS funding for co-management only. The community of Listuguj receives a higher level of funding given its involvement in the management of the Restigouche River. It is important to note that this river is managed jointly by Québec Region and Gulf Region.

Northern Québec

The Kativik Regional Government which represents 14 Northern Villages now receives all of its funding under the AAROM Program.

Training of Innu fishers

The Innu training program continues to be in effect. The program consists of 1,400 hours of training spread over several years, and provides young people and others with fishing training that is recognized by the Québec Education Department. A range of courses is available to meet varying interests, including marine mechanics, general deck work, master's certification and fisheries management and planning. Those students who complete the program will receive a Professional Fishery Studies diploma. In 2008-2009, 179 Aboriginal people received a total of 420 hours of training as follows:

| Program | Number of course hours | Number of Participants |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| Marine Emergency Duties #1 | 20 hours | 12 |
| Marine Emergency Duties #1 | 6 hours | 11 |
| Marine First Aid –Rescue (2 groups) | 36 hours | 14 |
| Marine Advanced First Aid | 16 hours | 10 |
| Restricted Operator Certificate – Maritime Commercial (3 groups) | 72 hours | 51 |
| Fish net repair #1(2 groups) | 90 hours | 15 |
| Fish net repair #2(2 groups) | 60 hours | 18 |
| Handling fish onboard | 30 hours | 12 |
| Welding | 60 hours | 18 |
| Winter storage and preparation of boat | 30 hours | 18 |
| Total | 420 hours | 179 |

Training was given at a Uashat school in Sept-Îles. The training costs are covered by DFO, and the training is delivered by the Community Salmon Program in Grande-Rivière and Sept-Îles. Agence Mamu Innu Kaikusseht is responsible for the organization of the training.

Among the tangible benefits to Communities are improved efficiency and the integration of the Innu into commercial fisheries. In 2009, about 100 Innu worked in commercial fisheries as captains and/or fishermen on 24 boats owned by the communities. About 50% of fishing crews are composed of Innu.

Employment

In 2008-2009, 134 people were employed in Innu communities in the fisheries, in fisheries-related work, harvesting or administrative work. 28 Aboriginal Guardians were also employed. This does not include the many indirect jobs that were created on the North Shore through the AFS. For example, over 80 Innu are employed in a processing plant in Sept-Îles that is owned by three Innu communities (Essipit, Uashat and Betsiamites).

Commercial Access

Under the ATP in 2008-2009, Québec Region acquired or participated financially in the acquisition of the following fishing enterprises:

| Community | Gear | Acquisition Licences | Acquisition Vessels | Total cost of the Enterprise |
|------------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Betsiamites | | \$1,200,000 – snow crab licence | | \$1,200,000 |
| Essipit | | | \$216,000 | \$216,000 |
| Uashat | | \$277,918 | | \$277,918 |
| Pêcheries Shipek | \$16,600 | | \$40,000 | \$56,600 |
| Natashquan | | \$1,135,000 – snow crab, herring, groundfish and bait licences | | \$1,135,000 |
| La Romaine | | \$255,000 – 3 lobster licences | | \$255,000 |
| Total | \$16,600 | \$2,867,918 | \$256,000 | \$3,140,518 |

Key Projects

Umek Crab Processing Plant

In Québec Region, AFS principally provides benefits to Innu communities on the North Shore and fisheries rangers in the Gaspé Peninsula. On the North Shore, the program has contributed to a significant integration of Umek Aboriginal fishers into the local industry. Since implementation on the North Shore in 2001, Innu representation within the industry has risen steadily and the number of Innu fishers within crews has reached approximately 50% and some captain the vessels. Moreover, communities are employing fisheries revenues to create additional jobs through vertical integration within the industry.

A great example of this integration and of the leveraging of fishing revenues into projects that create more jobs or revenues for communities is the Umek processing plant in Sept-Îles. Umek, which is Innu for seafood products, is the result of a 2005 partnership forged between three North-shore communities and two existing enterprises, one specializing in seafood processing and another specializing in seafood distribution. The Umek processing plant employs up to 80 persons seasonally, of which approximately half are Aboriginal, and exports its products to the US and Asia.

Each year, many Innu fishers receive hundreds of hours of training (eight weeks) from an accredited fishing school to become deck hands. North Shore communities have crews that are majority Aboriginal and are, like the *Marshall* bands in Gaspésie, active members of consultative and other industry committees and even co-chair the consultative committee for a significant crab fishery.



Umek Crab processing plant that is owned and operated in an Aboriginal non-Aboriginal partnership

Maritimes Region

The initial operating budget under the AFS for Maritimes Region for 2008-2009 was \$2,421,500. A top-up of \$109,580 in co-management funds was provided from HQ contingency funds. This resulted in a final budget for this Region of \$2,531,080. \$150,000 was spent on ATP for the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) and the remaining \$2,381,080 was spent on Contribution Agreements with Aboriginal groups.

Number of Agreements and Employment

In 2008-2009, AFS Agreements were signed with the NCNS and with 14 First Nations in Maritimes region. The Shubenacadie (Indian Brook) First Nation signed a Contribution Agreement for the first time in many years. Under these 15 Agreements, 36 Aboriginal Fishery Guardians were employed for a total of 180 months, and approximately 203 Aboriginal workers were employed for a total of 852 months in other projects.

Commercial Access

The ATP mandate for Maritimes Region for 2008-2009 was \$150,000. The entire amount was spent on the NCNS as follows:

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| LFA 33 Lobster licence | \$75,000 |
| Material to construct 300 wire lobster traps | \$31,530 |
| Material to construct 1000 wooden lobster traps | \$39,965 |
| New groundfish longline gear | \$11,547.07 |
| Total | \$158,042.07* |

**\$8,042.07 provided by the NCNS*

Key Projects

Annapolis Valley First Nation - Marine Connection Ignited for Youth

During the summer of 2008, the Fisheries Coordinator at Annapolis Valley First Nation planned and participated in some informative workshops and field trips for the youth and community members.

The year started with a celebration of Oceans Day on the shore of the Upper Bay of Fundy. "I find this is one of the most rewarding trips we take", said Holly MacDonald, Fisheries Coordinator. The Community Day Care took part and the kids were full of questions and very enthusiastic. They have a good understanding of the tides, some of the species found in the Upper Bay of Fundy and the rocks found along the shore. This has truly become a day that the community members, especially the younger kids and the elders look forward to in the future years.

During the month of July, three community day trips were held. The first one was a trip to Blue Beach where the children learned about fossils in the small Interpretive Center and on the beach. The next trip was to Indian Falls which included youth, day care children, many adults, elders and other children. One of the elders, Allan Toney, brought gear with him and showed the youth how to throw out the net and haul it in. Allan loved all the kids. Sadly, he passed away in early October. The last trip was the turtle release at Kejimikujik National Park which was also opened to all community members. The staff at Kejimikujik gave a very informative session and encouraged questions and participation. "We all have a greater understanding of the importance in protecting habitat so that the different species survive" was one of the comments from the participants.

Annapolis Valley First Nation hosted a Career Fair on March 31, 2009, where many government and industry representatives attended. Two hundred high school students and teachers and community members came in and talked with the representatives. All who attended came from the Fair with some valuable information. The Principal and teachers from Central Kings Rural High School commented that this was the most informative Career Fair they had ever attended and made comments on the wealth of information the students had received. Annapolis Valley First Nation plan to host another Career Fair in the future.

Gulf Region

Gulf Region AFS had an initial operating budget for 2008-2009 of \$3,190,650. A top-up of \$45,000 in ATP funding was provided from HQ contingency funds. A top-up of \$85,000 in co-management G&C funds was provided from HQ contingency funds. In exchange for some of this additional funding, Gulf Region provided \$55,000 of O&M funding from their regional operating budget to HQ. This resulted in a revised overall AFS budget of \$3,320,650. \$245,000 was spent on the two Councils under the ATP and \$3,075,650 was spent on co-management Agreements with the two councils and the other 12 First Nations.

\$255,000 was provided to the Native Council of Prince Edward Island (NCPEI) of which \$180,000 was spent on co-management projects and \$75,000 was spent on commercial access for this group.

\$305,300 was provided to the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council (NBAPC) of which \$135,300 was spent on co-management projects and \$170,000 was spent on commercial access for this group.

The remaining \$2,760,350 was spent on co-management Agreements with 13 First Nations.

Number of Agreements and Employment

In 2008-2009, AFS Agreements were signed with the NCPEI and the NBAPC, and 15 Agreements were signed with the 13 First Nations in Gulf Region. Under these 17 Agreements, 40 Aboriginal Fishery Guardians were employed seasonally and approximately 123 others were employed, also seasonally, in various other projects.

Commercial Access

New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Upgrade and maintenance of vessels | \$44,594.08 |
| Gear equipment and supplies | \$125,405.92 |
| Total | \$170,000.00 |

Native Council of Prince Edward Island

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Trap materials | \$13,897.34 |
| Vessel upgrades: <i>Kwimu</i> | \$21,454.77 |
| Purchase of used vessel | \$21,000.00 |
| 600 commercial lobster tags with VRN numbers | \$2,321.55 |
| rope, twine, buoys, washers and epoxy paint | \$3,426.34 |
| 2 new fuel tanks and wash board for the <i>Wind Song VI</i> | \$12,900.00 |
| Total | \$75,000.00 |

ATP Grand Total: \$245,000

Key Projects

Abegweit First Nation Project Habitat Enhancement at Hillsborough River

The Abegweit First Nation undertook a habitat enhancement project at the head of the Hillsborough River in the summer of 2008. The Project has wound down now, but the crew is already looking forward to continuing improvements started within the first few kilometers of the stream.

The head of the Hillsborough River once supported a healthy population of Atlantic salmon. Research has shown a significant decline in salmon-producing rivers on PEI. There were 33 rivers supporting Atlantic salmon according to a survey conducted in 2003 and now only 22 have salmon returning to spawn. The idea of improving the habitat to bring salmon back to this once important spawning area became the focus of the project. A stream assessment was done and work was started to address the issues of siltation, poor water flow as a result of sediment build-up, water depth issues and beaver dams blocking water flow.

Carter Russell, Area Aboriginal Program Coordinator, explained that the AFS provides many options for Aboriginal fisheries management, and this project evolved to include science and habitat restoration. "It's refreshing when we engage Aboriginal groups in the science aspect of fisheries management. They took the initiative here." noted Mr. Russell.

Oceans and Habitat Division at DFO in Charlottetown also assisted in an advisory capacity and DFO partnered with the Abegweit First Nation to fund this project. Randy Angus, Director of Integrated Resource Management for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy, and Roger Sark, Fisheries Director for the Abegweit First Nation, worked in conjunction with Mr. Russell on this project. They were pleased to do their part to address the tremendous need for stream restoration work on PEI. The work crew was made up of members of the Abegweit First Nation in Scotchfort.

An important part of the preliminary work was meeting with landowners of property bordering the stream. Everyone was cooperative in following the laws and programs in place to address the environmental concerns.

Work on the stream included recreating the shape of the stream bank using various techniques to improve the water flow, clearing out debris, installing silt traps, digger logs and shade cover. Rock cribbing was installed in ditches to prevent silt from flowing into the streams, and beaver dams were removed.

Mr. Sark said this is a long-term commitment by the Abegweit First Nation and, with a trained crew, he hopes to see even more progress in the future.



Clearing debris and installing digger logs to improve the flow of the stream



*Abegweit crew members of the Hillsborough River
stream enhancement project*

Newfoundland and Labrador Region

Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) Region had a total initial AFS mandate for 2008-2009 of \$1,565,000, comprised of \$665,000 in co-management and \$900,000 in ATP funds. During the year they received a top-up from HQ of \$77,500 in co-management funding and \$50,000 in ATP funds. \$25,000 in ATP funds was converted to co-management. All of this resulted in a revised mandate of \$1,692,500. \$767,500 was spent on co-management and \$925,000 on ATP expenditures.

Through the AFS and the ATP, DFO continued to provide funding to Aboriginal Groups located within the NL Region during fiscal year 2008-2009. The Region was successful in negotiating Fisheries Agreements with four recipient Groups namely; the Miawpukek First Nation (MFN), the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI), the Labrador Métis Nation (LMN) and the Innu Nation.

AFS and ATP funding was disbursed to these Groups as follows:

| Group | AFS Amount | ATP Amount |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| MFN | \$215,000 | \$0 |
| FNI | \$239,000 | \$0 |
| LMN | \$188,500 | \$0 |
| INNU | \$125,000 | \$925,000 |
| Total | \$767,500 | \$925,000 |

All Groups primarily utilize their AFS funding to cover costs associated with conducting their Fisheries Guardian Programs. During 2008-2009, the MFN as in previous years continued to apply \$50,000 of their contribution against costs associated with the Conne River Enhancement Project and the LMN applied approximately \$25,000 of their contribution against costs associated with a monitoring and sampling program.

Guardian Training

Continuing to honour a commitment to fisheries development, guided by co-management principles, eight Aboriginal Guardians attended a two week training program at the Canadian Coast Guard Sydney campus in February 2009. The National Aboriginal Guardian Working Group will continue to scope out future training plans in cooperation with Aboriginal Organizations

Employment

A total of 29 Fisheries Guardians were employed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. 20 others were employed in various areas of fisheries management such as technicians, coordinators and administrators.

Commercial Access

ATP funding was spent as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| Innu Nation an | Purchase of 99 foot Atlantic Optimist, offshore fishing vessel. | \$925,000 |
|-------------------|--|-----------|

Key Projects

Recreational Fisheries Award for Conne River (Miawpukek) First Nation

The Council of Conne River Micmacs, of Newfoundland and Labrador, have a long history of promoting conservation as a top priority. Runs of salmon have drastically declined and in response the Band has developed enhancement strategies to reverse this decline. AFS funding helps the Band implement a comprehensive Atlantic Salmon Enhancement Project for Conne River. Band employees and DFO staff work collaboratively on the river and conduct a wide range of activities from electro fishing to repair and maintenance of a counting fence. The combination of Band resources with DFO staff provides valuable scientific information that is very important for the protection, preservation and growth of the river's salmon population. The Band's goal is to achieve an increase in the river's productivity and salmon population. One proposed conservation measure for example, that was put forward by the Band was to voluntarily cut back it's quota which clearly demonstrates a strong commitment to conservation.

In May, the Council of Conne River was awarded a National Recreational Fishery Award. It was recognized that through their continuing efforts and actions in river enhancement, the Conne River Micmacs have served as an example not only for the province, but for other Canadian jurisdictions in how Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal constituencies can jointly work on behalf of sound and sustainable fisheries management. They have also been instrumental in working to protect and, where necessary, restore a major Atlantic salmon river and nearby streams in the province. Through their recognized leadership and initiative, they have been able to build cultural, political and interpersonal bridges leading to significantly improved fisheries management for Atlantic salmon.

The Fishery Guardians' work directly contributes to the monitoring of the status of Atlantic salmon stock health, and is an integral part of the "protection" and effective fisheries management success noted above.



Ross Hinks, Conne River Fisheries Coordinator, accompanied by Rose Marie Karnes of DFO, holds the National Recreational Fishery Award presented to Chief Misel Joe

Significant Issues for the 2008-2009 Season

Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

In June 2007, Minister Hearn announced a new Program that would support the Government's commitment to establish one fishery for BC by providing \$175 million over five years to support environmentally and economically sustainable Pacific commercial fisheries.

The Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) will establish enhanced catch monitoring and reporting, strengthen enforcement efforts and provide the basis for a new approach to trace fish from the time they are harvested in the commercial fishery until they are purchased by consumers. It will also allow the government to retire the licences and quota of fishers who want to leave the commercial fishery, and use these resources to facilitate greater participation in a wide range of commercial fisheries by First Nations throughout BC.

A key component of the Program is to increase the involvement of all fishers in the management of the fisheries, and to move toward clear harvest sharing arrangements for the salmon fishery. The long-term goal is for all participants in the commercial fishery to manage their respective shares cooperatively, in ways that ensure fairness, the conservation of the resource, the sustainability of the fishery and a stable economic return for all participants, while taking into account the need to provide access for First Nations fishing for FSC purposes, and the recreational harvesters.

The elements of the Program include:

- Enhanced Accountability Measures;
- Acquiring Commercial Fisheries Access;
- Capacity Building;
- Co-Management;
- Delivering Commercial Fisheries Access to First Nations; and
- Engagement Processes.

Enhanced Accountability Measures

The objectives of this element are to support enhanced fisheries monitoring, catch reporting and enforcement to be phased in over the next several years with a focus on the lower Fraser River salmon fisheries, and to support a collaborative approach with Industry, First Nations, BC, other federal departments and the recreational sector. A Traceability Steering Committee with representation from DFO, First Nations, Industry, BC and Canadian Food Inspection Agency has been established to develop a plan for seafood traceability programs. Successful implementation of these traceability programs will address marketplace demands with respect to food safety issues and certified sustainably harvested seafood products. The costs of catch monitoring and traceability will ultimately be borne by fishery participants.

Commercial Fisheries Access – Relinquishing Access

The objective of this element is to compile a broad range of access coast-wide through voluntary relinquishment by licence holders of existing commercial licences or quota in support of increased First Nation participation in the commercial fisheries. The process for relinquishing access must be strategic to maximize value for money by adopting a multi-species, multi-year, coast-wide approach. The access relinquishment process is designed and implemented in collaboration with First Nations and Industry representatives. Alignment of relinquishment under PICFI, the ATP and the AAROM Program is necessary to develop the best possible approach, to ensure coordination across programs, and to minimize administrative burdens and costs.

Commercial Fisheries Access – Delivering Access

The 2004 First Nation Panel Report *“Our Place at the Table”* and the 2007 First Nations Leadership Council *“Fisheries Action Plan”* identified First Nations’ strong interests in obtaining greater access to commercial fisheries. The Joint Task Group Report on Treaties and Transition also recommended an expansion of the effort to retire commercial licences in order to “transfer” capacity to First Nations.

This element of the Program will increase BC First Nations' participation in commercial fisheries coast-wide and will include in-river commercial access to salmon for inland First Nations. It will provide access to a diversity of species to support viable and sustainable First Nation fisheries enterprises. It will also provide greater certainty and stability around access for all commercial fisheries participants to support a more predictable business environment and encourage investment in the industry. Clear and transparent criteria, developed in collaboration with First Nations, and built on best practices, will guide the delivery of this element. A coordinated approach for delivering benefits from PICFI, ATP and AAROM will ensure optimum distribution, common reporting requirements and administrative efficiency for First Nations and DFO. The process for delivering access must also be coordinated with the relinquishment process.

Capacity Building

The objective of this element is to provide eligible First Nations with the tools necessary to support successful and sustainable community owned and operated commercial fisheries enterprises. Capacity Building recognizes that simply having access to economic opportunities does not guarantee long-term success, and that there are specific skills and governance practices and structures required. A demonstrated capacity to fish and to operate modern business systems will be key to maximizing the potential of commercial access provided through PICFI. Governance structures which provide for community members to participate in and benefit from commercial fishing activities are also a necessary.

There are two parts to this element. *Commercial Fisheries Enterprise Management* will provide support for First Nations to establish business management structures and practices to make effective business decisions, and *Fisheries Training* will assist eligible First Nations members to obtain the skills necessary to fish safely and effectively in various fisheries, including the skills required for vessel and equipment maintenance. The process of delivering training has been developed collaboratively with First Nations. Developing long-term strategic business plans, legal structures for commercial enterprises, designation processes, plans for distributing benefits and long term training plans are all initiatives that could be supported by PICFI. Other programs, such as AAROM, may also be used to implement this training. Other federal departments with capacity building programming are invited to support the implementation of this element.

Co-Management

This element recognizes that fisheries participants need a greater opportunity to provide their valuable contributions to policy development and resource management decisions. It also addresses the need to facilitate joint problem solving between First Nations and other fishery participants. A collaborative approach to management leads to mutually beneficial outcomes, greater harmony among fishery participants and more effective stewardship of the resource. PICFI supports co-management among First Nations as well as co-management among all fisheries participants. It is aimed at broad multi-lateral processes, including First Nations, the commercial sector, the recreational sector, the environmental community, other orders of government and the public in fisheries management decision-making. The principles include shared responsibility, accountability, inclusiveness and transparency. PICFI seeks to strengthen and link existing co-management processes (i.e. management boards, AAROM groups) in addition to supporting new mechanisms where gaps are identified.

Engagement Process

The objectives of this element were to develop, in collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders, the process for engagement and decision-making in order to move forward with the initiative. It is also necessary to raise awareness and understanding of the various elements of PICFI and encourage positive working relationships between First Nations, stakeholders and government. The principles guiding this element are collaboration, flexibility, transparency and inclusiveness. There will be continued opportunities for engagement on implementation, and review and refinement to the initiative throughout the life of the program.

When announcing PICFI, Minister Hearn stated: “It sets the stage for fully integrated commercial fisheries in B.C., so that all participants operate with similar rules – and for everyone to work cooperatively to achieve a fishery that holds conservation above all other priorities. It supports the long-term sustainability of British Columbia’s fisheries, which is ultimately the most fundamental building block for the future of this industry in B.C.

For additional information on this program, please visit these web sites:

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/picfi-ipcip/elements-eng.htm>

<http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/picfi-ipcip/information-eng.htm>

Following are some photos of the pink fish trap net trial at Siska, funded under PICFI.



Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

Overview

The Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI), announced in Budget 2007, is a \$55.10 million, five year initiative, created to support Mi'kmaq Maliseet First Nations (MMFNs) in building their capacity to manage successful commercial fishing enterprises, and participate in the co-management of the integrated commercial fishery along with other commercial harvesters.

In September of 1999, the Supreme Court of Canada released its decision in the *Marshall* case, affirming a treaty right to hunt, fish and gather in pursuit of a moderate livelihood. This right arose from Treaties signed with the British authorities in 1760-1761. The decision affects the 34 MMFNs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and the Gaspé region of Québec.

The immediate goals of the AICFI are to assist MMFNs to:

- enhance capacity in governance and management of commercial fishing enterprises;
- develop effective participation in sustainable, integrated commercial fisheries with a greater role in fisheries management; and
- help diversify existing fishing enterprises to support the full realization of their economic potential.

The long-term goal of AICFI is to continue to create positive conditions towards concluding longer-term INAC-led arrangements for MMFNs.

AICFI Description and Delivery

AICFI has been designed for implementation as four distinct yet integrated components:

1. MMFN Integrated Commercial Fisheries Government Enhancement.
2. MMFN Integrated Commercial Fisheries Management Practice Enhancement.
3. MMFN Integrated Fisheries Co-Management Capacity Building.
4. MMFN Integrated Commercial Fisheries Diversification.

All 34 MMFNs affected by *Marshall* are eligible for support under AICFI. Community participation is entirely voluntary starting with approval of the Chief and Council. Once an interest has been expressed in a letter from the Chief and Council to DFO, the process begins with the production of a Commercial Fisheries Enterprise Business Development Plan. This is followed by implementation of the plan, together with aggregate work on co-management, fisheries business management, and training. Diversification / development activities, such as the upgrading of harvesting equipment, vessels and other needs, is based on progress and the results of planning and implementation work undertaken in the program.

The following is a description of the four AICFI Program components:

Component 1 Enterprise Governance Enhancement:

The objective of this component is to enhance the governance structures associated with MMFNs commercial fishing enterprises.

Component 2 Management Practice Enhancement:

The objective of this component is to enhance the management, administrative and operational processes and systems that are critical to the successful operation of MMFNs commercial fishing enterprises. In addition, this component includes enhancing the capacity of MMFNs Aggregate Body (AB) organizations, such as the Fisheries Knowledge Network, to assume a greater responsibility in providing ongoing training/mentoring and business support tools and systems to MMFNs commercial fishing enterprises and other Abs.

Component 3 Co-Management Capacity Building:

The objective of this component is to build the capacity of MMFNs to successfully participate in the co-management of the integrated commercial fishery. This would include providing some support to MMFN Band-level commercial fishing enterprises to undertake selected co-management projects. The focus, however, would be to support existing MMFN watershed-based ABs to become more involved in integrated commercial fisheries co-management activities.

Component 4 Commercial Fisheries Diversification:

The objective of this component is to diversify selected existing MMFN commercial fishing enterprises through access to a new “Commercial Fisheries Development Opportunities Source”. For example, this could include funds for fishing vessel upgrades, new equipment, major overhauls of vessel engines, improvements to on-shore fish handling facilities and small adjustments (increases) in access through the addition of partial/seasonal or even temporary allocations.

A negotiated Contribution Agreement between the MMFN and DFO would be the means of delivering funding support for the agreed-upon projects and activities.

AICFI Achievements to Date:

Currently, the AICFI Program is managing 62 Contribution Agreements. Since the inception of the Program, 16 MMFNs have completed Commercial Fishing Enterprise Business Development Plans and 25 MMFNs are engaged in co-management through the representation of a Commercial Fisheries Liaison Coordinator.



Gespeg First Nation Vessel docked at Carequet Wharf, NB



*The Abegweit First Nation Project
A custom LB50 modified to 44'11*



First Nations Crew with Fisheries Officer - Carequet Harbour, NB

Notes

[illegible]