

National Indigenous Fisheries Institute Indigenous Program Review

Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries
Initiative – An Overview

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September 13, 2017



**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
FISHERIES INSTITUTE**
Indigenous Program Review

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

The Northern Program

- Modelled on Atlantic and Pacific programs:
 - Proven commercial fisheries can be driver for socio-economic development and self-sufficiency in Indigenous communities
 - Meet unique needs and issues of participants
- Proposed program design focused on capacity-building:
 - Business planning and development
 - Harvest and management training
 - Business expansion and diversification opportunities
- Eligibility:
 - Anywhere DFO manages a fishery (not covered by Atlantic/Pacific programs)
 - Aquaculture-related opportunities not limited to DFO fishery-managed areas
- Broad interest in participation
 - Limited resources for first two years

Program Design Development

- Building on lessons learned and best practices in Atlantic / Pacific:
 - Appropriate Indigenous organization(s) to deliver program
 - Business development team skills / structure
 - Performance metrics (e.g., management and administrative capacity, jobs, revenues, etc.)
 - Commercial fishing enterprise rating system
- Program design development process:
 - Design and initial implementation of basic program elements
 - Involve co-management boards
 - Establish relationships with delivery partners and service providers
 - Create program management committee
- Informed by Indigenous Program Review:
 - Discussion paper and engagement activities

Northern Fisheries Snapshot

- Northern commercial fishery somewhat underutilized and development varies:
 - Yukon: no real commercial fishery, two pothole lake fish farms
 - Northwest Territories: underdeveloped inland commercial fishery, no offshore
 - Nunavut: major player in offshore commercial fishery, developing inshore, some processing
 - Newfoundland and Labrador: inshore and offshore commercial fisheries, partnership ventures, some aquaculture interests
 - Northern Quebec: well-established in shrimp fishery, partnership ventures
- Infrastructure presents significant barrier to growing northern fishery:
 - Port and processing required for industry to meet full potential
- Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation experience:
 - High cost of processing and marketing northern-caught fish
- CanNor economic development funding too limited given high entry cost for northern commercial fisheries:
 - Eligible expenses leave funding gap for capacity-building activities, such as training

Nunavut Commercial Fisheries

- Strong industry presence in Canadian commercial fishing
 - Increased access and allocations to adjacent offshore turbot and shrimp fishing areas
 - New Inuit-owned offshore allocation holders established
 - Four established processing plants – need to increase capacity
- Qikiqtani region at forefront of Nunavut offshore fisheries
 - Four companies for large-scale commercial shrimp and turbot harvests in Baffin Bay, Davis Strait and Hudson Strait
 - Creation of Nunavut Offshore Allocation Holders Association in 2011 increased success of industry
 - Many offshore allocation holders expanded fleets
- Inshore fishery dominated by harvest of Arctic char
 - Whitefish and some dried whale meat products less common

Nunavut Commercial Fisheries

- Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium created in 2005
 - To address labour market development and training needs
- Nunavut Fisheries Strategy 2016-2020:
 - One objective to identify what prevents fisheries from developing more quickly and to remove barriers
 - Increasingly communities seeking funding and other resources to maximize existing fisheries and develop new ones
 - Consensus on needs/issues:
 - Inshore fisheries development (particularly, char)
 - New infrastructure required (support inshore and offshore)
 - Greater/more active federal presence
 - Ongoing training, market access, and partnerships key

Northern Quebec Commercial Fisheries

- Nunavik Inuit Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement
 - Collaborative management approach to beluga and other species
 - DFO partnership agreements with Nunavik Inuit
 - Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board main instrument for management
 - Decisions reflects both western science and traditional Inuit knowledge
- Makivik well-established, successful reputation in northern industry
 - Researched and developed viable shrimp fishery
 - Trained Inuit crews
 - Developed partnerships with major national/international companies
 - Shares shrimp licence with **Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (Nunavut)**



National Indigenous Fisheries Forum Priorities

- National dialogue help visualize solutions:
 - Industry requires flexibility, adaptation, continuous learning, and responsive management
- Training and skills development continuous need:
 - Including for Northern harvesters
- Access to capital remains fundamental challenge:
 - Collaboration and exploration of new ideas
- Market access and development:
 - Collaboration and exploration of niche markets and branding
- Aquaculture complements and competes with fishery:
 - Meaningfully engage in policy development and management

Skills and Training: Harvesters

- Harvester focus groups in Pacific, Central and Atlantic
- Ideal training curriculum package:
 - Fishing history, strategy, practice licensing, regulation, management approach, catch monitoring and reporting
 - Knowledge of fish life-cycles, conservation and ecosystem
 - New selective fishing and professionalization requirements
 - New catch handling, quality, value-added needs
 - Vessel and fishing gear maintenance
 - Marine safety requirements, search and rescue, first aid
 - Safe vessel operations, navigation, map reading
 - Small business practices, financial management, taxes, loans, etc.
 - Personnel management, hiring, motivation, developing effective crew
 - English and computer literacy

Skills and Training: Business Managers

- Commercial fishing enterprise management training:
 - Informed decision-making using the fisheries management system
 - Introduction to financial management for fisheries managers
 - Fisheries operational management
 - Strategic business planning
 - Project management for fisheries managers
 - Human resource management
- Developed by Atlantic Business Development Team and Nova Scotia Community College



Subsistence, Artisanal and Commercial Fisheries Production

- Fisheries generally move through three stages when direction of evolution is commercial production
- **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 shored-base 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



New Program Applied to Northern Fisheries

- 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 (fuel, electricity, etc.)
 - When cost of production (with energy included both for capture and processing) 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 market place within boundaries of acceptable margin (cost of energy to transport)
- Different for offshore, large vessel fisheries



Transition

- Assuming the business case can be made:
 - Transition from subsistence/artisanal to commercial determined by the community (unit of production)
- Assessment of readiness includes (as mentioned earlier):
 - Variables of Quality Control
 - Consistency of production volume
- Quality Control from subsistence to commercial:
 - Largest variable
 - Within control of communities
- Interim and very valuable step for many northern community-based fisheries in continuum of fisheries development:
 - **Support food security and redistribution within own communities** and local institutions (hospitals, elder care facilities, school programs etc.)



Community Freezers

- Many northern/remote communities maintain community freezers:
 - Supports redistribution of country foods at community level
- We envision community development programs that:
 - **First**, work to serve needs of local people
 - Training and controls to meet Quality Control objectives for commercial production learned and fine-tuned before large capital commitments made to move toward commercial production
- Integrate Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative with federal and territorial programs that support overall community welfare though food supply security:
 - Ensure young and elderly have full access to best food for their welfare and longevity



Community Freezers (cont'd)

- 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



A Word on Markets

- 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
- National Indigenous Fisheries 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



Past/Other Federal Initiatives in the North

- CanNor:
 - Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development
 - Funds projects to help grow and diversify northern economy, e.g., resource stock assessments, including fisheries
 - Northern Aboriginal Economic Opportunities Program
 - Increase participation of northern Indigenous communities and businesses in economic opportunities
- Atlantic Aboriginal Economic Development Integrated Research Program
 - Partnership includes Inuit of Labrador, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat and Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 - To improve knowledge base of Atlantic Indigenous economic development to improve lives of Indigenous peoples in the region



Summary

- **Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative**
 - Ready to start planning and development stage next fiscal
- **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

