

Emerging Regional Strategies to Improve Fisheries Monitoring

- Strategic Monitoring Framework
- Collaborative Harvester Strategies

Strategic Framework for Fisheries Monitoring and Catch Reporting

Informed by:

- “M&C Roadmap Strategy”
- Recent input and experiences from FNs and other harvesters

Purpose:

- To guide internal and external activities to achieve a monitoring system across all fisheries that inspires confidence, fosters collaborative management and balances biological, socioeconomic and management risks
- To establish a Goal with Guiding Principles
- To identify Challenges and Opportunities
- To provide a consistent approach to determine monitoring requirements
- To provide a basis for developing improvement-strategies collaboratively with harvesters

Context: Drivers For Catch Monitoring Strategy

The Strategic Framework for Fisheries Monitoring and Catch Reporting is being driven by:

- Common recognition that monitoring improvements are required to support:
 - Sustainability and the precautionary approach
 - Collaborative management
 - Aboriginal rights, treaties and other agreements
 - An ecosystem perspective
 - Quota fisheries and defined shares
 - Selective fisheries
 - Eco-certification and traceability requirements

Collaborative Approach

Key to Effective Catch Monitoring

Why:

- Efficient and cost effective.
- Builds upon principle of harvester responsibility. (co-management)
- Need to balance 'harvester-reported' and 'independent' fisheries information with what's affordable/doable and needed

Goal and Guiding Principles

Goal:

To have accurate, timely and accessible fisheries data, such that there is sufficient information and public confidence for all Pacific fisheries to be managed sustainably and to meet other reporting obligations and objectives.

Principles:

- 1: Conservation and sustainable use**
- 2: Consistency and transparency**
- 3: Tailored requirements**
- 4: Shared accountability and access**
- 5: Cost-effectiveness**

Standardized Risk Assessment Criteria

- **Biological Ecosystem**
 - Target and non-target stock status, habitat impacts, etc
- **Fisheries Operations**
 - Mixed stock fishery vs singles stock, fishing power/capacity
- **Resource Management**
 - Defined share or quota, specific sc objective (indicator etc)
- **Socio-economic Values**
 - Relative economic or social value (FSC fishery, etc)
- **Other Institutional**
 - Treaty or international requirement

Challenges and Opportunities

- Building trust
- Linking accountability and access
- Funding constraints
- Capacity development
- Clarifying responsibilities
- Communicating the benefits

Strategic Approach

1. Collaboratively develop strategies for improvements in all harvest sectors. (support for planning and implementation for improvements, capacity building, communication, etc)
2. Consistently determine fishery-specific monitoring and reporting requirements
3. Prepare monitoring and reporting plans and programs to meet the requirements (and specify roles and responsibilities)
4. Complete the DFO fisheries information management system (“PacFish”)
5. Continually improve understanding of monitoring and reporting requirements, best practices, tools and technologies.

Current Status of FM&CR

- Wide range in level of information gathering - no reporting to enhanced
- Several past fishery reviews identified significant shortcomings (Auditor General, PFRC, Fraser Review)
- 2002 DFO Pacific FM&CR Framework identifies need for improved information management, development of monitoring standards with identified attributes and for resolution of accountability issues
- Selected measures in some fisheries since:
 - Integrated Groundfishery Program – 100% monitoring, at-sea-video, observers – now world leader
 - Commercial salmon fishery improvements – enhance monitoring with pilot demonstration projects (defined shares/IQs,) Interim Commercial Catch Monitoring Standards
 - E-logs for guides and lodges, creel program expansions in rec fishery
 - Development of various tools and data systems for FSC fisheries
 - Draft Discussion Paper on FSC Monitoring to promote discussion
- PICFI – Enhanced Accountability provides focus and resources on fundamental issues (information management framework, standards, accountabilities), transformative tools and program approaches
- Strategic Framework informed by work of Monitoring and Compliance Panel

Current FSC Fisheries in Pacific Region

- FSC fisheries constitutionally protected communal right.
- Wide diversity of fisheries and scale
- Ranges from individuals fishing for personal use to coordinated fisheries for many FN groups/organizations
- Monitoring ranges from:
 - complex mng regimes with scientifically designed creel surveys, sampling/monitoring to individuals with limited gear,
 - remote and unmonitored
 - Results mixed; enhanced to low levels

FSC Monitoring Update

- ❖ First Nations FSC Database and Monitoring Tools
 - Initiated in 2000 by A'Tlegay First Nations & DFO
 - Captures FSC catch and fishing information
 - ✓ Tracks distribution
 - ✓ Permitting/Designation card system
 - ✓ Captures all FSC catch species
 - DFO – Receives timely FSC information
 - ✓ Sent electronically into DFO (FOS)
 - ✓ Nations in North, Central, South Coast and BCI have adopted the system
 - ✓ **FSC Data Advisors** employed to provide support (through AAROM)
 - Other FSC Monitoring tools:
 - ✓ **CREST**
 - ✓ **CATCH CALENDARS**

First Nations

Electronic Reporting Initiatives – cont'd

- Electronic Reporting Initiatives – cont'd
 - ❖ South Coast and WCVI First Nations – 16
 - ❖ Central Coast First Nations – 4
 - ❖ North Coast First Nations – 6
 - ❖ Fraser River First Nations – 8
 - ❖ Total FN employing the database = 34
 - Other Nations continue to enroll

Approaches to FSC Monitoring Strategies:

- Consultation and planning with FNs (bi-lateral level)
 - Determine requirements, review current programs and gaps, develop plans
- Consider opportunities for coordinated and integrated approaches: (ARROM/Tribal area processes)
 - Skill development, shared programs and resources, etc
 - Communicate successful programs, BMPs,

Recreational Fisheries Monitoring

- Creel surveys are key tool; SoG/ WCVI/LFA/some local – provide reliable data where focused.
- Supported by log (e-logs & paper) from lodges and guides.
- Main creel surveys modified to capture grf and shellfish data in some areas
- Exploring options for improvements (guided vs non-guided, greater coverage, targeted programs etc)
- Collaborative work with SFAB/DFO Monitoring Comm.
 - Regional inventory, gaps, alternatives, priorities

Commercial Fisheries Monitoring

- Collaborative approach with existing advisory groups. (ID requirements, gaps, options, etc)
- Customized but regionally consistent approaches for each gear type (e.g. groundfish, shellfish, herring, etc).
- Search for regional monitoring efficiencies (cross-fishery, etc)

Summary

- Strategic Monitoring Framework to provide an umbrella and consistent approach for improvements.
- DFO improves information management framework (PACFISH) and internal accountabilities.
- Pending consultations on common criteria, fundamental process and related policy issues.