



Transition to Use of Fish for Financing Salmon Test Fishing Activities in 2013

Post-season Meetings – January 2013





Purpose

- Review the *Fisheries Act* amendment - Section 10 - Fish Allocation for Financing Purposes (a.k.a. the Use-of-Fish)
- Provide background on why this amendment came about
- Provide an overview of the Department's implementation plan for this new authority
- Discuss what this will mean for projects currently funded through Larocque-relief (funded with use-of-fish before 2007) in the short- and long-term



The New Section 10 of the *Fisheries Act*

10. Fish Allocation for Financing Purposes

10.(1) Allocation of Fish

For the proper management and control of fisheries and the conservation and protection of fish, the Minister may determine a quantity of fish or fishing gear and equipment that may be allocated for the purpose of financing scientific and fisheries management activities that are described in a joint project agreement entered into with any person or body, or any federal or provincial minister, department or agency.

10.(2) Quantity and Licence

The Minister may specify, in a licence issued under this Act, a quantity of fish or fishing gear and equipment allocated for the purpose of financing those activities.



Background

- Since the 1980's, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans regularly assisted industry to finance their part of collaborative Science and management activities through use-of-fish arrangements.
- This practice ended in June 2006 when the Federal Court of Appeal ruled that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans did not have this authority.
- In 2007, to avoid significant disruption of the most critical collaborative science activities (where allocation of fish had been a key component), Fisheries and Oceans Canada secured \$58M of relief funding over 5 years (2007-2012) to allow sufficient time to establish the new legislative authority.
- The 2012 budget implementation bill, *Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act* (formerly Bill C-38), included:
 - An amendment to the *Fisheries Act* granting the Minister the authority to allocate fish for financing purposes; and
 - \$10.5 M of funding for one extra year (until March 31, 2013) while the Department develops relevant process, policy, and guideline documents.

Implementation Plan

In short, DFO has adopted a two-track approach to implementation of the new Section 10 authority, to address the immediate and long-term needs.

Track 1:

- To transition, where feasible, current Larocque projects to the new use-of-fish authority for a period of one year (starting April 1, 2013 to March 31st 2014) pending the completion of Track 2.

Track 2:

- Develop a national policy framework to provide a standardized, rigorous and transparent process for all project evaluations and approvals.

Implementation Plan (cont'd)

Track 1 - Transition Larocque Projects:

- For the interim year 2013-2014, where feasible, Track 1 will transition existing 2012-2013 Larocque projects to the new use-of-fish authority while completing the National Policy Framework for new projects.
- The Department has developed interim guidelines to transition existing Larocque projects to the new use-of-fish authority for a period of one year.
- Discussions have started with Larocque stakeholders to determine if there is interest in transitioning their Larocque projects to this new authority.
- Options will be discussed to finalize arrangements for the Larocque projects that will transition to use-of-fish as a method of financing the projects for 2013-2014.

Implementation Plan (cont'd)

Track 2:

- On a parallel track, a draft national policy framework is being developed on which the Department plans to consult with stakeholders in 2013.
- The types of issues we will need to address in this framework include:
 - eligibility to allocations;
 - eligibility criteria for projects;
 - considerations in calculating amount of fish required to cover the cost of a project;
 - allocation process / considerations for determining where the fish will be taken from (e.g., off the top of total allowable commercial catch); and
 - process for accepting, evaluating and approving projects.
- Our plan is to have the national framework in place by December 2013 for full implementation of the new authority beginning in 2014-2015.
- Existing and new projects proposed under Section 10 will be subject to the national policy framework in 2014-2015 and beyond.

Specific Considerations / Issues

What will guide 2013 planning?

- Interim guidelines set out considerations including:
 - 1) Governance and Approval Process
 - 2) Current Larocque Project Stakeholder Discussions
 - Willingness to transition existing projects to use of fish for 2013-14
 - 3) Defining the Allocation Process
 - 4) Calculating the Amount of Fish Required
 - 5) Joint Project Agreements
 - 6) Access to Data and Information



Potential 2013 Projects

#	Geographic Area	Species	Test Fishery Name
1	Juan de Fuca	Sockeye / Pink	Area 20 Seine
2	Juan de Fuca	Sockeye / Pink	Area 20 Gill Net
3	Fraser River	Sockeye / Pink	Whonnock Gill Net
4	Fraser River	Sockeye / Pink	Cottonwood Gill Net
5	Strait of Georgia	Sockeye / Pink	Area 29 Gulf Troll*
6	Fraser River	Sockeye / Pink	Mission Gill Net

*2013 plans to be determined

#	Geographic Area	Species	Test Fishery Name
7	Johnstone Strait	Sockeye / Pink	Round Island and Naka Creek Gill Net
8	Johnstone Strait	Sockeye / Pink	Blinkhorn Seine
9	Johnstone Strait	Sockeye / Pink	Area 13 Seine
10	Fraser River at Yale	Sockeye / Pink	Qualaark Gill Net*
11	Johnstone Strait	Sockeye / Pink	Gordon Group Seine*
12	Skeena River	All	Skeena Gill Net
13	Fraser River	Chinook / Chum	Albion Gill Net

#	Geographic Area	Species	Test Fishery Name
14	Johnstone Strait	Chum	Area 12 Chum Seine
15	WCVI - Nitinat Lake	Chum	Nitinat Lake Chum Gillnet Test Fishery
16	Strait of Georgia	Chum	Sannich Chum Seine Test Fishery
17	Strait of Georgia	Chum	Cowichan Chum Seine Test Fishery
18	WCVI - Alberni Inlet	Sockeye	Barkley Sound Sockeye Seine Test Fishery



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QUESTIONS?