



SUMMARY NOTES: FSMC /DFO March 24, 2017 negotiating meeting

The fifth negotiating meeting of this fiscal year between the FSMC and DFO took place at Mandell-Pinder's office. Present were:

FSMC: Brenda Gaertner (Lead Negotiator), Stephen Mussell, Victor Isaac, Dominic Hope, Tina Donald, and Thomas Alexis; and Neil Todd (FSMC support).

DFO: Angela Bate (Lead Negotiator), Matthew Parslow, Chad Rudiak, and Ashley Dobko

MEETING GOAL/PURPOSE:

1. Feedback on Concept Papers – particularly Collaborative Management
2. Develop work plan and meeting schedule for April – December 2017

Opening Comments

It is not yet known if Chad will remain with this negotiation table now that he will be leaving his AAROM Coordinator position and working with DFO's regional negotiation group on Treaty matters. All agreed that his contribution to this table is valuable and that continuity of personnel is important to the ability to make positive progress.

FSMC funding

PICFI has been renewed for five years, and it includes provision for collaborative indigenous programs. Program allocations will be determined over the coming weeks. DFO confirmed that this process under the FSMC/DFO Framework Agreement should proceed with its work on the assumption that it will be receiving funding in 2017/2018.

DFO feedback on Concept Paper #1 – Collaborative Management

DFO's Lead Negotiator stated that while she has discussed the process/progress with senior Regional staff, they have not yet seen the Concept Paper. Plans are to have a focused discussion on it at the Regional Operations Committee. While the proposed structure looks fine, DFO has many questions on how it would work and how the FSMC would relate to other existing groups. In this way the scope of what would be part of any management agreement is as important to DFO as the structure itself. FSMC negotiators pointed out that the Concept Paper provides a list of clear priorities for the scope of management decisions that could be part of Management Agreement #1. Good discussion resulted in general agreement that some work will need to be done on implementation (i.e. show how the arrangement will work) in order to get DFO buy-in to the governance structure (management agreement) itself. A question DFO comes back to frequently is how the FSMC would work with existing sub-regional bodies that avoids duplication.

FSMC feedback on Concept Paper #1 – Collaborative Management

The FSMC's Lead Negotiator reviewed the positive reaction to the Concept Paper and the proposed management structure that she received from the FSMC Assembly on March 1 in Nanaimo. It was also evident at the Assembly that Member Delegates had some of the same questions that DFO has, particularly around how the relationships between FSMC and local bodies/groups would function.

Work-plan and meeting schedule

he FSMC outlined its proposed timeline and key deliverable (draft agreement #1): have a draft agreement by late October 2017; Main Table review/amend/endorse November 2017; take draft to Assembly December 2017; if approved at Assembly then both DFO and First Nation ratification process January to March 2018. A small working group will begin drafting an agreement outline in May. Bi-lateral negotiation meetings will recess in July and August.