



DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS



Final Report on AAROM Activities

For the Period

April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010

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1. Introduction

The Dehcho First Nations (DFN) has completed the administration of a one year *Collaborative Management* (CM) program under the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) program via a funding agreement with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

This is the final report for the DFN AAROM for the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 and reflects cumulative activities for the fiscal year. This has been a successful first year of delivering a community based CM program. Most of the communities were visited at least twice by the AAROM coordinator in an effort to build a working relationship with the First Nation leadership, personnel and community members.

The Dehcho AAROM Coordinator is working closely with the DFO Western Arctic Area offices to build our AAROM program and harmonize the AAROM and Aboriginal Fishery Strategy (AFS) programs. The Dehcho AAROM has taken responsibility for the administration of two out of the three Great Slave Lake AFS projects in the Dehcho region as well as administering the NWT AFS Coordinator position and a post secondary summer student position.

The DFN has also received funding for 50 K for capital and O&M equipment through AFS. Presently only three of our ten participating First Nation organizations are funded through the AFS program. We have submitted a proposal for AFS funding of community fishery projects for all of the Dehcho communities.

The DFN AAROM has applied for an additional 70 K of AAROM funding on behalf of the Katlodeeche First Nation (KFN) and the Fort Providence Resource Management Board for Great Slave Lake projects.

This fiscal year, the Dehcho AAROM program was finally able to emerge from the *Capacity Building* phase and we will be applying for multi-year funding beginning next fiscal year.

2. Results to Date:

Program Administration:

The Dehcho AAROM, under the Dehcho First Nations (DFN), has an effective administration in place. The Dehcho AAROM Coordinator/Biologist has been travelling to the communities on a regular basis to meet the leadership and staff and develop a working relationship to further the AAROM program. Good progress has been made in this regard considering the distances to the various communities and the busy schedules of the leadership and managers.

I. Institutional Capacity

1. Integrating AAROM with the Member Community Structure:

- | <u>Planned</u> | <u>Result</u> |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Input at leadership meetings – 1 planned<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Dehcho Annual General Assembly | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2 meeting to date- Addressed the assembly on |

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fall leadership meeting ○ Various meetings with Community Leadership | <p>AAROM status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolutions passed -support for developing a 5-year plan. - Two Council meetings - Several informal meeting |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Member Community Interaction; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>18 FN community working meetings planned</i> • Support Community Resource Mgmt. Boards (RMB's); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>4 Resource Mgmt. Board (RMB) meetings</i> ○ <i>Program support of RMB's (4 planned)</i> ○ <i>Developing collaborative partnerships</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>24 accomplished</i> - <i>4 accomplished</i> - <i>2 programs funded to date</i> - <i>several in progress</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The meetings with the Dehcho Leadership which includes Chiefs and Elders have been very positive. The leadership passed resolutions in support of the Dehcho AAROM program at the fall leadership meeting in Fort Providence. ○ The Dehcho Coordinator/Biologist has travelled extensively to meet with the community leadership and support staff as well as keeping in contact by phone and e-mail. ○ Coordinator travelled ~ 7 000 km by road for twenty-four community visits as well as travelling by air charter twice to meet with Sambaa K'e FN and to train the two fishery monitors. ○ The AAROM Coordinator has had several discussions with the DFN Executive Director on the direction of the AAROM program. There is a consensus that; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the AAROM program should work in concert with the DFN, Lands and Resources sections and especially with the three Resource Management Boards/Committees in the communities of Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, and Katlodeeche. ▪ establishing partnerships is very important to our AAROM program. ▪ education, training and employment in the communities are necessary for the advancement of our AAROM program even in the <i>Collaborative Management</i> phase. ▪ It is important to involve Youth in the AAROM program and encourage education and a respect for the land. ▪ There is a need for individual member First Nations to develop AAROM work plans in order to prioritize activities. ○ We are working towards integrating the AAROM program with the community resource management board/committee structure where applicable. To date the Coordinator has met with the Fort Providence Resource Mgmt. Board (FPRMB), and several times with the Liidlii Kue Committee and the coordinator of the Katlodeeche HTA to discuss cooperative efforts. ○ In the spirit of cooperation the Dehcho AAROM program has so far provided funding to the FPRMB (office equipment and to write proposals for further partnership funding) and the KFN Committee (materials for an AAROM research cabin at Buffalo Lake). An 18 foot Lund was purchased for Liidlii Kue; all communities active in the AAROM program now have work boats. | |

2. Accessing Skilled Personnel;

The DFN has contracted the project Coordinator/Biologist to run the AAROM program and provide biological advice.

II. Skills Development

1. Research Activities to establish ecosystem-based management efforts.

Planned	Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish <i>seed</i> projects in the communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Establish 5 monitoring projects</i> ○ By March 31st, the field components have been completed for the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ka’ a’ gee Tu First Nation; fishery monitoring program on Kakisa River. ▪ Jean Marie River; aquatic resource monitoring on the Mackenzie River. ▪ Jean Marie River; winter fishing project and monitor training. ▪ Nahanni Butte; aquatic resource monitoring on the Liard River. ▪ Pehdzeh Ki; fishery and aquatic monitoring on the Mackenzie River. ○ AAROM will continue to improve community based monitoring programs by increasing on the job training and seeking partnering assistance and funding from other government departments. 	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>5 projects completed</i></p>

There is a need to involve community organizations in “*research projects related to aquatic resources and their supporting habitats*”. The First Nation and Métis Nation organizations have provided extensive lists of concerns and issues regarding fish and fish habitat in their areas. The Dehcho AAROM has providing limited funding to each community to act as seed money to begin expanding the collection of community based traditional knowledge and scientific data useful in the future management of aquatic resources. These projects will also contribute to increasing skills and knowledge in the community. In future years, we will be partnering with other government departments, NGO’s and colleges to increase our R&M abilities and provide information for informed decision making.

2. Organizing and providing training to build capacity in the communities;

Planned	Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Organize one Boat Certification and Safety course delivery</i> (AAROM provided travel and expense costs) (Partnered with DFN, NBDB and Aurora College) • <i>On the job training (monitoring projects)</i> • <i>Organized one Environmental monitoring course Through Aurora College</i> (Partnered with ASEP, GNWT-ITI, Aurora College; AAROM provided ~ 10% of course costs) • <i>DFO – AAROM/AFS Workshop in Yellowknife</i> <i>“Enhancing Community Based Aquatic Monitoring”</i> 	<p><i>14 persons certified; 1 course</i></p> <p>by Aurora College</p> <p><i>5 community workers</i></p> <p><i>Six week course in Samba K’e in February/March</i></p> <p><i>8 students certified</i></p> <p><i>21 delegates from Dehcho attended.</i></p>

III. Stewardship and Collaborative Management:

1: Administering collaborative projects in the Dehcho;

Planned	Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form collaborative partnerships with DFO, AFS; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Hire and administer 1 AFS Coordinator for the NWT</i> ○ <i>Hire and admin. 1 post –sec. summer student</i> ○ <i>Administer 2 collaborative projects in the Dehcho</i> 	<p><i>Completed</i></p> <p><i>Completed</i></p> <p><i>2 completed</i></p>

The Dehcho AAROM has partnered with the DFO, AFS program this fiscal year by;

- Hiring and administering the NWT AFS Coordinator and a summer student through an AFS G&C agreement. These staff will work on AFS projects both in the Dehcho and Akaitcho areas, fostering cooperation between the two NWT AAROM programs.
- Administering 2 major AFS projects in the Dehcho also through an AFS G&C agreement. (Sambaa K'e and Fort Providence Research Mgmt. Board)
- Administering and managing these partnered projects will enhance the ability of the Dehcho AAROM to develop into a Collaborative Mgmt. (CM) entity.
- *No double accounting of AFS and AAROM funding is involved.* The funding is provided through a separate AFS G&C agreement with DFO. The DFN administers the program directly or through service contracts negotiated with the individual FN's involved.
- DFO provided 70 K of AAROM funding late in the fiscal year for Great Slave Lake (GSL) initiatives by the FPRMC and the KFN; two communities which have traditionally used GSL resources. The Fort Providence Board used the funding to establish two fishing and fish study cabins in Deep Bay, the western end of Great Slave Lake. The KFN has been working cooperatively with DFO on the GSL inconnu stock assessment program for several years. They used their money to assist with the building of a cabin at Yates River, a tributary of Buffalo Lake where GSL inconnu spawn. They have bought a boat and snowmobile for use in the study. This cabin and equipment will support *Stock Identification Genetics* studies of the GSL buffalo Lake spawning stocks.

2. Community Outreach, Stewardship and Awareness Activities; youth and elder involvement:

Planned	Result
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>R&M training for community members</i> • <i>Arrange training opportunities</i> • <i>Aboriginal Traditional knowledge initiatives</i> • <i>One regional youth and elder ecology camp</i> • <i>Youth initiatives</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Rivers and Oceans Day</i> ○ <i>Climate Change Youth Forum</i> ○ <i>Nexehcho/Youth gathering</i> ○ <i>Two Jean Marie River winter camp</i> 	<p><i>Initial collaborative training discussions with 3 agencies</i></p> <p><i>2 Aurora College courses completed</i></p> <p><i>Coordinator- policy familiarization</i></p> <p><i>Successful regional camp</i></p> <p><i>325 students thru traditional demo</i></p> <p><i>Co-sponsored two youth*(with Pembina Institute)</i></p> <p><i>Sci & ATK demos ~24 youth/elders</i></p> <p><i>All Louis Norwegian School students attended</i></p>

**Kari Hergott went on to attend the Climate Change conference in Copenhagen as a part of the youth contingent from the NWT!*

3. Dehcho Watershed Ecosystem Advisory Committee (DWEAC) Business

- Meetings and interactions of the Dehcho Watershed Ecosystem Advisory Committee;
 - DWEAC meetings was held at the Dene Cultural Institute on the Katlodeeche Reserve;
 - October, 2009.
 - All but one member attended to represent their organization.
 - The October meeting included 3 technical support staff from the FN RMB's
 - March 2010.
 - Only four members were able to attend due to the busy time of year. (not enough members for a quorum – workshop only)
 - Two technical support staff from LKFN and JMRFN also attended.
 - In addition to regular business, time was spent discussing the development of a 5-year AAROM plan.
 - Time was also spend discussing community applications for INAC Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) funding
 - Meeting summaries are available on www.dehchofirstnations.com Tap on the AAROM page.

4. Workshops:

- CIER:
 - Margaret Ireland of Jean Marie River and George Low attended the Climate Change Adaptation workshop hosted by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER). (Partnership funded by CIER & INAC)
 - As a result the DFN may be pursuing “Climate Change” funding thru an INAC program to address climate change issues in the north.
- Ecology North:
 - George Low attended and presented at the “Greening of the NWT Economy” workshop in Yellowknife. (Partnership funded by the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation)

5. Communications, Logos:

- The AAROM program now has a web-page on the Dehcho First Nations website www.DehchoFirstNations.com
- Communication links developed with the FN's.
- Logos have been delayed due to workload.
- Newsletters delayed due to lack of time

Liaison with DFO Area Office:

DFO, Fisheries Management staff in the Western Arctic Area have been contacted on a regular basis so that both parties are aware of program plans and accomplishments. The Dettah workshop was very useful in bringing potential partners together. We strive to work closely with the Department as we continue to build our AAROM and AFS programs.

Funding: DFO funding of the AAROM program was \$ 470 000.00 for fiscal year 2009-2010

Partnered funding:

- The DFO AFS program provided 179 K for fisheries related projects in the Dehcho in 2009/10.
- The DFN - ASEP program provided 49 K for *Environmental Monitor* training in the Dehcho.
- The GNWT – ITI provided 52 K for *Environmental Monitor* training in the Dehcho.
- The Pembina Institute provided expenses (other than airfare which was provided by AAROM) for youth to attend a Youth Climate Change Forum in Inuvik. One of the youth went on to attend the Youth delegation at the Copenhagen Climate Change symposium.
- INAC and CIER provided funding for the attendance of a community member from Jean Marie River and the AAROM Coordinator at a Climate Change Adaptation Workshop in Winnipeg.
- *The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation* provided funding for the AAROM Coordinator to speak at an Ecology North “Greening of the NWT Economy” workshop in Yellowknife.