



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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DFO Fisheries Policy - General Overview

Nunavut Fisheries Symposium

Fisheries Policy Workshop

Wednesday April 21st 2010

Frobisher Inn Iqaluit Nunavut



Fisheries Policy in Nunavut

- Fisheries in Nunavut are currently managed under a regulatory and policy regime
- Consistent with Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Regulatory – Fisheries Act and regulations (Fishery General Regulations, Atlantic Fishery Regulations, NWT Fishery Regulations)
- Policy – Sustainable fisheries, commercial fisheries, exploratory fisheries



Sustainable Fisheries Framework – History and Overview

- The Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF) is a toolbox of existing and new measures for DFO and other interests to sustainably manage Canadian fisheries in order to conserve fish stocks and support prosperous fisheries
- The SFF sets the stage for an ecosystem-approach to fisheries management and the systematic integration, through IFMPs, of biological and economic considerations into decision-making.
- Stakeholder consultations held and information sessions held as framework is developed and implemented.



Sustainable Fisheries Framework

SFF Policies and Tools

Decision-making framework using Precautionary Approach,
Sensitive Benthic Areas, Forage Species,
Governance and economic policies, Fishery Checklist

- Future Policies: By-catch policy, etc.



Integrated Fishery Management Plans and other fishery plans



Fishery Decisions and Fishery



Monitoring and Reporting

(Fishery Checklist, IFMP post-season reviews, other reports)



Communications





Components of the Sustainable Fisheries Framework

- Conservation and Sustainable Use Policies
 - Fishery Decision Making Framework incorporating the Precautionary Approach
 - Forage Species Policy
 - Benthic Areas Policy
 - By-catch Policy (in development for 2010)
- Economic and Governance Policies
 - New Emerging Fisheries Policy
 - Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada



New Emerging Fisheries Policy

DFO national policy (revised 2008) to guide development of new commercial fisheries

- Applies to all new fisheries in marine or fresh water where DFO manages the fishery
- Recognizes need to manage consistent with land claims and aboriginal fishing rights
- New fisheries must provide for a reasonable scientific basis for their management
- New fisheries should contribute positively to the economic viability of a fishery enterprise on an ongoing basis



New Emerging Fisheries Policy

- 3 stages in fisheries development
 - **Stage I** – feasibility –to determine if harvestable quantities in a particular fishing area exist, if markets exist, etc.
 - **Stage II** – exploratory - to determine whether a species/stock can sustain a commercially viable operation and to collect biological data
 - **Stage III** – commercial - reached once it has been determined that a species/stock can sustain (commercially and biologically) commercial fishing operation.



Arctic Char Fisheries

- Governed by Fisheries Act, Fishery (General) Regulations & NWT Fishery Regulations
- Exploratory water bodies – New Emerging Fisheries Policy is followed
- Commercial water bodies (Schedule V NWT Regs)
 - licences are issued for each fishery and opened by variation order



Marine Commercial Fishery

- Commercial Fisheries Licensing Policy for Eastern Canada, Atlantic Canada Groundfish Transfer Guidelines, Quota Reconciliation, NWMB Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries and others
- Eastern Canada Commercial licensing policy developed prior (1996) to significant Nunavut participation in the NAFO Division 0A fishery – does not address some of the operational uniqueness of this fishery
- DFO will be assessing & developing policy that reflects the unique circumstances of the NU fishery concurrent with National-led reviews of commercial & emerging fishery licensing policies



Marine Commercial Fishery

- DFO is supportive of Nunavut's emerging fisheries and has been flexible in the application of the policy where possible. For example:
 - Transfers to and from NU interests – Atlantic Canada Groundfish Transfer Guidelines
 - NU interests have obtained transfer of OB validations from historical participants in the <65' fixed gear competitive fishery



Policy Workshop – What is Needed?

- Ray Andrews will facilitate discussion
- Based on your respective experience in the Nunavut fishery, what is needed to:
 - Amend existing policy to meet the unique needs and operational realities of the northern fishery
 - Create new policy to address northern needs not currently addressed in existing policy