# Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF)

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# Background

- Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF) goal:
  - Ensure that Canada's fisheries are environmentally sustainable, while supporting economic prosperity
  - This means maintaining a balance between healthy fish stocks and marine environments, while allowing for prosperous fisheries

- Overall drivers:
  - Domestic and international commitments for ecosystem and precautionary approaches in managing fisheries resources
  - Demands from Canadians for transparency and accountability
  - Market demands for sustainable seafood products
  - Various domestic initiatives

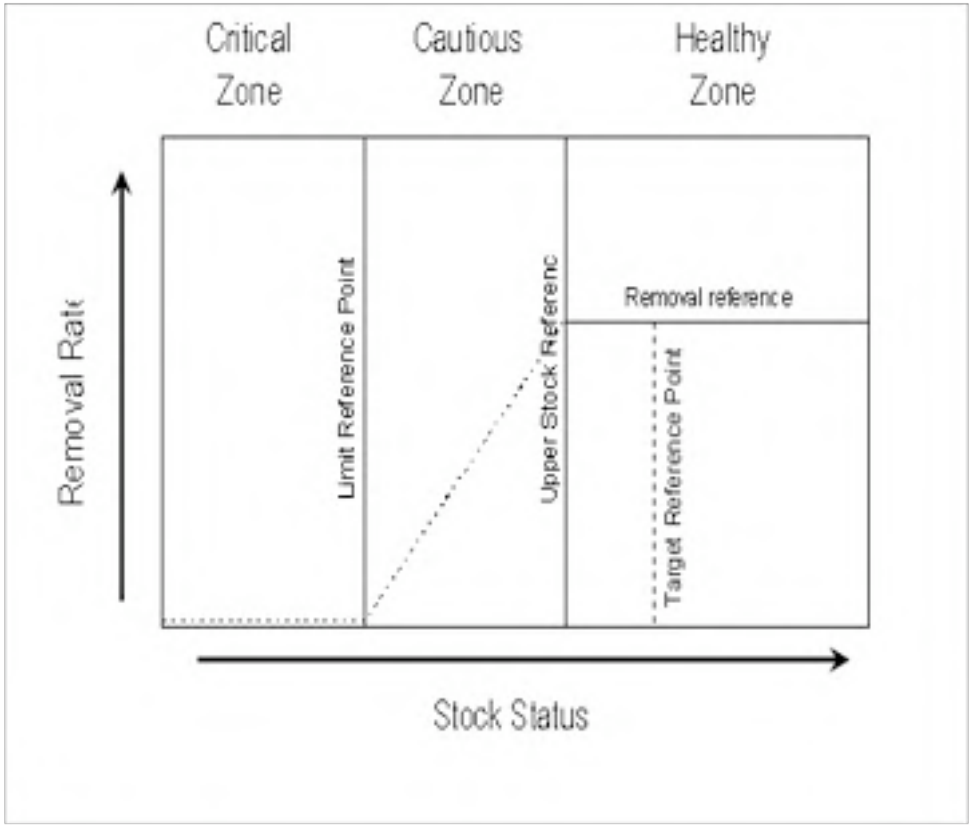
# Background

- The SFF takes a science-based approach, and requires significant engagement of the Science sector.

- Incorporates existing policies and tools for fisheries conservation and sustainable use with new and evolving policies and tools using a phased-in approach. New policies and tools include:
  - Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework
  - Policy for Managing the Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive Benthic Areas
  - Policy on New Fisheries for Forage Species
  - Bycatch Policy (*proposed*)
  - Integrated Fisheries management Plan (IFMP) – *revised process*
  - Fisheries Checklist

# Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework

- Identifies three stock status zones.
- Reference points to delineate zones.
- Removal reference define the maximum removal rate in each zone.
- Harvest decision rules developed for each zone linked to the reference points:
  - pre-agreed management actions



# Policy for Managing the Impacts of Fishing on Sensitive Benthic Areas

- Manages fisheries to mitigate impacts of fishing on sensitive benthic areas or avoid impacts of fishing that are likely to cause serious or irreversible harm to sensitive marine habitat, communities and species

- Applies to all commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries managed by Canada both inside and outside of the EEZ.

- Policy outlines separate procedures for *Historically Fished* vs. *Frontier Areas*:
  - Exploratory fisheries may be used in data-poor frontier areas to collect information required for decision making

- Will be implemented through an Ecological Risk Analysis Framework (ERAF):
  - Determines the “ecological” risk of serious or irreversible harm resulting from fishing activity

# Policy on New Fisheries for Forage Species

- Provides a policy framework to ensure the application of the Precautionary Approach (PA) and ecosystem approach in the management of forage species fisheries.
- Sets out both biological and management prerequisites that must be met before new commercial forage fisheries are permitted.
- Development of new forage species fisheries also have to be consistent with the *New Emerging Fisheries Policy*.
- Existing forage fisheries being examined against the policy principles through a phased-in approach:
  - Shortfalls to be addressed through SFF work planning and IFMPs in a phased-in manner.

# Bycatch Policy *(proposed)*

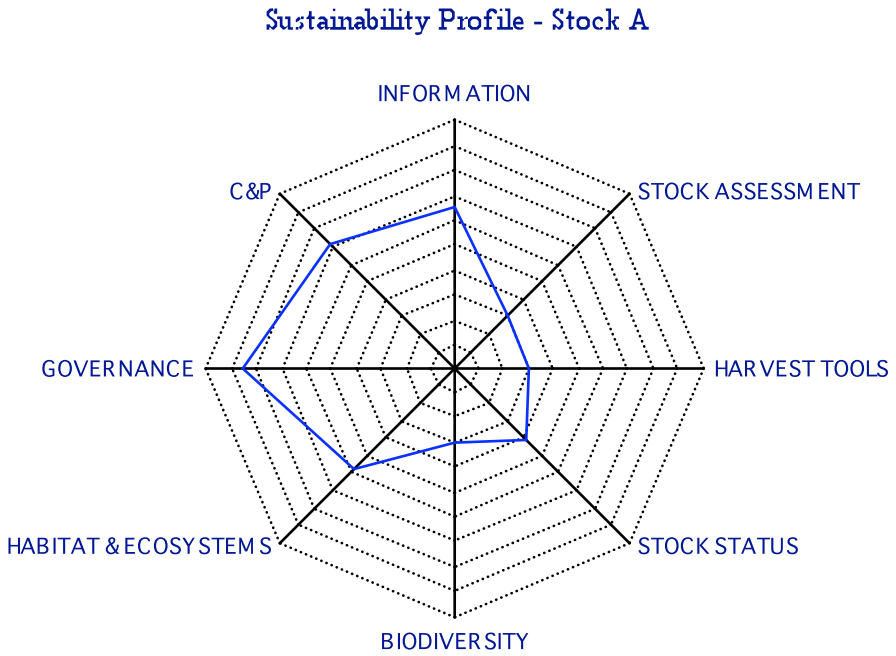
- DFO manages bycatch issues in various fisheries throughout the country:
  - e.g. integrated groundfish management plans in the Pacific
- Effective bycatch management is a requirement for eco-certification:
  - Demonstrates that the fishery is not causing irreversible harm to non-target species
- Need for a nationally consistent and systematic approach to bycatch:
  - Provide principles and objectives for bycatch management
- Preliminary work is currently underway for Policy development:
  - Diagnostic of issues and tools
- Draft Policy anticipated by the end of 2010-11.

# Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP)

- A revised planning framework for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, and a process by which a given fishery will be managed for a period of time
- Outlines short-term and long-term objectives of the fishery.
- Provide a means for implementing various SFF policies and tools
- Includes economic considerations.
- Considers the impacts of environmental conditions on fisheries (e.g. climate change).
- Provides for an annual review of performance

# Fisheries Checklist

- An internal, self-diagnostic tool applied to an individual stock or fishery.
  - Essentially a long questionnaire (currently 106 questions) on the science, management and reporting practices of a given fishery or stock.
- Provides a systematic review of progress on conservation and sustainable use objectives.
  - Gives a “sustainability profile,” or gap analysis.



# SFF linkages in Nunavut

- The SFF is applicable to all Canadian fisheries, including those in northern waters.
  - SFF consultations conducted in Nunavut in 2007-08.

- Sensitive Benthic Areas Policy:
  - Outlines specific procedure to address Arctic regions (i.e. frontier areas).
  - Requires a higher degree of risk aversion in frontier areas
  - Exploratory fisheries may be considered to collect additional information on benthic areas
  - Takes a “go slow” approach

- Precautionary Approach (PA):
  - Currently developing a PA Framework (including limit reference points) for shrimp fishing areas in Atlantic waters