
DOMESTIC PROGRESS IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources remains a primary focus of oceans-related activity for Canada. The federal government goal is an economically and environmentally sustainable fishing sector. To achieve it, the federal government is pursuing a strategy to advance industry restructuring and to introduce changes to fisheries policies and management practices, both domestically and internationally.

Canada is guided in this undertaking by the following principles:

- conservation comes first;
- Aboriginal rights must be respected;
- industry capacity must be balanced with the sustainable carrying capacity of the resource; and
- government and industry must move toward operating in partnership with one another.

Many domestic policy developments have been undertaken in support of these objectives, including the following:

- the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy, whereby the federal government enters into agreements with Aboriginal organizations to involve Aboriginal peoples in the sustainable management of the fishery;
- the introduction of amendments to the Fisheries Act that will update the legal basis for fisheries conservation and habitat management in Canada and provide for partnering agreements that will increase the role of stakeholders in the decision-making process;
- the development of integrated management plans for all harvested species or stocks that incorporate the interests of commercial, Aboriginal, and recreational users and are consistent with Canada's international obligations;