

# Indigenous Program Review

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**



**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS  
FISHERIES INSTITUTE**

Indigenous Program Review

**INSTITUT NATIONAL DES  
PÊCHES AUTOCHTONES**

Examen des programmes autochtones

[indigenousfisheries.ca](http://indigenousfisheries.ca)

# You are invited to be part of the Indigenous Program Review

The National Indigenous Fisheries Institute has been reviewing the programs at Fisheries and Oceans Canada which support Indigenous involvement in collaborative management of fisheries, aquatic resources, oceans, and habitat as well as Indigenous participation in commercial fishing and aquaculture operations.

These programs are:

- The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Program
- The Aboriginal Fishery Guardian Program
- The Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program
- The Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative
- The Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

We have also been looking at Indigenous commercial fishery and aquaculture aspirations and needs relevant to the development of a new Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative.

This Indigenous Program Review is a technical examination of the function and evolution of each program to see what may need to change or be improved to maximize the benefits to Indigenous Peoples and communities across Canada.

To start, we reviewed evaluations, audits, proposals and practises internal to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as well as program-related external reports. We also looked at other federal government programs with interconnected objectives or agendas. We called this part of our work a ‘desktop review.’

Based on the desktop review, we identified and discussed some common themes and issues based on our experience in fisheries and aquatic resource management. We also talked with national and regional officials at Fisheries and Oceans Canada who are responsible for administering these programs.

## And, now, we want to speak with you.

We hope to do that in a number of ways. First, we have prepared a series of discussion papers with questions for you to consider answering.

Each paper describes the program under review and is followed by a summary of our desktop review findings, the results of our discussions, and the input of departmental officials. There is also a separate paper that examines access to capital issues and solutions for Indigenous commercial enterprises to consider. These papers are posted on our website and will be provided to Indigenous groups and communities through our organizations and those of governments and other partners.

Second, we are preparing to meet face-to-face with Indigenous communities and groups in program-specific workshops and various engagement sessions. These activities will take place across Canada, including in the north.

Third, we will keep multiple channels of communication open for Indigenous Peoples, communities and groups to feel welcome to share their views, to be able to ask questions, and to engage us in the future direction of their fisheries and oceans programs. This includes social media, email, telephone and postal mail. All of our communications channels are listed in this guide under ‘Ways to Share your Views.’

## A program review of this nature will take time.

The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and its Fishery Guardian Program component began more than 25 years ago. The design of these programs was rushed to respond to the *Sparrow* decision made by the Supreme Court. And, while efforts have been made to better align the programs to meet the needs of communities over the years, there is still work to do. Program funding has remained at the same level until this year’s federal budget. The needs and interests of Indigenous groups have also changed and new programs with similar priorities have been introduced, such as the pilot Indigenous Guardians Program.

The discussion papers on these two programs will thus remain open for your input longer than the other papers. Specific engagement activities and workshops for these programs will also take place after the workshops and meetings held to discuss the commercial integrated fisheries programs and the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management program. This approach will help us understand how programs should best support the Indigenous right to fish for both community and commercial reasons.

If you need more information, we have prepared a history of Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Indigenous programs in Annex A which explains

why they were initially created and how they have evolved over time. A bibliography of the reports we examined for the desktop review is in Annex B.

Indigenous Peoples are equal partners with Canada in the management and use of fisheries, aquaculture, oceans, habitat and aquatic resources. It is important that Indigenous People, communities, groups and organizations use every opportunity to set the direction of federal programs which involve First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

**This is one of those opportunities.**

We thank you in advance for your interest, participation and feedback.

John G. Paul / Jordan Point / Lina Condo

Chief Bob Chamberlin / Audrey Mayes

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FISHERIES INSTITUTE

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## Guiding Principles

### Co-development, Co-design, and Co-delivery

Indigenous participants are equal partners in the development, design, and delivery of federal programs which involve the lives and resources of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

### Inclusion

All Indigenous Peoples, communities, and organizations are invited to share their ideas and opinions on the future of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Indigenous programs. Other Canadians with an interest in this review are also welcome to share their views.

### Openness

We are open to all ideas: great and small, new and old, national and regional, traditional and modern.

### Respect

The Indigenous Program Review is being conducted in a respectful way: responsive to all ideas and input, considering both national and regional needs, and aware of potential issues which may require consensus-based solutions.

### Clear Communications

We will communicate clearly using plain language and avoiding the use of acronyms. We will also use graphics and other visual media to support our discussion papers and other information.

## Renewing Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Indigenous Programs

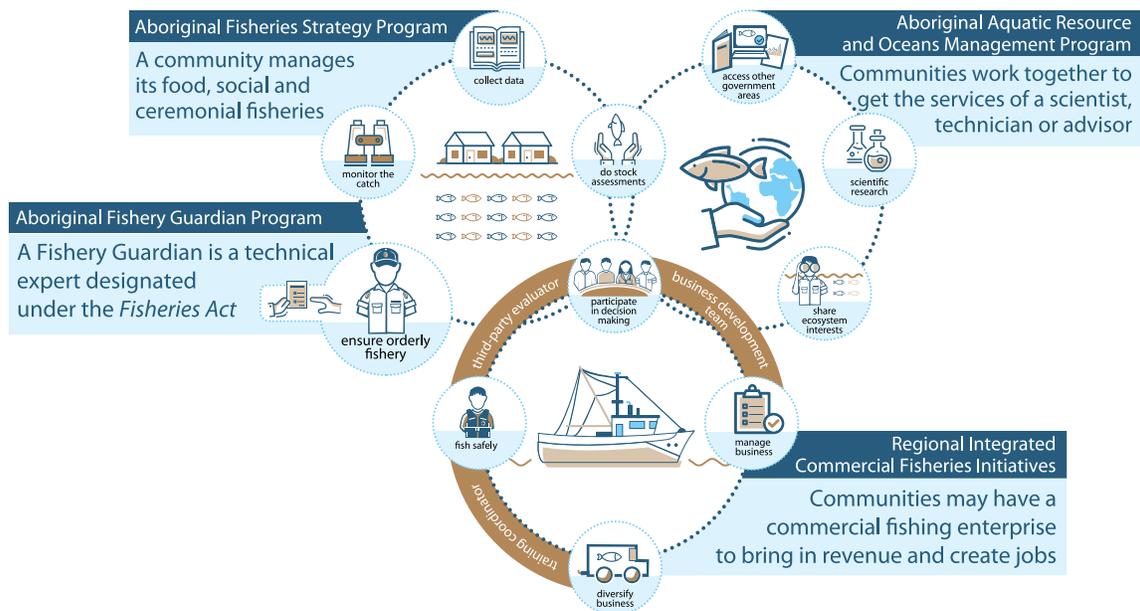
### Your programs. Your voice. **Your future.**

The Indigenous Program Review is an opportunity to look at the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management programs to ensure that their technical components serve the needs of today's Indigenous communities. It is also an opportunity to address their shortcomings. The Fishery Guardian component of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy is especially significant.

It is equally important that the Indigenous Program Review examine how the Pacific and Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiatives should be renewed and expanded to accommodate new entrants and the aspirations of Indigenous fisheries and aquaculture enterprises. This includes understanding how the new northern commercial program should be developed for regions and groups that were not eligible for the Atlantic and Pacific programs.

# Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Indigenous Programs at a Glance

Communities may participate in one, more than one, all or none of these programs.



## Ways to Share your Views

You have many ways to share your views on, or to talk to us about, the Discussion Papers and the Indigenous Program Review overall.

### DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FISHERIES INSTITUTE

[indigenousfisheries.ca/indigenous-program-review](https://indigenousfisheries.ca/indigenous-program-review)

You can upload a file in various formats (\*.pdf, \*.jpg, \*.doc, etc.).

- Facebook:** indigenousfisheries
- Twitter:** indigenousfish
- E-mail:** [feedback@indigenousfisheries.ca](mailto:feedback@indigenousfisheries.ca)
- Mail:** National Indigenous Fisheries Institute  
P.O. Box 352 Sydney, Nova Scotia B1P 6H2
- Facsimile:** 1-902-270-3721
- Telephone:** 1-902-270-3720

### INDIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FISHERIES INSTITUTE

- Through your commercial fishing enterprise or business development team
- Through the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
- Through the First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia
- Through your Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management group
- Through your Chief or Council
- Through your Regional Assembly of First Nations Chief
- Through Fisheries and Oceans Canada

# What Happens Next?

## Indigenous Program Review Timeline



### The Indigenous Program Review will take place over the course of a year or so.

The discussion papers will be open for comments into the first few months of 2018. The Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Program and Aboriginal Fishery Guardian Program discussion papers will remain open a few months longer.

Discussion materials are posted on the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute website. They will also be given to Indigenous groups and organizations, including commercial fishing enterprises and aquatic resource and oceans management groups, so they may personally discuss program renewal with their members.

The Institute will hold several workshops and engagement sessions across Canada over the autumn of 2017 and into the winter of 2018 to talk with participants about the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management program and the commercial fisheries programs. At the same time, plenary sessions related to these programs will be led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's co-delivery partners, the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chief Secretariat and the First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia. Meetings and engagement sessions organized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and other groups may also include discussions on one or more of these programs.

The Institute expects to begin engagement activities related to the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and the Fishery Guardian programs in the spring of 2018. Several workshops, as well as individual meetings, will be held across Canada to discuss these programs. The Department's co-delivery partners and other Indigenous groups will continue to be involved in this process.

A schedule of known workshops, plenaries, and other engagement sessions is already posted on the Institute's website. This schedule will be regularly updated. 'What we heard' during each session will also be documented and posted on the website.

Based on the feedback received in response to discussion papers and the outcomes of face-to-face sessions, the Institute will prepare a report with a set of recommendations for review and endorsement by Indigenous leadership. When this is completed, the report will be given to Fisheries and Oceans Canada to use as they remodel their programs. It will also be posted on the Institute's website and made readily available.

With the longer time frame required to adequately review the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and the Fishery Guardian programs, the Institute will issue its final report in two parts. The first will make recommendations related to the Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management program and the commercial fisheries programs. The second will make recommendations related to the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy and the Fishery Guardian programs.