
**AGREEMENT ON
INTERJURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION
WITH RESPECT TO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

This agreement is intended to foster a significant improvement in relations between the federal government and the governments of the provinces and territories and among governments with respect to the management of fisheries and aquaculture.

These objectives will be attained through a commitment by governments to work in a true spirit of co-operation and partnership in order to contribute effectively, with sector stakeholders, to the maintenance of ecologically sustainable fisheries resources and habitats, and to the development of ecologically sustainable and economically viable fisheries and aquaculture industries.

WHEREAS Federal Provincial and Territorial Governments (hereinafter Governments) recognize their respective constitutional jurisdiction over fisheries and aquaculture;

WHEREAS Governments recognize that there are implications for the other orders of government that may flow from the exercising of a legitimate constitutional authority;

WHEREAS Governments and all Canadians, individually and collectively, share responsibility to ensure the use of fisheries resources and their habitats does not exceed their capacity for sustainability and jeopardize their value to future generations;

WHEREAS Governments are committed to conserving, enhancing, and protecting the fisheries resource, habitats and the aquatic environment;

WHEREAS Governments recognize the importance of the fisheries resource and habitats to the economic well being and social fabric of Canadian communities;

WHEREAS Governments are committed to fostering economically viable and ecologically sustainable fishing and aquaculture industries;

WHEREAS Governments recognize the need to develop concrete solutions to reflect the particular needs and opportunities of different provinces and territories;

WHEREAS Governments recognize that an effective means of achieving economically viable and ecologically sustainable fishing and aquaculture industries is through the cooperative pursuit of consistent, coordinated, and integrated policies, initiatives and programs;

WHEREAS the federal and other governments recognize the particular importance of fisheries and habitat management and resource allocation, and commit to working in a new and enhanced spirit of cooperation in these areas.

AND WHEREAS A Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (hereinafter the Council) would be a means of fostering this cooperation and coordination;

THE PARTIES HERETO agree to the following Principles of Cooperation.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

1. **Commitment to Action**

Each Government is committed to act within its area of jurisdiction while respecting the jurisdiction of other governments.

2. **Timely Consultation**

Governments agree to timely consultation with affected jurisdictions as part of their respective decision making processes.

By way of example, the federal government will consult on the preparation of legislation and regulations, and fisheries management plans and allocations, while the provinces and territories will consult on legislation and regulations related to fish habitat, programs and initiatives concerning the processing sector, provincial-territorial licensing and fisheries development initiatives.

3. **Information Sharing in Advance of Announcements**

Governments commit to provide reasonable notice of decisions that may affect another jurisdiction in advance of any public announcement.

4. **Transparency**

Governments agree to make explicit and known the objectives, principles and means underlying the decision-making process.

5. **Accountability**

Governments agree to be openly and publicly accountable to each other for the commitments made in this agreement;

6. **Coordination**

In the spirit of cooperation, Governments commit to identify and pursue opportunities where increased efficiency, effectiveness and streamlining may result in mutually beneficial improvements for both orders of government.

7. **Harmonization**

Governments commit to pursue a harmonized approach to the development of fisheries and aquaculture policies and objectives.

8. **Aboriginal and Treaty Rights**

For greater certainty, nothing in this Agreement abrogates or derogates from any Aboriginal, treaty or other rights of Aboriginal People including self-government agreements.

9. **Flexibility**

Where appropriate, Governments agree to collaborate on the development of policies designed to address the particular needs and opportunities of different provinces and territories.

THE PARTIES HERETO further agree to formalize the Council as follows:

1. **Objectives**

- 1.1 review and coordinate public policy objectives for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- 1.2 promote interjurisdictional cooperation in freshwater and marine fisheries and aquaculture issues and to provide a forum to establish and meet common goals;
- 1.3 improve consultations and information sharing on interjurisdictional matters in government decision making processes;
- 1.4 identify and pursue opportunities where increased efficiency, effectiveness, and streamlining can improve resource management and services to industry and the public;
- 1.5 provide a forum for discussion of and consultation on Canadian positions in international negotiations and subjects of national and regional interest;
- 1.6 develop close linkages to other Ministers' Councils on matters of related responsibility (e.g. Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, the Wildlife Ministers, etc.)

2. **Membership**

The Council shall consist of one Minister from each jurisdiction with responsibility for Fisheries and Aquaculture for federal, provincial and territorial governments.

3. **Meetings**

The Council shall meet on an annual basis and may meet more frequently, as required.

4. **Chair**

The annual Council meeting will be co-chaired by the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fisheries Minister of the host province or territory in accordance with Schedule A attached hereto.

5. **Deputy Ministers' Committee**

The Deputy Ministers are responsible for the coordination and supervision of preparatory and follow-up work for meetings of the Council. This includes:

- 5.1 review and approval of agendas;
- 5.2 overseeing the activities of the working group established under Section 6 of this Agreement;
- 5.3 monitoring the progress of annual work plans and outcomes from the Council meetings, and reporting annually on the implementation of the Agreement.
- 5.4 Deputy Ministers shall meet once a year and more frequently, as required.
- 5.5 The Deputy Ministers' Committee will be co-chaired by the Federal Deputy Minister of Fisheries and the Deputy Minister of Fisheries of the province or territory that will host the annual meeting in accordance with schedule A attached hereto.

6. **Working Group**

Each Minister shall appoint a senior official to the Council Working Group.

The Working Group will be co-chaired by the representative of the federal government and the representative of the province or territory that will host the annual meeting in accordance with Schedule A attached hereto.

The Working Group shall be responsible for the following:

- 6.1 development of agendas;
- 6.2 development of work plans;
- 6.3 preparation of background materials;
- 6.4 preparation of the annual report to the Council;
- 6.5 identification of the needs and actions to be undertaken to promote cooperation between and among jurisdictions; and
- 6.6 any other task as required.

7. **Financial Provisions**

Each government shall be responsible for its own direct costs associated with the Council.

The direct costs for hosting Council meetings shall be shared equally by the host jurisdiction and the Government of Canada or otherwise by agreement of the host jurisdiction and the Government of Canada.

8. **General Provisions**

This Agreement may be amended, if necessary, with the written consent of all Ministers.

This Agreement shall come into force on June 30th, 1999.

This agreement will be reviewed by the Council of Ministers 3 years after the date of its coming into force to evaluate its effectiveness and to make appropriate adjustments as required.

Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent the parties from entering into bilateral or regional multilateral agreements in pursuit of mutual objectives.

Nothing in this Agreement shall override any specific provision contained in such bilateral or multilateral agreement.

SCHEDULE A

**AGREEMENT ON
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**Roster for Rotating the Chair/Host Responsibilities for Annual Meetings of the
Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers.**

1999	Quebec
2000	Alberta
2001	Ontario
2002	Yukon
2003	Nova Scotia
2004	Canada (provincial co-chair to be selected by provinces/territories)
2005	Saskatchewan
2006	Northwest Territories
2007	New Brunswick
2008	Manitoba
2009	Prince Edward Island
2010	Newfoundland and Labrador
2011	Nunavut
2012	British Columbia