



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Canada

2013 National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms

Presentation to the Nunavut Wildlife
Management Board

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Introductions and Transfers

- Introductions and transfers of live aquatic organisms are essential for many purposes and subject to licensing requirements – e.g. for aquaculture, stock enhancement, and research.
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and provinces-territories have traditionally managed disease, ecological, and genetic risks associated with these movements under the 2003 National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms.
- The 2003 Code was endorsed by the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM).
- The Code and associated licensing of aquatic organism movements are administered through introductions and transfers committees established in each province/territory, with federal-provincial/territorial representation.
- Each year, there are over 1500 approved movements in Canada of eggs/gametes, finfish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.



Renewal of the 2003 Code

- In Fall 2012, the CCFAM directed jurisdictions to renew the 2003 Code to:
 - account for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's new lead federal aquatic animal disease management role as it pertains to intentional movements of live fish under the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP); and,
 - refine and modernise other elements of the Code.
- The 2013 Code was renewed under a CCFAM Task Group and endorsed by CCFAM Ministers in September 2013.
- The renewed Code will be implemented concurrently with full implementation of the NAAHP in 2014.



The 2013 Code

- Overall scope of the Code is unchanged – still manages disease, genetic, and ecological risks associated with intentional movements of live aquatic organisms.
- The 2013 Code maintains an integrated and coordinated governance structure despite evolving roles.
 - CFIA disease management role integrated into the Code.
 - CFIA added to Introductions and Transfers Committee structure in each province-territory to ensure continued coordination on authorizations to move aquatic animals.
- Streamlines the authorization of fish movements and modernises the Code with the inclusion of clear service standards and the tools necessary for responsible information management and reporting.



Relevance to Nunavut

- Nunavut is not currently introducing or transferring live aquatic organisms – but may at some point in the future.
- The 2013 Code affirms provincial/territorial discretion to maintain or implement new measures.
- The 2013 Code is intended as a ‘living’ document – a National Introductions and Transfers Program Committee has been created to review the functioning of the Code on an annual basis, and make changes where appropriate.
- The Government of Nunavut is represented on the National Committee to oversee any future proposed changes to the Code from a Nunavut perspective.
- The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act* and the *Nunavut Wildlife Act* are referenced in the Code.



Next Steps - 2013 Code Preparations and Implementation

- Implementation of the 2013 Code is intended to coincide with full implementation of the CFIA's NAAHP to ensure seamless transition disease risk management roles.
- A federal-provincial-territorial transition plan is being prepared/implemented by the National Program Committee to prepare for Code implementation and ensure coordinated service delivery between Code partners in the interim period.