



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

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520 Exmouth Street  
Sarnia, Ontario  
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Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Région du centre et de l'arctique  
520 rue Exmouth  
Sarnia (Ontario)  
N7T 8B1

January 13, 2015

Dear Stakeholder,

**Subject:** Government of Canada's new (DRAFT) *Policy on the Development of New Commercial Fisheries* (PDNCF)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is in the process of developing a new national policy to guide the development of new commercial fisheries managed under the *Fisheries Act*.

DFO introduced the *New Emerging Fisheries Policy* in 2001 to guide the commercial development of unused or underutilized species not covered by a management plan. In early 2014, DFO drafted a revised version of the policy, now titled the *Policy on the Development of New Commercial Fisheries* (PDNCF), through collaboration with a Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CCFAM) Ministers working group, comprised of federal, provincial and territorial members. The draft policy received the concurrence of CCFAM Ministers on June 26, 2014.

The new draft policy better defines the requirements to advance through the fishery development stages. In addition, it seeks to strike a better balance between conservation and the desire to advance more quickly to a possible commercial fishery. The PDNCF also clarifies the roles and responsibilities of DFO and the proponent during the process to develop a new fishery. Finally, the policy calls for the establishment of multi-stakeholder review committees in each DFO Region to facilitate stakeholder participation in reviewing proposals and developing fisheries, to provide advice to DFO and to avoid impacts on existing fisheries. Existing advisory bodies and processes can be used in this function.

DFO wishes to invite Inuit, industry and other fishery stakeholders to provide their views to help inform the development and eventual implementation of this revised policy. Until this national policy is finalized, the existing *New Emerging Fisheries Policy* will remain in effect.

Attached to this letter please find a copy of the draft policy along with a background summary of the proposed changes. Should you have any comments or questions on the draft policy, which you would like us to take into consideration as we move forward with the development of this policy, please contact us at:

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In writing at:

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Fisheries and Oceans  
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Central & Arctic Region – Northern Operations  
P.O. Box 358  
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Attention: Larry Dow

By e-mail: larry.dow@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

We look forward to hearing your views and appreciate your participation. The deadline for input is February 27, 2015.

Sincerely,

David Burden  
Regional Director General  
Central & Arctic Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

ATTACHMENTS (2)

Annex 1: Policy on the Development of New Commercial Fisheries (PDNCF) – DRAFT

Annex 2: Background Summary, Updating the New Emerging Fisheries Policy