



3B B John Street, Yarmouth, NS B5A 3H2  
[lisaanderson@nsfsc.ca](mailto:lisaanderson@nsfsc.ca) [www.nsfsc.ca](http://www.nsfsc.ca)

**October, 2012**

**Attention Nova Scotia Fishermen's Associations:**

Back in May a letter was sent out to all Fishermen's Associations in NS in order to provide an update on the status of the **Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Board Act**. This Act is enabling legislation which would allow for the establishment of a board which would be responsible for registration and training of fishermen in Nova Scotia. We had noted in the letter that the Act was introduced in April and passed on May 17<sup>th</sup>. A working group of industry association representatives from both the Maritimes and Gulf region assisted the Province in drafting the Act. The second task of the working group is to develop draft by-laws and governance policies in order to govern a future organization.

The purpose of the board is to

- Register and certify fish harvesters in the Province of Nova Scotia;
- Establish certification criteria based on the knowledge, skills and experience of fish harvesters;
- Fund and coordinate training opportunities to improve the safety and knowledge of fish harvesters; and
- Promote the sustainability and economic viability of the fishing industry

The working group has been working hard to look at options as to how this Act would best suit the needs of industry. Resources are limited when it comes to supporting training for fishermen in Nova Scotia. There is opportunity for fishermen to have an industry led program which would allow for the registration and certification of fishermen along with coordination of training.

In order to support the work of the Fish Harvesters Registration and Training Board a request would go to Fisheries and Oceans Canada requesting them to withdraw from the collection of the Personal Fishing Registration (PFR) fees. The industry board would then collect the fee instead of DFO to register fishermen and apply the money towards training. This won't be an additional

cost to fishermen, but an opportunity to use these funds to help offset training costs.

Over the last few months the working group has put together draft by-laws and governance policies to be presented at an upcoming industry workshop to be held in January 2013. All fishermen's associations in Nova Scotia will be invited and encouraged to attend. This is intended to be industry led and your feedback is important.

If you would like to get involved further or would like to know more please feel free to contact us at any time. You can also check out our website to gain further information: <http://www.nsfsc.ca>

This is a positive step and will allow for an industry led registration and training system for fishermen in Nova Scotia.

Best regards,

Lisa Fitzgerald