

What you need to know about:

Fish Harvester Registration and Certification Board of Nova Scotia

- Is this a new organization?
 - Yes - this organization is the result of merging together the Scotia Fundy Professional Fish Harvesters Registration and Training Association and the 6 multi-species accredited organizations in the Gulf of Nova Scotia in order to form one organization that would work on “professionalization” in the Province of Nova Scotia. The concept of what this group is doing is not new. The move towards having a professionalization program in place has been going on since the early 90’s.
- Where does the authority come from for this organization?
 - This organization is formed under the authority of the Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Act that was passed in May 2012. The NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture was the sponsoring department for the legislation.
- Where will the money come from to run this organization?
 - This organization has prepared a proposal to DFO, requesting them to withdraw from the collection of Personal Fishing Registration (PFR). If accepted, this board will then administer a registration system in the Province of Nova Scotia and the funds collected from that will be used to run the organization.
- How much will this cost me?
 - The cost to register with the board is \$50 per year. This amount will be paid to the Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Board of Nova Scotia. This amount would replace the current fee charged for registration by DFO
- Will the \$50 ever increase?
 - The intention of the board is to maintain this fee at the current rate
- Who will enforce if I don’t pay?

- If a fish harvester decides to not pay, they won't be able to take advantage of the programs and services offered by the board. We are proposing that if the fish harvester is a licence holder they are required to be registered with the board in order to renew their licence.
- What will the money be used for?
 - A percentage will be used for administration and the larger balance will be used to offset training costs.
- What will this organization do?
 - This organization will administer a registration, certification and training system for fish harvesters in Nova Scotia.
- What is the mandate of the board?
 - The mandate of the board is to register and certify fishermen in Nova Scotia and fund and coordinate training opportunities.
- Is the board representative of fish harvesters in Nova Scotia?
 - Yes, the board is made up of directors from across Nova Scotia – representative of fleet sectors and geographical areas.
- How are directors selected?
 - Directors are selected by a nomination process from each of the six zones that make up the Province of Nova Scotia. A full outline of the process is included in the governance policy for the board.
- How will I know what the organization is doing?
 - Communication tools such as a website and newsletters will be made available so that members can be kept up to date on the activities of the organizations. Staff of the board will also attend meeting of associations/organizations across Nova Scotia in order to provide updates on activities. An annual report will be produced and presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- How do fish harvesters register?
 - In year-one current Personal Fishing Registrants (registered with DFO) will receive a letter in the mail. This letter invites them to register with the board. The application form is completed and mailed in, along with the \$50 fee. A registration card will then be

mailed back to the fish harvester. Registration is renewed on an annual base after that.

- What is the value in registering with the board?
 - When fish harvesters register with the board it gives them the opportunity to be part of an organization that will focus their efforts on training for the industry. This will allow for subsidized training for fishermen and a voice in future training development.
- What are the certification levels?
 - Fish harvesters will be certified at one of four levels - *Certified Professional Fish Harvester, Professional Fish Harvester, Certified Apprentice and Apprentice*. A full outline of the criteria in each of the certification levels is included in the governance policy of the board.
- After I register - how do I get certified?
 - Registration and Certification are completed at the same time. When the application form for registration is received the fish harvester will be entered into the system and assessed at one of the four levels of certification. It will be determined what level a fish harvester is by his/her past experience and training.
- How do I change to a higher level of certification?
 - If a fish harvester wanted to move to a higher level of certification, a form is completed which will capture sea time acquired and training received. This will move a fish harvester to a higher certification level.
- I am a core licence holder right now - am I still a core?
 - Yes - the classifications that DFO gives to licence holders will still remain the same. DFO will still continue to conduct their assessments when it comes to obtaining a licence as what has been done in the past. Registration with the board is only one component to obtaining a licence from DFO.
- What types of training will the board support?
 - The board will support regulatory (ie Transport Canada) and non - regulatory training as requested by fish harvesters.
- How will the board determine who gets training and when?

- All registered fish harvesters are eligible for a training subsidy. As part of the application process it will be determined what training is needed by individual fish harvesters. This information will be used to develop a training plan for the industry in Nova Scotia and training will be delivered on a first come first serve bases, and would be scheduled based on fishing seasons.
- What if I have all the training I need?
 - We can't anticipate what training requirements may arise in the future so it's in your best interest to be prepared and register with the board. Fish harvesters may want to take advantage of non-regulatory training programs as well which can have a positive effect on improving knowledge and awareness in the industry.
- Will this board decide how I fish?
 - No, this board will not be involved in the management of the fishery and will focus its' efforts on registration, certification and training.