

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

presents

A Policy for Selective Fishing in Canada's Pacific Fisheries

2001

What is Selective Fishing?

The ability to avoid known non-target species and stocks or, if encountered, to release them alive and unharmed.

Why is Canada Pursuing Selective Fishing?

- ' Canada has endorsed, and signed international agreements that commit to, a precautionary approach and conservation-based fisheries management
- ' New Directions in the Pacific fisheries:
 - | Conservation
 - | Sustainable Use
 - | Improved Decision Making

Why is Canada Pursuing Selective Fishing?

- ' Conservation-based fisheries do not tolerate bycatch that results in threats to weaker stocks or species
- ' Bycatch wastes of any fish, seabirds or marine mammals are considered unacceptable
- ' Unacceptable bycatch is an impediment to many potentially lucrative fisheries

Why is a Policy Necessary?

- Harvesters have been working hard at developing selective fishing gear and methods
- First Nations, recreational and commercial harvesters need to know what is expected of them and how they can achieve selective fishing goals

Why is a Policy Necessary?

- Stakeholders and the public need to know what to expect and the path that will be taken
- To set a benchmark from which progress can be measured

Who Contributed to the Policy?

- A discussion paper was released in May 99
- Copies sent to all First Nations, Tribal Councils, recreational and commercial harvester organizations
- Consulted directly with First Nations, recreational and commercial harvesters
- Consulted broadly through public workshops, website, etc.

What is in the Policy?

- Selective fisheries objective
- Five selective fisheries principles
- An implementation framework
- Next steps

Selective Fishing Objective

- Ensure selective fishing technology and practices are adopted where appropriate and continue with improvements in gear and practices
- In meeting conservation objectives, fishing opportunities and resource allocations will be shaped by the ability of all harvesters to fish selectively.

Selective Fishing Principles

1. Conservation of Pacific fisheries stocks is the primary objective and will take precedence in managing the resource.
2. All Pacific recreational and commercial fisheries will adhere to selective fishing standards within set timelines

Selective Fishing Principles (cont.)

3. In all fisheries where selective harvesting standards are not met within prescribed timelines, and bycatches prevent achievement of conservation objectives, fishing opportunities will be curtailed.
4. Four fundamental strategies in fishing selectively to minimize mortalities and maximize chances for survival of non-target fish, invertebrates, seabirds and marine mammals will be adopted through increased knowledge of

Selective Fishing Principles (cont.)

5. First Nations and the recreational and commercial fishing sectors will be responsible for continuous learning and skills development and transfer of responsible and selective fishing harvesting practices.

Implementation Framework

- Selective Fishing Standards
- Selective Fishing Gear and Practices
- Training and Education
- Responsibilities and Future Costs

Next Steps

- Selective standards, timelines and action plans will be established for all fisheries by January 2003
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada will consult with recreational and commercial interests on implementation of the policy
- The allocation board will consider adjustments to commercial harvest allocations
- Management plans will include selective fishing measures, and by 2003 will include standards, timelines and action plans