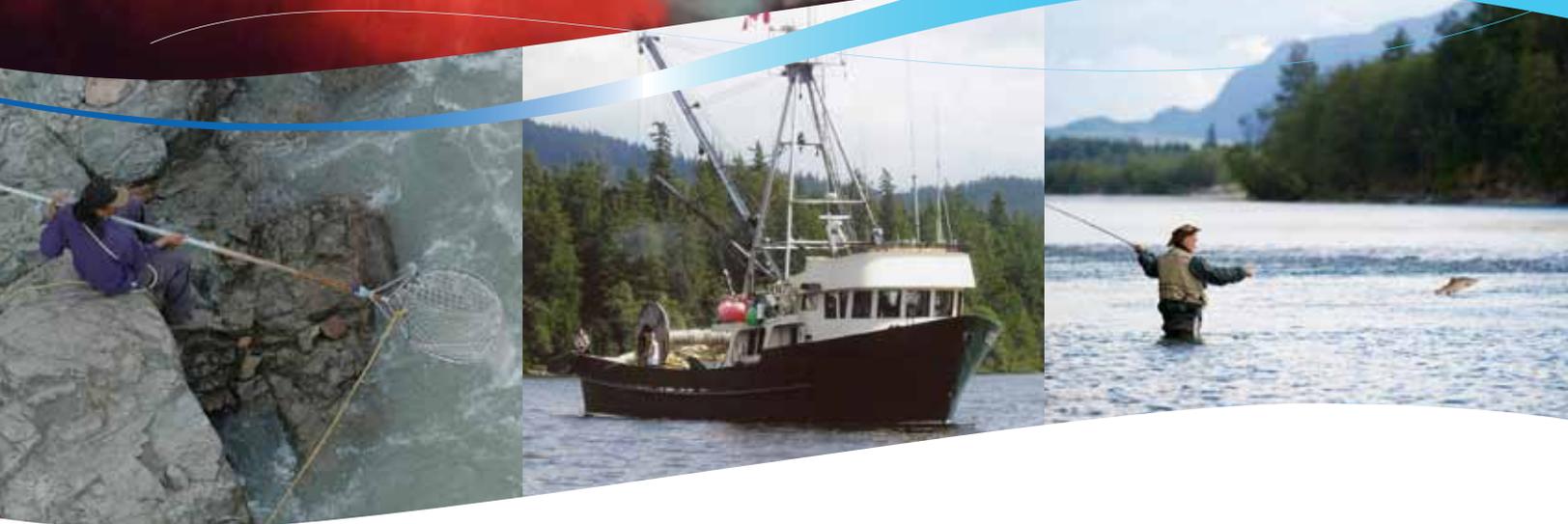


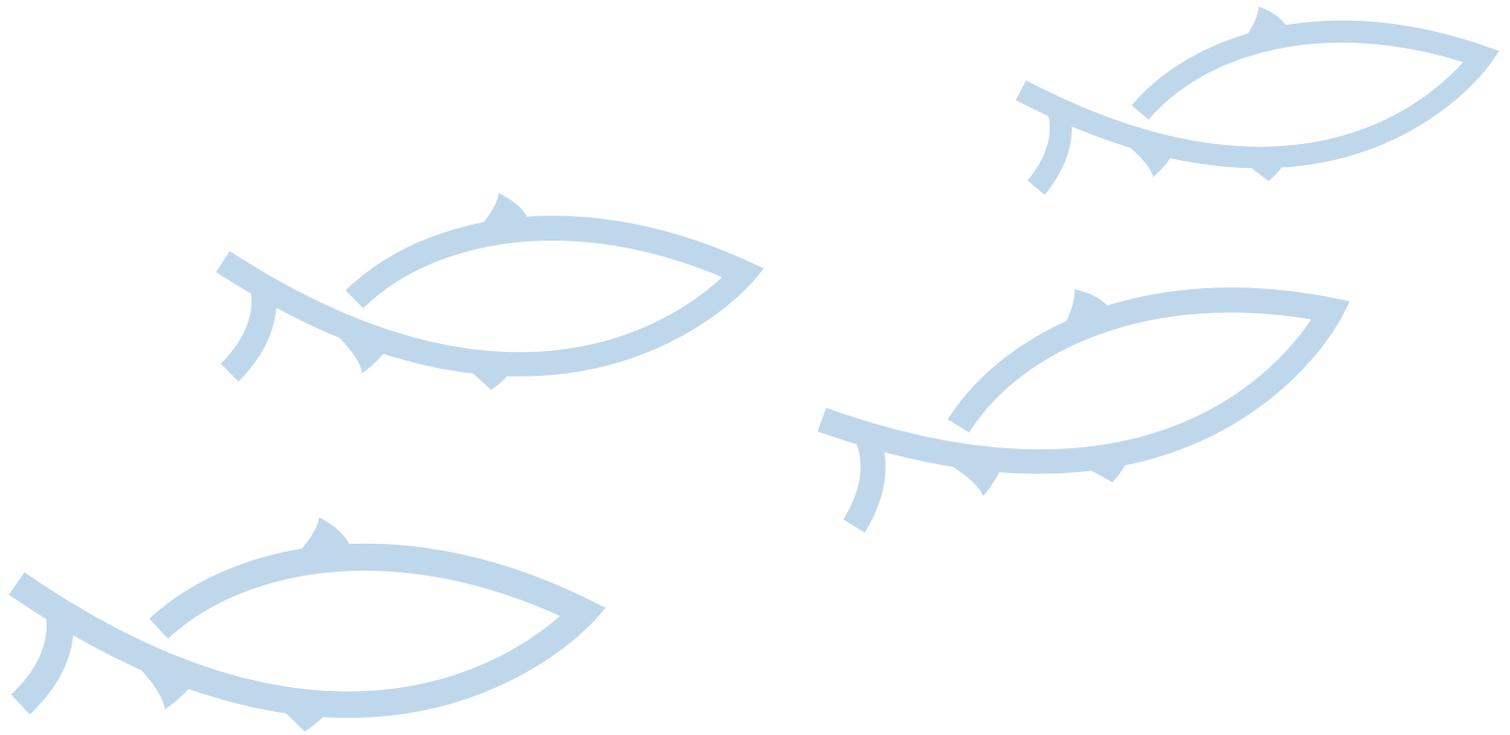
Next Steps in Fishery Monitoring & Catch Reporting in BC & Yukon

An Introduction to the *Strategic Framework for Fishery Monitoring & Catch Reporting in the Pacific Fisheries*

MARCH, 2017



Pacific Fisheries Monitoring & Compliance Panel



NEXT STEPS IN FISHERY MONITORING & CATCH REPORTING IN BC & YUKON

An Introduction to the Strategic Framework for Fishery Monitoring and Catch Reporting in the Pacific Fisheries

In 2012 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) adopted the *Strategic Framework for Fishery Monitoring and Catch Reporting in the Pacific Fisheries* (Strategic Framework).

The Pacific Fisheries Monitoring & Compliance (M&C) Panel has prepared this summary to help harvest groups better understand the Strategic Framework and how it will impact them.

All harvest groups within Aboriginal, commercial and recreational fisheries should become familiar with the Strategic Framework. Each harvest group will be asked by DFO to participate in a risk assessment and a review of the group's monitoring and reporting requirements, which will be based on the Strategic Framework and a related Risk Assessment Tool.

The M&C Panel would like to acknowledge DFO for funding this publication, which is intended as a general overview of the *Strategic Framework for Fishery Monitoring and Catch Reporting in the Pacific Fisheries*.

To learn more, please see the Strategic Framework and the Risk Assessment Tool, which are available online from DFO and through resource links on the M&C Panel website: pfmcp.ca.



Pacific Fisheries Monitoring & Compliance Panel

WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK?

The Strategic Framework for Fishery Monitoring and Catch Reporting in the Pacific Fisheries (Strategic Framework) is a federal policy framework aimed at securing more accurate, timely and accessible fisheries data in Pacific fisheries — to increase public confidence in the sustainability of those fisheries.

DFO adopted the Strategic Framework in 2012, after consultations with the commercial and recreational harvest sectors, First Nations, and other interests, and with assistance from the M&C Panel. The Strategic Framework is part of a national fisheries modernization plan and complements DFO's Sustainable Fisheries Framework, which takes a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.

The Strategic Framework sets out consistent criteria for assessing Pacific fisheries according to the relevant risks that each fishery presents to the ecosystem — that is, risks to targeted fish species and stocks, to species taken as by-catch, and to ecological communities. Also of importance is the information needed to manage each fishery sustainably.

The risk assessment and an information needs analysis will be carried out by DFO in cooperation with members of each fishery to help determine the appropriate monitoring and reporting requirements for that fishery.

The Strategic Framework is available on the DFO website. You can also find a link on the M&C Panel website at pfmcp.ca.

Guiding Principles in the Strategic Framework

- 1 CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE**
The monitoring and reporting requirements will provide the right information to support prosperous, sustainable fisheries that ensure the protection of fish populations, their habitat and the broader ecosystem.
- 2 CONSISTENCY AND TRANSPARENCY**
While monitoring and reporting requirements will vary by fishery, they will be determined based on consistent criteria and in a transparent manner that allows information to be easily accessed and understood by resource managers, other data users and the general public.
- 3 TAILORED REQUIREMENTS**
Information requirements will depend on the nature and scope of the fishery, reflecting the relevant risks and management regime, and may evolve over time.
- 4 SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCESS**
Everyone involved in monitoring and reporting will be committed to providing timely, accurate information. Continued access to the resource and its benefits is contingent on all harvest groups fulfilling their roles and meeting obligations.
- 5 COST-EFFECTIVENESS**
Fishery monitoring and catch reporting programs will ensure that information requirements are achieved as cost-effectively as possible.





WHAT IS MONITORING & REPORTING?

Fishery Monitoring

Fishery monitoring means the observation and examination of the catching and landing of fish (both targeted and by-catch species and stocks) and related activities, such as counting of vessels and gear and biological sampling. Depending on the fishery, monitoring is conducted by harvesters directly, First Nations, DFO staff or third-party observers.

Fisher-dependent monitoring methods include commercial sales slips, logbooks, hail-ins/hail-outs and harvester surveys.

Independent monitoring methods include aerial gear counts (overflights), on-water gear counts (charter patrols), on-board observers, video monitoring, dockside monitoring and post-season buyer-supplier surveys.

Catch Reporting

Catch reporting means providing information, in written or electronic form, on the catch and other essential details related to the fishing activity, such as location and gear type.

Reporting is performed by harvesters or by fish buyers, off-loaders or contracted third-party dockside monitors/observers on behalf of harvesters. Depending on the fishery, data is delivered in different ways, including by mail, internet/email, telephone, radio, in-person interviews or real-time vessel monitoring.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

The Strategic Framework is aimed at ensuring sustainable Pacific fisheries for future generations. Canada's approach reflects a global shift towards greater consistency and transparency in fisheries monitoring and catch reporting practices.

The approach is one means of addressing risks, considering pressures now facing fisheries worldwide:

- Climate change has warmed and acidified oceans
- Many key fish stocks have declined world-wide
- Fishing competition is on the rise
- Illegal fishing is a growing threat and
- The economic viability of fisheries has in many cases declined.

A consistent approach to determine monitoring and information requirements will inspire confidence and cooperation

MONITORING & REPORTING SYSTEMS TODAY

The extent and intensity of monitoring and reporting vary across different Pacific fisheries according to each fishery's size and location, risks and other factors

In some Pacific fisheries, there are no monitoring requirements, such as in some remote recreational and some First Nations harvesting. A few fisheries are at the other end of the spectrum. The commercial groundfish trawl fishery, for example, has enhanced requirements that include 100% dockside monitoring of landings, conducted by independent third parties, and 100% at-sea monitoring of catch and discards. Many other fisheries fall in between, with varying requirements.

Over the years, outside reviewers, including the Auditor General of Canada and the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, have identified shortcomings in fishery monitoring and catch reporting. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has committed to ensuring greater consistency in monitoring and reporting, commensurate with relevant risks.

Better Catch Data, Better Decisions

Reliable catch data allows resource managers to make sound decisions on stock assessments, undertake pre- and post-season planning, determine total catch allocations, make in-season decisions to close or open fisheries and administer defined-share fisheries.

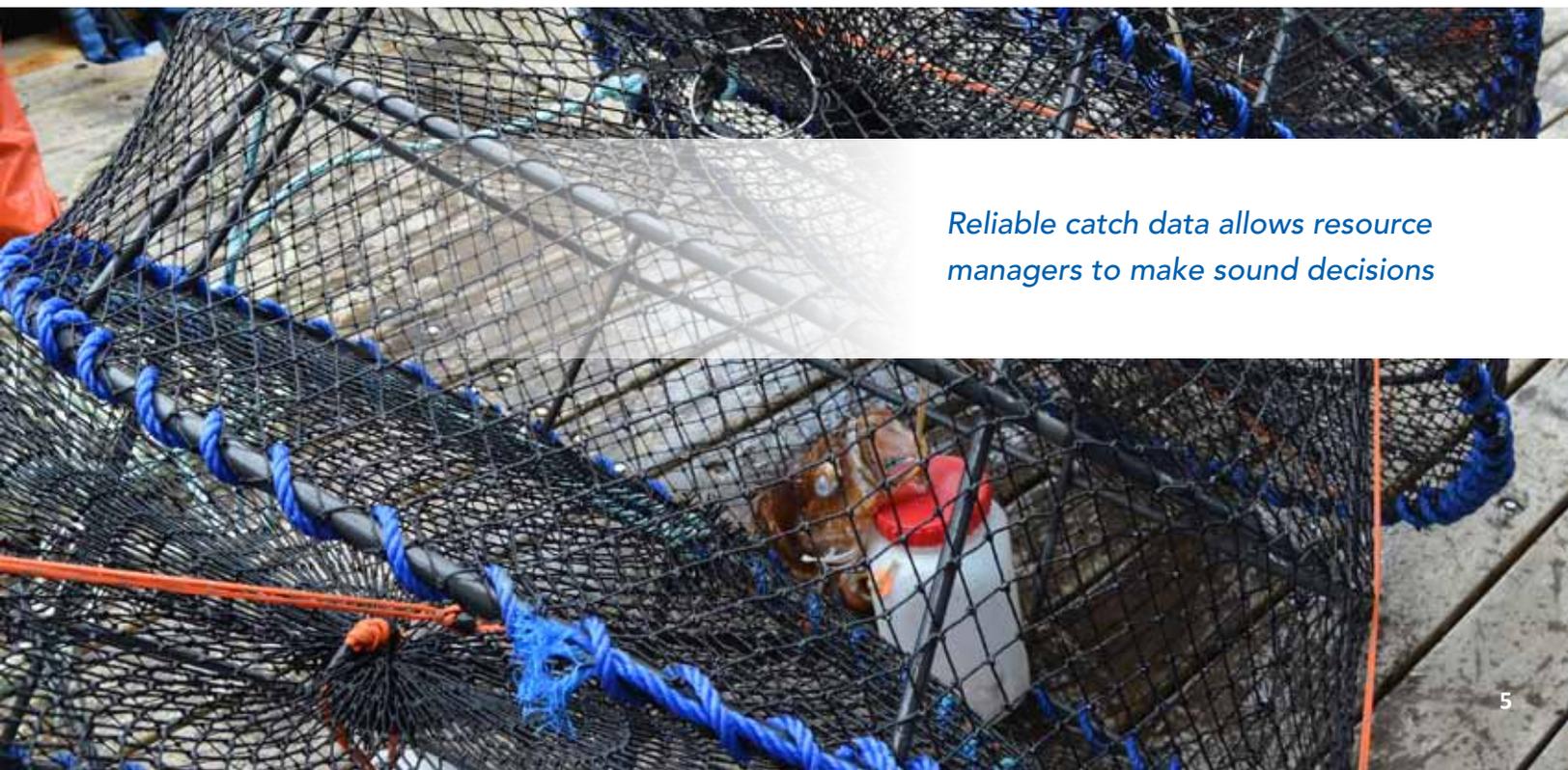
Conservation efforts rely on reliable catch data as well. For example, selective fishing techniques typically incorporate more intensive monitoring to determine effectiveness and compliance, by-catch levels and specific release rates.

Catch data is also needed for socio-economic purposes, such as the analysis of employment and income, the administration of employment insurance and workers compensation, and the reporting provisions of domestic and international treaties.

Building Trust

Trust in catch numbers is critical for fisheries management. If harvesting levels are too high, there is risk to the health and sustainability of a stock. If set too low, the livelihood of BC and Yukon fishers is at risk.

A distrust of data or monitoring processes is known to fuel conflicts between Pacific fisheries harvesting groups. Conflicts can be avoided through clear standards, clear monitoring and reporting requirements, and fairness in compliance.



Reliable catch data allows resource managers to make sound decisions

REASONS FOR ENHANCED CONSISTENCY IN MONITORING & REPORTING

- Enhanced public confidence, at home and abroad, that Pacific fisheries and fisheries products are sustainable
- A better foundation for supporting conservation and biodiversity, thanks to the ecosystem-based approach that considers species at risk, stocks of concern, non-targeted by-catch species and impacts on ecological communities
- Better protection of Aboriginal constitutional rights to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes and protection of treaty rights
- Fulfilment of domestic and international obligations, including the Pacific Salmon Treaty and various United Nations agreements
- Better access to fishing, including access to fisheries that were previously closed because of data deficiencies
- Improved relations among harvesters, thanks to greater confidence in catch data
- Opportunities for co-management of the resource, which is possible when catch data is sound and there is shared confidence in the numbers
- More reliable catch data as the foundation for fisheries management, including stock assessments, total catch allocations, in-season decisions to open/close fisheries, and the administration of defined shares or quota fisheries
- Opportunities to employ selective fishing techniques (fish wheels, traps, weirs and dip nets) or mark-selective (hatchery-raised) salmon fisheries, which require monitoring for effectiveness
- Opportunities for international certification and increased global market access through traceability and proof of seafood sustainability.

GETTING READY FOR RISK ASSESSMENTS

Each harvest group from within Aboriginal, commercial and recreational fisheries will participate in a risk assessment and a review of monitoring and reporting requirements

What Happens at a Risk Assessment?

Fisheries will be prioritized for risk assessment according to the need to fill critical information gaps and address specific vulnerabilities.

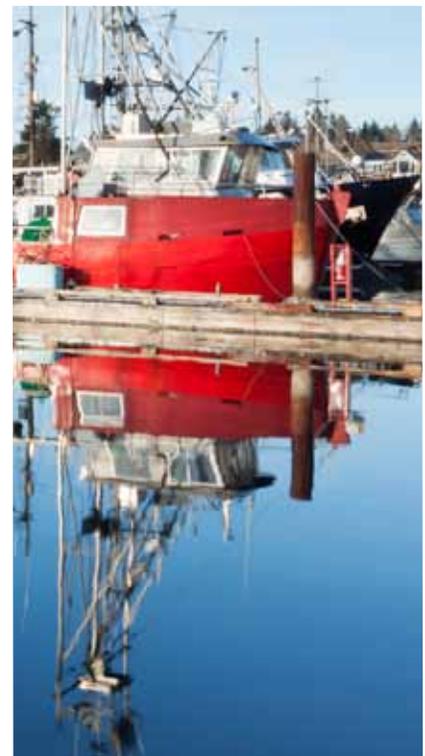
For each fishery, DFO will undertake a risk assessment, in which it will review catch data, score ecosystem risks related to the fishery, and identify the information needed for sustainable management of the fishery. DFO will subsequently engage harvesters in the fishery through existing processes, to the extent possible, to review and refine the risk assessment. This analysis will help determine the monitoring and reporting requirements that are appropriate for the fishery.

Pacific fisheries are very diverse in terms of size, fishing activity, gear and species harvested. Different fisheries face different challenges, and they create different risks to harvestable species and to the ecosystem as a whole.

It is expected — and entirely appropriate — that specific monitoring and reporting requirements will vary fishery to fishery after risk assessments are completed.

What is important is that the monitoring and reporting requirements are:

- determined according to standardized criteria
- commensurate with risks posed by a given fishery and
- easily understood by everyone.



Overview of Risk Assessment Criteria

Each risk assessment will be guided by the Strategic Framework, using a Risk Assessment Tool. The Risk Assessment Tool is divided into five parts (A-E), as shown in the illustration and brief descriptions below. For a closer look at the risk assessment process and tool, see the M&C Panel publication *Risk Assessment in the Pacific Fisheries for BC & Yukon*. You can also find the Risk Assessment Tool (Excel) online with an example of scoring. Visit pfmcp.ca.

RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL						
PART A Fishery Description & Licensing Information	PART B Ecosystem Risks			PART C Resource Management Issues	PART D Preliminary Risk Scoring	PART E Final Risk Scoring
	Main Species	By-Catch	Community & Habitat			

PART A Review of Fishery & Licensing Information

Part A sets out a description of the fishery, licence type, gear type, geographic area, size of average catch/fishing effort, timing of analysis, and target species under assessment.

PART B Review of Ecosystem Risks

Part B identifies and scores risks of a specific fishery on the ecosystem, particularly on:

- the main target species or stocks
- other species or stocks that are by-catch and later retained or discarded
- the ecological community and habitat.

PART C Review of Resource Management Issues

Part C identifies resource management considerations respecting the fishery that may impact final scoring.

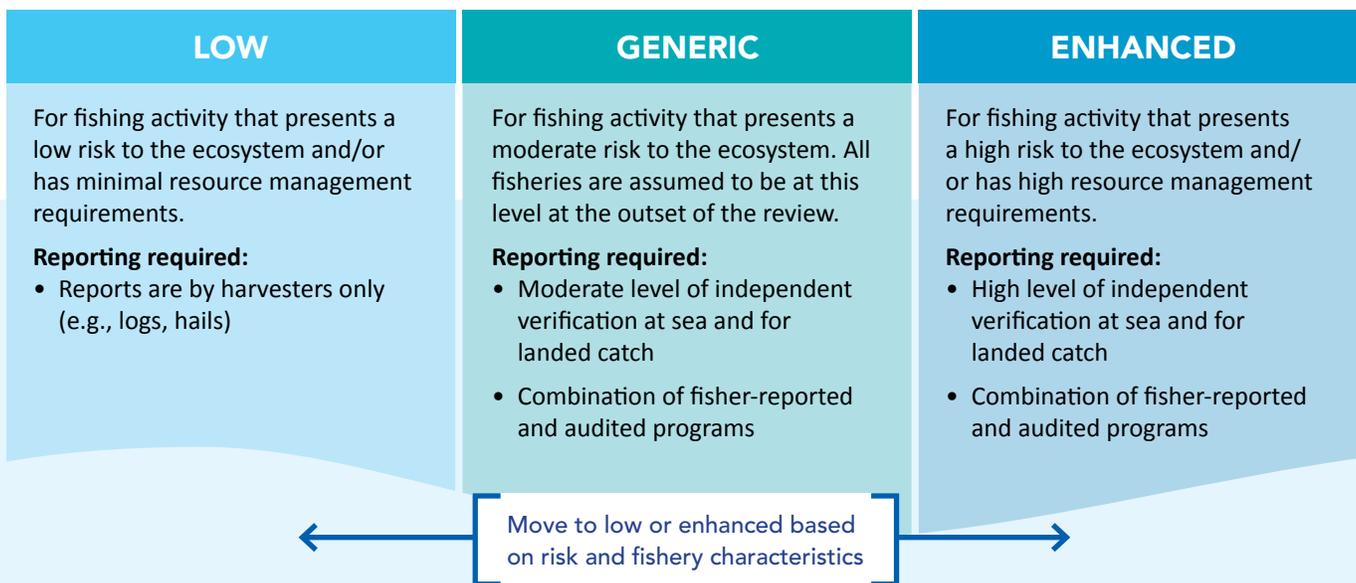
PART D Review of Preliminary Risk Scoring

In Part D, the three highest preliminary risk scores from Part B (one per ecosystem category) are set out to determine the overall fishery risk.

PART E Final Risk Scoring

A final risk score is calculated based on the overall fishery risk score and any applicable resource management issues. The final score indicates the appropriate level of monitoring and reporting.

Monitoring and Reporting Categories



Finalizing Monitoring & Reporting Requirements for a Fishery

When changes to a fishery’s monitoring and reporting program are needed, DFO and harvesters will work together to review options. The intent is for DFO and the harvest group to develop a mutually agreeable program.

If a monitoring and reporting option is both effective and affordable, it can be implemented. If not affordable, other options will be explored. For example, the level of monitoring and reporting may be relaxed in exchange for a more conservative harvest opportunity or management regime, such as a pooled fishery.

ABOUT THE M&C PANEL

The Pacific Fisheries Monitoring & Compliance (M&C) Panel brings to one table people from the Aboriginal, commercial and recreational fisheries, DFO, the Province of BC, conservation interests and the community — working together for improved and cost-effective fisheries monitoring, catch reporting and compliance in the Pacific Fisheries.

The Fraser Basin Council serves as secretariat and program manager for the Panel.

Would you like to know more? Connect with us! The Monitoring & Compliance Panel would like to hear from Pacific fisheries harvest groups on their readiness to participate in the risk assessment process and how we can be of help.

Here's how to reach us

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Visit us at pfmcp.ca

Photo credit: Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society Archives (pp. 1, 3 & 4)

M&C PANEL PLANS

- Keep you updated and engaged on monitoring and reporting developments in BC & Yukon
- Identify priority risk assessments and help all fisheries prepare
- Attend some DFO risk assessments as an independent observer and information resource
- Issue independent progress reports on the risk assessment process
- Research and report on innovative, cost-effective approaches to monitoring and reporting.



Fraser Basin Council

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) provides support services to the M&C Panel. FBC is a non-profit organization that brings people together to advance sustainability in the Fraser River Basin and throughout BC. **Learn more at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.**



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Thanks to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for funding this publication, which is intended as a general overview of the Strategic Framework for Fishery Monitoring & Catch Reporting in the Pacific Fisheries. DFO has the lead federal role in managing Canada's fisheries and safeguarding its waters. **Learn more at www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.**



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