

## **Fishery Monitoring Policy Statement - Summary**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has created a draft policy to help fishery managers put monitoring programs into effect. All managers will follow the policy and update programs the same way for each fishery. The policy will complement the policies in the [Sustainable Fisheries Framework](#).

The draft policy replaces ad hoc approaches with a consistent approach to gathering fisheries information. It promotes collaborative monitoring of catches, landings, location, ecosystem impacts, and compliance. Data providers are key participants in this process, namely:

- DFO
- recreational fishers
- commercial harvesters
- food, social and ceremonial fisheries
- dockside monitoring companies, observer companies, and other service providers

The policy objectives focus on dependable, timely, and accessible fishery information. They guide monitoring programs to ensure managers use a consistent approach to determine data collection needs across fisheries. The objectives prioritize data essential for resource conservation, including target catches, bycatch and other ecosystem components, and compliance with fisheries regulations.

The policy principles state that a monitoring program should:

- reflect the degree of risk a fishery poses and the complexity of the fishery
- ensure its improvements are practical and affordable to harvesters, while also achieving the policy objectives
- involve fish harvesters in collecting and responding to information on the fishery and ecosystem

As different fisheries pose different risks to conservation and other fishery objectives, specific monitoring requirements will differ between fisheries. DFO will develop annual work plans to highlight the priorities and timelines to put the policy into effect in individual fisheries.