

Terms of Reference – Discussion Forum
Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations
And

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Ecosystems Management

Purpose

The Discussion Forum (the Forum) is the primary venue to facilitate engagement and discussion between the Ecosystems Management (EM) Branch of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Environmental Non-Government Organizations (ENGOS) in the Newfoundland and Labrador Region on EM Branch initiatives of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Scope

The Forum provides a venue for engagement and discussion (not decision-making) between ENGOS and the EM Branch and serves to facilitate information exchange, relationship building, and dialogue on issues of relevance to ENGOS related to the following programs:

- i. Fisheries Protection Program;
- ii. Oceans Program;
- iii. Species at Risk Program; and
- iv. Aquaculture Management Program.

The Forum is not meant to replace or supersede existing relationships or engagement mechanisms between ENGOS and other Branches of DFO in the Newfoundland and Labrador Region or other DFO Regions that ordinarily occur. Where required, sub-committees or caucuses may be established to discuss specific issues or topics of relevance to a sub group of the Forum.

Forum Chair

The Forum will be co-chaired by the:

- i. A representative selected by ENGOS participating in the Forum (to be selected at first meeting); and
- ii. Team Leader – Client Liaison, Partnerships, Standards and Guidelines, Fisheries Protection Program, Ecosystem Management Branch, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Forum Participation

The Forum is open to ENGOS with representation in the Newfoundland and Labrador Region. An ENGO may identify one member and one alternate member on the Forum.

A representative from each EM program will attend annual meetings

Forum Meetings

An annual meeting shall be scheduled in the spring of each year, or more frequently if required.

The Co-Chairs are responsible for organizing meeting, agenda, attendees and logistics. A record of discussion and action items will be developed for each meeting and distributed to all members for review and approval.

The general agenda will consist of updates from Ecosystems Management programs and updates on work from sub-caucuses which have been formed to discuss specific topics.

Sub-Caucuses

The ENGO Co-Chair will be responsible for leading in the creation of sub-caucuses to engage Ecosystems Management programs on specific issues related to fisheries protection, oceans management, and species at risk or aquaculture management.

Each sub-caucus will appoint an ENGO Lead who will be the main point of contact for the Ecosystem Management programs to engage the ENGO community on a specific topic.

Reporting

The Co-Chairs will be responsible for reporting out on annual meetings.

The ENGO Lead for each sub-caucus will be responsible for reporting on the activities of that sub-caucus.

Terms and Conditions

The Co-Chairs of this forum will review the Terms of Reference and the effectiveness of the Forum prior to the annual meeting to ensure effective engagement with ENGOs is being achieved.

ENGOs shall represent the views of their own organizations and not the views of the Sub-Caucuses, in all situations outside the Forum.

Terms of Reference will be updated when required.

Nothing in these Terms of Reference implies or commits the Parties to specific financial liabilities or responsibilities.

Approval

ENGO Co-Chair

DFO Co-Chair

Team Leader, Client Liaison, Partnerships, Standards and Guidelines
Fisheries Protection Program
Ecosystem Management Branch
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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