

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative

Mission Statement:

The Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative will assess the strategies used to enhance and sustain the freshwater sport fishery.

Background:

The purpose of the Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative (FFRC) is to aid in determining the health and status of the freshwater sport fishery and to evaluate the strategies used to enhance and sustain the freshwater sport fishery. The freshwater fishery in Nova Scotia has experienced a number of changes that are associated with habitat condition and exploitation. In response, government has introduced new recreational fishing regulations and supported numerous population enhancement and habitat restoration projects to benefit the fisheries. These initiatives have been supported by anglers and their organizations through the Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee and the six regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils. Along with the expansion of new initiatives to improve the sport fishery, a need has developed for additional fisheries assessment activity in the areas of management for trout species, warm water species, and Atlantic salmon. The impacts of initiatives to improve the freshwater fishery, although considered to be beneficial, have yet to be adequately assessed. The Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative will augment current initiatives to further assess and improve the recreational fishery. Research topics that are related to inland fisheries management issues include habitat restoration, exploitation, fish population dynamics, migration, introduced species, fish health, and population enhancement.

Budget:

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will normally provide a maximum of \$30k annually to support initiatives associated with Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative projects. The Director of the Inland Fisheries Division will be responsible for administering the funding through the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative.

NSFFRC Organizational Structure:

The core membership comprises representatives of Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture (Chair), Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Nova Scotia academic institutions. Other individuals may be invited to join the NSFFRC for a limited term to provide particular expertise as needed. The NSFFRC is chaired by Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Process:

Project proposals will be reviewed between 1 March and 1 April. The project duration is from 1 April to 31 March of the following year. Academic institutions, consultants, non-government organizations or individuals are invited to submit proposals. Interested applicants are encouraged to discuss planned proposals with the chair or members of the Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative. Depending on the proposed project, the Inland Fisheries Division could facilitate projects through logistical support or other means. The Inland Fisheries Division may select specific fisheries management issues to be addressed and submit them to the Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative. The Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative may develop a specific project or question to be addressed based on the submitted fisheries management issue. Successful applicants will have specific objectives in their proposal that are relevant to management strategies for sport fisheries.

Reporting:

The Chair of the NS Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative will report on the activities of the FFRC to the Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee on an annual basis to evaluate projects and

progress.

Desired outcome:

Address research questions that are directly relevant to sport fish management issues and incorporate results into strategies to maintain and improve freshwater sport fisheries.

Cooperation:

The members of the Nova Scotia Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative will share responsibilities in the review and development of research projects.

Communication:

Planned projects, data and reports that are produced through the Nova Scotia Freshwater Fishery Research Cooperative will be distributed through the Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee and regionally through the Recreational Fishing Advisory Councils. Publications and related reports will be made available to stakeholders and the public through the Department website and conferences, etc. The NSFFRC will be credited and acknowledged in reports, publications, and presentations. Reports will be the property of Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, unless otherwise negotiated.

Frequency of meetings:

The Nova Scotia Freshwater Fishery Cooperative will meet at least once annually or will meet as deemed necessary by the technical committee membership.