

Fish Harvester Organization Support Act (FHOSA)

FAQs

Q What is FHOSA?

A FHOSA is provincial legislation that supports and encourages core and independent core license holders to develop strong organizations to represent them in matters related to the fishing industry. The act requires a Registrar, appointed by the Minister, to collect annual mandatory dues directly from each of the core license holders and then transfer these funds to the accredited organization(s) as directed by each of the core license holders.

Q What are the advantages of joining an organization?

A Organizations create a unified collective voice of harvesters that is stronger than a thousand individual voices. It enables effective consultation and communication between the industry and all levels of government and similar groups in other provinces. Organizations are governed by their membership and membership benefits are unique to each organization. Organizations that are accredited under FHOSA are better recognized as representing their members on matters important to the fishing industry.

Q Why do I have to pay dues?

A FHOSA requires that all core license holders, in a region where a successful vote has been held, pay annual mandatory dues to the Registrar. The amount of dues in each region are established by the accredited organizations in each region. They must use these funds the representation of their members' interests in matters related to the fishing industry.

Q How much will my dues be and who determines that?

A Accredited organizations establish their own rate for annual membership dues but it must be at

least \$100. When you submit annual mandatory dues to the Registrar, you may direct the Registrar to transfer the dues to the accredited organization of your choice.

Q Where is FHOSA in effect?

A FHOSA is in effect in:

Region 1, Gulf Nova Scotia: the coast from the Gulf-Nova Scotia-New Brunswick border to the Inverness-Victoria county line;

Region 2, Cape Breton Atlantic: the coast from the Inverness-Victoria county line to the Canso Causeway;

Region 3, Eastern Shore: the coast from the Canso Causeway to the mouth of the Sackville River in Halifax Harbour;

Q Do the fees listed include any applicable taxes?

A Organizations must include all applicable taxes in the amount they listed for annual membership dues when they submit it to the Registrar. Not all organizations charge taxes such as HST and fishers should enquire about such taxes with the organization they choose to send their dues to. Only the organizations may issue receipts for any HST amounts.

Q Why do I have to send my membership dues to a Registrar?

A FHOSA requires that a Registrar collects mandatory annual dues in regions where FHOSA is in effect. This ensures that all core and independent core license holders are contributing to the cost of industry representation. It also ensures accountability of the accredited organizations to their membership and the reliability of their membership lists.

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Q What are the accredited organizations in each region?

A FHOSA is in effect in:

Region 1, Gulf Nova Scotia:

Multispecies Organizations

Gulf NS Bonafide Fishermen's Association
Gulf NS Fishermen's Coalition
Inverness South Fishermen's Association
Maritime Fishermen's Union Local 4
North of Smokey-Inverness South
Fisherman's Association

Northumberland Fisherman's Association

Special Sector Organizations:

Snow Crab

Area 18 Crab Fishermen's Association
Area 19 Snow Crab Fishermen's Association

Tuna

Gulf NS Tuna Fisherman's Association
Tuna Charters NS Association

Mobile Fixed Gear

Northern Cape Breton Fishing Vessels Assoc.

Region 2, Cape Breton Atlantic:

Multispecies Organizations:

LFA 27 Management Board Society
Maritime Fishermen's Union Local 6
North of Smokey-Inverness South
Fisherman's Association

Special Sector Organizations

Multispecies

Richmond County Inshore Fishermen's
Association

Snow Crab

Area 19 Snow Crab Fishermen's Association

Tuna

Tuna Charters NS Association

Region 3, Eastern Shore:

Multispecies Organizations:

Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective
Association

Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's
Association

Special Sector Organizations:

Tuna

Tuna Charters NS Association

Q What happens if I am late, forget or do not choose to pay annual membership dues?

A Payment of annual membership dues is required no later than September 1st each year. If you do not meet the deadline you are guilty of an offense and upon summary conviction may be liable for a fine. Under FHOSA the first offense is a minimum of \$1000.00 plus administration fees.

Q How does a FHOSA region get a vote on FHOSA?

A A license holder or fish harvester organization may ask the Minister to conduct a vote, in their region, to determine if there are sufficient numbers that wish to be represented by an accredited organization that will represent their interests and concerns in the fishing industry.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture conducts the vote and publishes the results. Organizations only apply for accreditation after an affirmative result from the vote.

For more information:

<http://novascotia.ca/fish/commercial-fisheries/laws-regs/#fish-harvester-act>

Or contact:

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