

  
**NOVA SCOTIA**  
Fisheries and Aquaculture



**2014 – 2015 Statement of Mandate**

## Table of Contents

Message from the Minister .....	2
Department Mandate .....	3
Department Vision.....	3
Department Mission .....	3
Strategic Outcomes and Supporting Government Priorities .....	4
<i>Strategic Economic Outcomes</i> .....	4
<i>Strategic Environmental Outcomes</i> .....	6
<i>Strategic Social Outcomes</i> .....	8
Performance Measures.....	8
<i>Sustainable Resource Management</i> .....	9
<i>Industry Growth and Development</i> .....	12
Budget Context .....	15

## Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture's 2014-2015 Statement of Mandate.

This Statement of Mandate reflects our priorities and shows progress in key program areas. It reflects our commitment to the sustainable development of Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry through a world-class regulatory structure and the development of a Commercial Fisheries Strategy as well as support for sport fishing sector.

The Statement of Mandate is also indicative of our interest in investigating the creation of a Lobster Marketing Board as part of our commitment to work with New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Federal Government to address recommendations of the Maritime Lobster Panel report.

I encourage readers to visit our website at [www.novascotia.ca/fish/](http://www.novascotia.ca/fish/) to learn more about our department and our priorities for the upcoming year.

Yours sincerely,

**Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.**

Minister

## Department Mandate

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has a legislated mandate to manage, promote, support and develop the fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing industries that contribute to the economic, environmental and social prosperity of Nova Scotia's coastal and rural communities.

## Department Vision

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture promotes Nova Scotia as Canada's premier fish and seafood province.

Our vision includes:

An economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable aquaculture industry creating year-round jobs and increased wealth throughout rural coastal Nova Scotia.

A provincially managed recreational fishery that thrives on sustainability and diversity of its stock and client base providing exceptional, healthy, active outdoor activity to citizens and visitors, making Nova Scotia a destination of choice for sport fishing.

An organized, sustainable, profitable, market-focused marine fisheries sector producing innovative, high-quality products driving economic growth in coastal communities of Nova Scotia.

## Department Mission

To foster prosperous and sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and food industries through the delivery of quality public services for the betterment of coastal communities and of all Nova Scotians.

# Strategic Outcomes and Supporting Government Priorities

Our strategic outcomes reflect the anticipated impacts resulting from Government's efforts, programs and activities to pursue its legislated mandate. The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture supports its mandate and the higher priorities of government by focusing on economic, environmental and social strategic outcomes.

## *Strategic Economic Outcomes*

The following strategic outcomes aim to improve the economic welfare of the province. These outcomes support two of the government priorities: "Prosperous businesses of all sizes - creating jobs across the province" and "Consumer-focused energy solutions including a regulated, competitive energy market."

1. A Structured and Organized Industry – Improving collaboration and industry organization within the fish, aquaculture and seafood processing industries is important to optimize value chain opportunities, compete more effectively, and realize growth and development.
  - Key priorities in this area for the coming year include a focus on building stronger, more cohesive representation among harvesters by implementing the Fish Harvesters Organizations Support Act.
  - The Department will also explore opportunities to deepen collaboration across each of the sectors and improve dialogue across the value chain.
2. A Safe, Responsible and Attractive Industry – It is the responsibility of industry stakeholders to increase their knowledge to take advantage of growth and development opportunities while still protecting their people and resources.
  - A key focus for the Department in the coming year will be to work with the Workers Compensation Board, Labour and Advanced Education, and Occupation and Health Safety to build industry's capacity to take advantage of growth and development opportunities.

- The top priority areas for skill development include enhancing business skills, creating safe and responsible operations, and developing a stable and knowledgeable labour force.
3. Capturing the True Value of the Resource - By capturing the true value of the resource and delivering that value to strategically targeted markets, Nova Scotia can be one of the top suppliers of quality seafood, aquaculture and recreational fishing products in the global market place.
- The Department will focus on building market intelligence and research capacity, identifying branding opportunities for premium quality products, and promoting diversification of value added products.
  - It will explore opportunities to expand trade with China and South East Asia and take advantage of recently negotiated trade agreements with the European Union.
  - The Department will also promote and develop angling opportunities throughout the province.
4. A Focus on Quality – Today’s consumer has an expectation for sustainability, traceability and quality assurance.
- To meet these demands, the Department will focus on working with industry to create or tap into an already existing grading system that delivers a science-based approach to food safety and high quality products.
  - The Department will also focus on shifting the cultural mindset to embrace the concept of “value” and support the efforts made in this direction as well as towards collaboration along the value chain.
5. Embracing Innovation – Innovation can transform industries from a state of status quo to one that embraces change to take advantage of, and even create, new opportunities for marketing, harvesting and processing of quality fish and seafood products.
- The Department is focused on fostering a creative approach to solving existing problems and exploring new technologies through the commercialization of marine and aquaculture research.

- The Department will also support the research and development work of innovators in the industry.
6. Efficient Operations – Lowering the cost of doing business by creating efficiencies within industry and government processes.
- The Department will revive the Product Advisory Committee and use it to assist in policy revisions, improve decision-making, and clarify service standards, as well as undertake a review of the provincial legislation, regulation, and policies governing the aquaculture industries.
  - The Department will also encourage modernization of infrastructure through efficiency programs (such as the Efficiency NS program) and the development of investment programs in collaboration with the Federal Government.

## *Strategic Environmental Outcomes*

The following strategic outcomes are focused on enhancing and promoting environmental stewardship. These outcomes support the government priority “Prosperous businesses of all sizes - creating jobs across the province.”

1. Environmentally Responsible, Aware, and Focused Industries - Monitoring, reporting and enforcement ensures the health and welfare of farmed and wild fish stocks while maintaining the habitat conservation and shared stewardship of the resource.
  - The Government will play a more rigorous regulatory and enforcement role and formalize an audit program that can withstand technical and enforcement challenges for finfish aquaculture sites.
  - The Government will focus on creating a scientific, risk-based approach for sampling mussels and other shellfish sites and develop more detailed policies outlining allowable levels of farm impact.
  - The Government will take additional measures to establish mitigation and remediation protocols required of companies and enhance the existing environmental monitoring framework to include adaptive practices.

- The Department will continue to exercise its' regulatory capacity to take action against invasive aquatic species in inland waters using rapid response initiatives for containment and control.
2. Comprehensive Health Programs - The prevention and containment of disease is critical to the future development and success of the aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia.
- The Department is focused on working with key stakeholders, including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, to develop surveillance, emergency response, and disease control operating procedures that will effectively manage the control of emerging disease as well as facilitate auditing.
  - The Government is working toward the development of Bay Management regulations and Biosecurity Inspection protocols to manage the spread of disease.
3. Protection and Enhancement of Fish Habitats – Continued monitoring and support to improve the recreational fishery experience is important for the enjoyment of all Nova Scotians and tourists.
- The Government is committed to the protection and restoration of fish habitats through riparian planting, stream bank stabilization (revegetation/rocking), and fencing.
  - The Department provides support for habitat restoration with a focus on improved access for anglers to fishing areas such as new or improved launch ramps or barrier-free fishing piers.
4. Management of Fish Populations – Managing the fish stocks is important due to its economic impact within the sport fishing and tourism industries.
- The Department monitors the inland fish populations to help understand and address management issues, including exploitation, fish population dynamics, migration, introduced species, fish health, and population enhancement.
  - The Department will continue support for the production and distribution of trout in 400 lakes in Nova Scotia each year and manage the provinces' three fish hatcheries: Fraser's Mills Hatchery, McGowan Lake Hatchery, and Margaree Fish Hatchery.

## **Strategic Social Outcomes**

The following strategic outcomes promote the social well-being of Nova Scotians. These outcomes support the government priority “Prosperous businesses of all sizes - creating jobs across the province.”

1. Public Engagement – The Nova Scotia fishery, aquaculture and seafood industries make up the economic and social backbone of many rural communities and a significant contribution to the overall economy.
  - The Government is committed to hearing the concerns about aquaculture operations in Nova Scotia through multi-stakeholder engagement.
  - The Department will continue to meet regularly with the Recreational Fishing Advisory Council to hold discussions on special management areas, fieldwork activities, enhancement strategies, and promotion and development of our sport fishery.
  - The Government is committed to working with the Mi’kmaq to foster Aboriginal entrepreneurial activity in aquaculture and inland fisheries. The Government will engage the Mi’kmaq in the “Made in Nova Scotia” process and collaborate on further involvement with industry development.

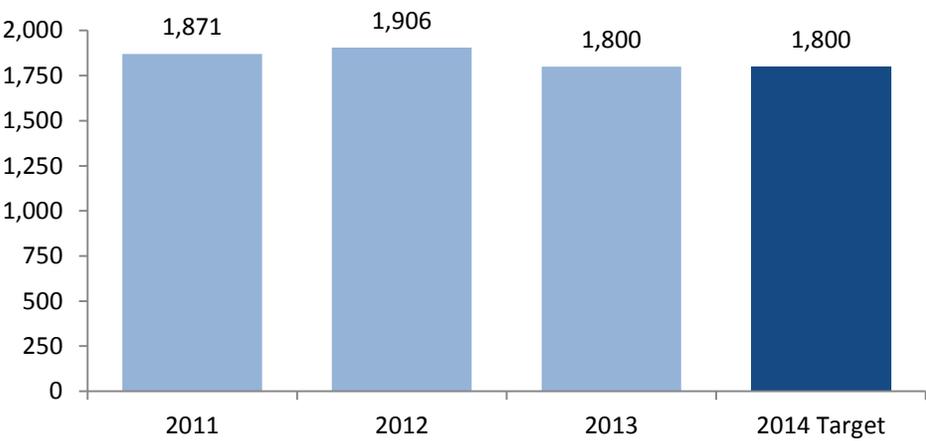
## **Performance Measures**

Progress toward the strategic outcomes of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is captured in two performance measures: Sustainable Resource Management and Industry Growth and Development. Each performance measure shows the outcomes sought by the Department to fulfill its mandate. Also included are indicators and progress data, targets for upcoming years, and planned means of achieving targets.

## Sustainable Resource Management

<b>Outcome</b>	Protect fish habitat. The Department supports environmental sustainability through restoring fish habitats.										
<b>Measure</b>	Square metres of inland fish habitat restored										
<b>Data</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inland Fish Habitat Restored (square metres)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Square metres restored</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>82,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>143,900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>129,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014 Target</td> <td>115,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The area restored alternates between just under the annual target of 115,000 square meters, to significantly over it. The average area restored per year is well over the annual target.</p>	Year	Square metres restored	2011	82,000	2012	143,900	2013	129,000	2014 Target	115,000
Year	Square metres restored										
2011	82,000										
2012	143,900										
2013	129,000										
2014 Target	115,000										
<b>Targets</b>	Restore 115,000 square meters of fish habitat annually, ultimately										
<b>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</b>	Ongoing support to industry and the volunteer sector through the management and accountability of the Sportfish Habitat Fund.										

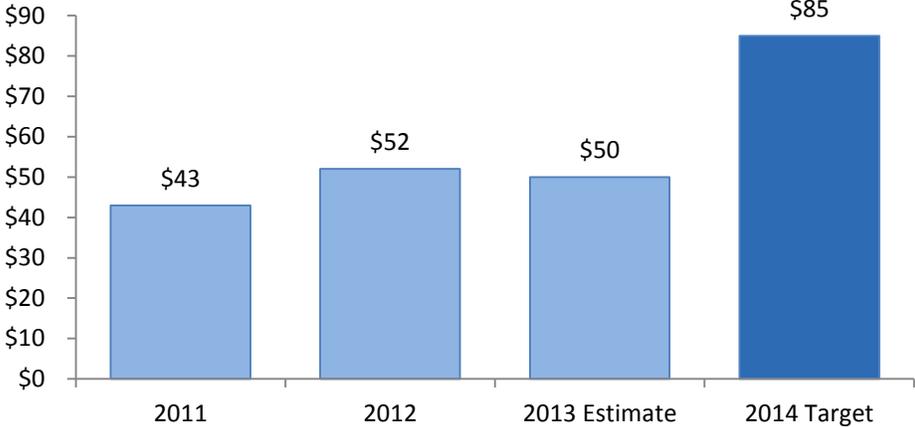
## Sustainable Resource Management

<b>Outcome</b>	Increase conservation and sport fishing. Lakes and rivers are stocked with trout and salmon to promote conservation and sport fishing participation.										
<b>Measure</b>	Number of trout and salmon stocked in lakes and rivers										
<b>Data</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Number of Trout and Salmon Stocked in Rivers and Lakes (in thousands)</b></p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of Fish Stocked (in thousands)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>1,871</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>1,906</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>1,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014 Target</td> <td>1,800</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The number of fish stocked has been over the target of 1,800,000.</p>	Year	Number of Fish Stocked (in thousands)	2011	1,871	2012	1,906	2013	1,800	2014 Target	1,800
Year	Number of Fish Stocked (in thousands)										
2011	1,871										
2012	1,906										
2013	1,800										
2014 Target	1,800										
<b>Targets</b>	The target for 2014 is 1,800,000 trout and salmon stocked in lakes and rivers.										
<b>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</b>	Promote conservation and develop sport fishing participation by increasing trout and salmon stocks.										

## Sustainable Resource Management

<p><b>Outcome</b></p>	<p>Increase conservation and sport fishing. Anyone 16 years of age or older is required to obtain a license to sportfish in the province. Regulating the industry supports the conservation of fish habitats in this \$56 million industry. The Department actively engages in programming to foster and promote sustainable sports fishing.</p>										
<p><b>Measure</b></p>	<p>Number of licenses sold</p>										
<p><b>Data</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Number of Fish Licenses Sold</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of Licenses Sold</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>65,572</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>68,847</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>67,322</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014 Target</td> <td>70,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number of Licenses Sold	2011	65,572	2012	68,847	2013	67,322	2014 Target	70,000
Year	Number of Licenses Sold										
2011	65,572										
2012	68,847										
2013	67,322										
2014 Target	70,000										
<p><b>Targets</b></p>	<p>The target for 2014 is 70,000 licenses sold.</p>										
<p><b>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</b></p>	<p>To increase the number of license sales through management of the resource, along with enhancement and promotion of sportfishing.</p>										

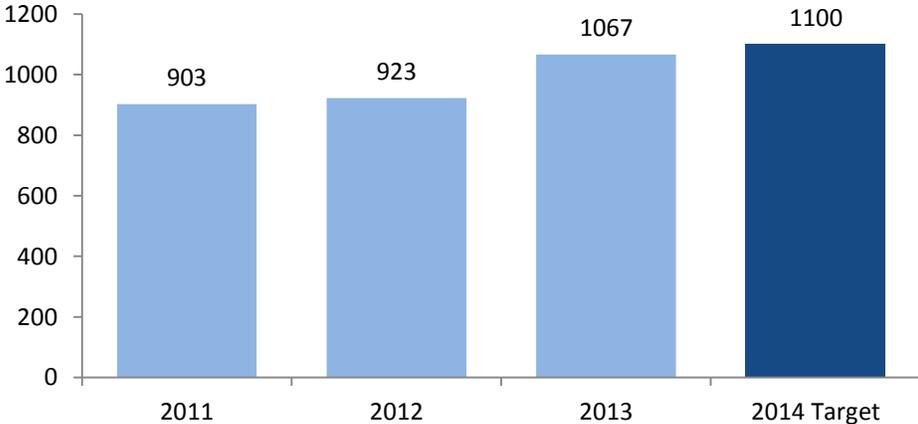
## Industry Growth and Development

<p><b>Outcome</b></p>	<p>This measure refers to the aquaculture fish and seafoods that are harvested and available for market. It is an indication of market size and health of the industry.</p>										
<p><b>Measure</b></p>	<p>Dollar value of harvested fish and seafood (\$ millions)</p>										
<p><b>Data</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Value of Aquaculture Fish and Seafood Harvested (\$ millions)</b></p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Value (\$ millions)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>\$43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>\$52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013 Estimate</td> <td>\$50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014 Target</td> <td>\$85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The value of aquaculture fish and seafood harvested has remained relatively constant. New shellfish and finfish aquaculture sites have recently been approved and stocked which will have a positive influence on the production value and employment in the industry.</p>	Year	Value (\$ millions)	2011	\$43	2012	\$52	2013 Estimate	\$50	2014 Target	\$85
Year	Value (\$ millions)										
2011	\$43										
2012	\$52										
2013 Estimate	\$50										
2014 Target	\$85										
<p><b>Targets</b></p>	<p>Information for 2013 is reported in the next fiscal year (2014-15). The long term target is a diverse industry with small, medium and large operations worth \$125 million by 2016.</p>										
<p><b>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</b></p>	<p>The Department is focused on expanding the industry, increasing regulatory oversight, and building public confidence. Once the independent regulatory review is complete, it is anticipated there will be a more stable foundation for sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia that will encourage greater private investment while improving public confidence.</p>										

## Industry Growth and Development

<b>Outcome</b>	Aquaculture has been identified as a sustainable economic growth opportunity.								
<b>Measure</b>	Number of jobs related to primary aquaculture production and aquaculture seafood processing								
<b>Data</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aquaculture Employment</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Employment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>549</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>639</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013 Target</td> <td>650</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Employment	2011	549	2012	639	2013 Target	650
Year	Employment								
2011	549								
2012	639								
2013 Target	650								
<b>Targets</b>	Increase full and part-time jobs in primary aquaculture by 25% by 2016.								
<b>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</b>	New sites developed will lead to additional employment capacity. Ensuring effort is placed on both shellfish and finfish, marine and land-based site development is key to increasing direct employment in the industry across the province.								

## Industry Growth and Development

<b>Outcome</b>	Exports of fish and seafood products lead to greater market opportunities and economic growth. Most of the fish and seafood landings are exported to countries around the world with the United States being the largest destination. Export data is calculated by Statistics Canada, which counts exports from the province where they leave Canada.										
<b>Measure</b>	Fisheries and seafood product exports (\$ million)										
<b>Data</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Total Fishing and Seafood Exports (\$ millions)</b></p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Exports (\$ million)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>903</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>923</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>1067</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014 Target</td> <td>1100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Exports have been increasing for the past several years from the low in 2010 experienced during the world wide recession.</p>	Year	Exports (\$ million)	2011	903	2012	923	2013	1067	2014 Target	1100
Year	Exports (\$ million)										
2011	903										
2012	923										
2013	1067										
2014 Target	1100										
<b>Targets</b>	\$1 billion (long-term target)										
<b>Strategic Actions to Achieve Target</b>	The Department is currently developing a strategy focusing on partnerships with the federal government, provincial departments such as Economic and Rural Development and Tourism, and industry to take advantage of export market development opportunities.										

## Budget Context

	<b>2013-14 Estimate</b> (\$thousands)	<b>2013-14 Forecast</b> (\$thousands)	<b>2014-15 Estimate</b> (\$thousands)
Administration	1,009	620	786
Aquaculture	2,663	2,390	2,773
Inland Fisheries	2,043	2,272	2,119
Marine Fisheries	3,329	3,761	3,944
<b>Total Gross Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>9,044</b>	<b>9,043</b>	<b>9,622</b>
<b>Additional Information</b>			
<b>Fees and Other Charges</b>	(929)	(929)	(929)
<b>Ordinary Recoveries</b>	0	0	0
<b>TCA Purchase Requirements</b>	65	121	30
<b>Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)</b>	77	64	78