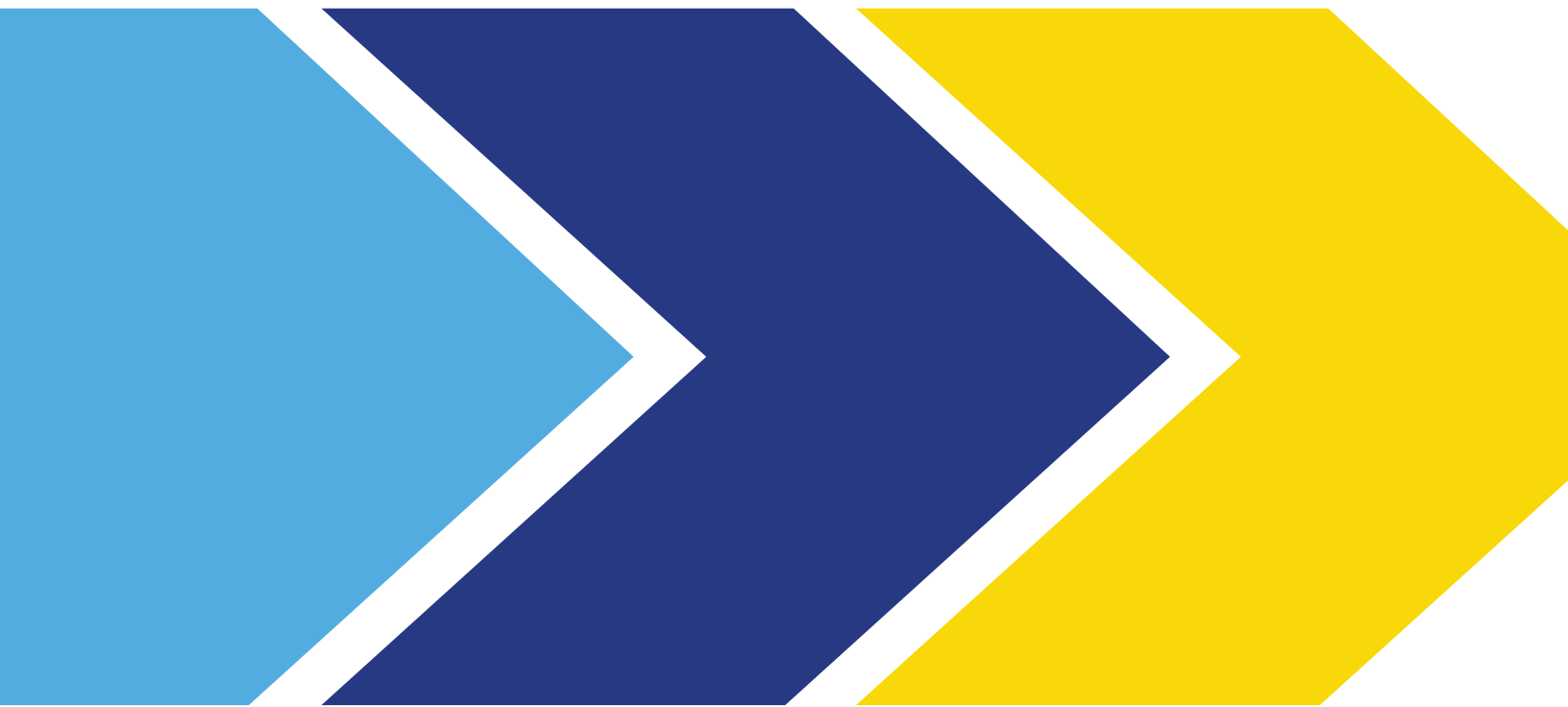


BUSINESS PLAN

2022-23



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Minister's Message

The seafood industry is a leading contributor to the health of Nova Scotia's economy and our rural communities. It is our province's largest exporter and makes Nova Scotia the top seafood exporter in Canada. That's why we are committed in 2022-23 to supporting and developing the fishing, aquaculture, and seafood processing industries of Nova Scotia through strategically planned initiatives.

Our government will hold a review of the aquaculture regulatory framework to support low impact sustainable aquaculture. Through the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Committee, we will engage with key stakeholders, industry, First Nations, and municipalities, and provide a forum for all Nova Scotians to have input on regulatory improvement.

Aquaculture is important to food security, economic development, job growth and the growing success of Nova Scotia's seafood exports. In addition to regulatory improvement, we will help the aquaculture industry grow sustainably by beginning to develop a coastal classification system for the suitability of finfish aquaculture, as part of a long-term, multi-year plan.

Helping our seafood industry thrive is our main goal. We will continue to support the fisheries and aquaculture industry through communications and marketing of a buy-local message, within the Nova Scotia Loyal program being developed by the Department of Economic Development.

Promoting Nova Scotia's premium seafood products in international markets will be driven through strategic use of the Nova Scotia Seafood Brand and protocols. As Canada's leading seafood exporter, we will continue to expand on the Seafood Marketing Program to explore all available marketing opportunities to achieve greater international trade and recognition of our Nova Scotia brand.

As a government, we need to consider the environmental legacy we are leaving our future generations by working in partnership with the seafood industry on a strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation. To complement that effort, we will also pursue federal funding programs that enhance environmental and economic sustainability. We will continue to support proposals, programs, and policies that promote climate change preparedness. It's important for our industry and for our province.

Sportfishing brings tens of millions of dollars into our province annually. That's why, this year, we will also be further developing the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Strategy and marketing sportfishing opportunities to non-residents.

Innovation, infrastructure, and science partnerships are key stepping stones industry can rely on to reach further growth levels. To help seafood businesses take those steps, the department will continue to administer the provincial portion of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund. The \$400 million fund, cost-shared between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Atlantic provinces, is helping our fisheries and aquaculture industries remain strong, prosperous, and sustainable for generations.

There's work to be done updating and improving fish buyer and processing licensing. We'll be focussed this year on developing a modern regulatory framework through legislative, regulatory, and policy changes.

In closing, the Department is poised to contribute to the sustainable prosperity of Nova Scotia by supporting a successful economy and healthy environment.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
The Honourable Steve Craig
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Mandate Actions

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture has a legislated mandate to promote, support and develop the fishing, aquaculture, seafood processing and sportfishing industries that contribute to the economic, environmental and social prosperity of Nova Scotia's coastal and rural communities, and all of Nova Scotia. The department will undertake the following initiatives to advance this mandate in 2022-2023:

- Engage key stakeholders in a review of the aquaculture regulatory framework to support low impact sustainable aquaculture. Specifically, the department will:
 - Initiate a review of the existing regulatory framework with the goal of enhancing the regulatory framework to support low-impact sustainable growth of the industry.
 - Through the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Committee, engage with stakeholders and the public for input on the continuous improvement of the aquaculture regulatory framework.
 - Anticipate that recommendations will be made during 2022-23 with changes to legislation and regulations to be completed in 2023-24.
- Initiate a process to develop a coastal classification system for the suitability of finfish aquaculture. Specifically, the department will:
 - Identify and develop the appropriate criteria for consideration in the coastal classification system in 2022-23.
 - Apply this criteria in coastal areas to determine suitability for finfish aquaculture in Nova Scotia. This will be part of a multi-year initiative to develop and implement a coastal classification system by 2024-25.
- Under the leadership of the Department of Economic Development, and in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, support the development of the Nova Scotia Loyal program to encourage Nova Scotians to buy local seafood and support our fisheries and aquaculture industry.
- Undertake initiatives to support climate change mitigation and adaptation and actively pursue federal funding programs that enhance environmental and economic sustainability. Specifically, the department will:
 - Continue to develop and action the Climate Change Readiness Framework through the Fisheries and Aquaculture Climate Team.
 - Work with the seafood industry to develop a strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 - Continue to engage a dedicated Onsite Energy Manager with Efficiency Nova Scotia to facilitate a shift in the seafood and aquaculture sectors and supporting industries to advance environmental consciousness through the adoption of new technologies and practices that reduce

- greenhouse gas emissions, while improving energy efficiency and reducing operational costs.
- Support industry proposals to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Program.
- Support infrastructure improvements and changes to fish hatchery facilities to address climate change issues while minimizing impacts to programs.
- Through work experience encourage youth to consider the seafood sector for career opportunities.
 - Continue the Fisheries and Aquaculture Student Bursary Program in partnership with the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council as the delivery partner.
- Support innovation driven, green and sustainable industry development initiatives that focus on maximizing the sustainable economic potential of the commercial seafood sector.

Areas of Focus

In addition to undertaking the mandate actions, the department will continue work on the following areas of focus for 2022-2023:

Atlantic Fisheries Fund

- Administer the provincial portion of the Atlantic Fisheries Fund to support innovation, infrastructure, and science partnerships.

Nova Scotia Sportfishing Strategy

- Further develop the Nova Scotia Sportfishing Strategy to market sportfishing opportunities to non-residents.

Fish Buyer and Processing Review

- Continue the review and implementation of a modernized regulatory framework for fish buyer and processing licensing.

Perennia's Centre for Marine Applied Research

- The department provides financial support to Perennia to establish a Centre for Marine Applied Research (CMAR). In 2022-23, CMAR will:

- Administer a coastal monitoring program to provide accurate biophysical data to government, industry and stakeholders to support decision making.
- Support the development of the coastal classification system for the suitability of finfish aquaculture.

Export Development

- Promote Nova Scotia's premium seafood products in international seafood markets and the utilization of the Nova Scotia Seafood Brand and protocols.
- As Canada's leading seafood exporter, continue to expand on the Seafood Marketing Program focusing on international marketing promotional activities in retail, food service, and e-commerce opportunities.

Nova Scotia Fisheries Resources

- Advocate for Nova Scotia interests with respect to federal policies, programs and decisions of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans:
 - Ensure that Nova Scotia maintains its share of fisheries resources in fisheries allocation decisions, including redfish allocations
 - Ensure that federal marine conservation initiatives account for both environmental as well as socio-economic needs of Nova Scotia's seafood sector.

Departmental Expenses Summary

(\$ thousands)			
<u>Programs and Services</u>	<u>2021-2022 Estimate</u>	<u>2021-2022 Forecast</u>	<u>2022-2023 Estimate</u>
Administration	559	1,304	1,216
Policy and Corporate Services	0	0	965
Aquaculture	4,438	4,438	5,391
Inland Fisheries	2,680	2,779	2,548
Marine and Coastal	11,316	8,961	6,936
Marketing	500	565	642
Total - Departmental Expenses	19,493	18,047	17,698
Ordinary Recoveries	500	500	500
<u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u>			
Department Funded Staff	70.7	74.7	83.2
Note:			
For Ordinary Revenues, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 2			
For TCA Purchase Requirements, see Estimates and Supplementary Detail Book, Chapter 1			