

## Response to parliamentary committees and external audits

### Response to parliamentary committees

In 2024-25, the following Parliamentary Committee reports required a response:

#### Effects of American and European seafood import policies on the fishing industry in Canada

On December 3, 2024, the House Standing Committee on International Trade tabled its report entitled “Effects of American and European seafood import policies on the fishing industry in Canada”. The report contained four recommendations: take actions to ensure that foreign jurisdictions are aware of the sustainable fishing practices; implement measures to facilitate domestic and international co-operation between and among relevant parties; re-establish the position of Ambassador for Fisheries Conservation; and obtain written confirmation from the United States’ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that Canada meets or exceeds the requirements that will come into force on January 1, 2026. A Government Response was not tabled due to the prorogation and dissolution of Parliament in early 2025.

#### Challenges to the Sustainability of the Yukon Salmon Stocks

On October 24, 2024, the House Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans tabled its report entitled “Challenges to the Sustainability of Yukon Salmon Stocks”. The report contained 37 recommendations that focused on habitat loss, changing conditions, fishing in the Yukon river, mining projects, hydroelectric dams, data collection and monitoring, scientific activities, conservation hatcheries, etc. The report also asked the Government to update the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Yukon River Salmon Agreement. A Government Response was not tabled due to the prorogation and dissolution of Parliament in early 2025.

#### Sealing the Future: A Call to Action

On September 24, 2024, a motion was adopted by the Senate requesting a Government Response to their report entitled “Sealing the Future: A Call to Action”. The report contained nine recommendations focused on adopting a seal population strategy, increasing science capacity, incorporating indigenous science, public and harvester education to combat misinformation, increase the seal harvest, establish a seal studies centre of excellence, and implement a domestic and international campaign to promote Canadian seal products. A Government Response was not tabled due to the prorogation and dissolution of Parliament in early 2025.

#### Ecosystem Impacts and Management of Pinniped Populations

On December 12, 2023, the House Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans tabled its report entitled “Ecosystem Impacts and Management of Pinniped Populations”. The report included 17 recommendations that focused on increasing the seal harvest; removing barriers to the sale of pinniped products; increasing and improving scientific research at DFO; and adopting a comprehensive and interventionist approach to pinniped management in Canada. The Government Response was tabled in the House of Commons on April 11, 2024.

#### Foreign Ownership and Corporate Concentration of Fishing Licenses and Quota

On November 21, 2023, the House Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans tabled its report entitled “Foreign Ownership and Corporate Concentration of Fishing Licenses and Quota”. The report contained 19 recommendations and called for the implementation of Atlantic inshore-style policies and foreign ownership limits in fisheries; increased government oversight

and collaboration; enhanced enforcement of the inshore regulations; and improved supports for commercial harvesters. The Government Response was tabled in the House of Commons on April 11, 2024.

## **Response to audits conducted by the Office of the Auditor General of Canada (including audits conducted by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development)**

### 2024 Reports 1 to 5 of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the Parliament of Canada - Zero Plastic Waste

Fisheries and Oceans Canada officials appeared before the House Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable development on May 2, 2024, and the Department's Management Action Plan was tabled with the Committee on May 5, 2024.

The audit concluded that key federal organizations led by Environment and Climate Change Canada began implementing activities to contribute to the Canada-wide goal of reaching zero plastic waste by 2030. However, they had not yet gathered all the information needed on plastic waste nor fully established the targets and monitoring systems to track their progress against the goal. Until this is completed, they will not know whether they are on track to meeting the goal. Successfully reducing plastic pollution requires the collaboration of the federal government with partners, such as provinces, territories, municipalities, and the private sector. The initiative's dependence on so many partners makes it all the more important for the key federal organizations to have proper tracking systems in place.

There were 2 recommendations addressed to DFO. The Department prepared a management action plan to address the recommendations. The report and DFO's response can be viewed on the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's website: [Report 3 - Zero Plastic Waste](#).

## **Response to audits conducted by the Public Service Commission of Canada or the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages**

### Public Service Commission of Canada Audit of Employment Equity Representation in Acting Appointments

The audit found that, between 2011 and 2021, representation in acting appointments for 3 of the 4 employment equity groups was on par with or exceeded their representation in the federal public service.

While results related to the representation of women, Indigenous Peoples, and members of visible minorities in acting appointments indicate that these groups obtained a share of acting appointments that was on par with or exceeded their representation in the federal public service, employees with disabilities were consistently underrepresented in acting appointments. The audit findings pointed to improved results for all 4 employment equity groups over time.

There were 2 recommendations addressed to Deputy Heads. The Department prepared a plan to address the recommendations. The report can be viewed on the Public Service Commission website [Audit of Employment Equity Representation in Acting Appointments - Canada.ca](#).

Public Service Commission of Canada Audit on the Application of the Order of Preference for Veterans During the Data Transfer Outage Between the Department of National Defence and the Public Service Commission of Canada

This audit examined the potential impact of a technical issue related to the data transfer process between the Department of National Defence and the Public Service Commission which may have affected the application of the order of preference for veterans. The audit found that of the 2,893 veterans examined, 1,643 were not affected by the data transfer outage. It also found that the order of preference was not applied for 168 veteran applications, which resulted in 87 eligible veterans for whom the order of preference was applicable and yet not applied. These are veterans who may have been affected by the data transfer issue. The audit was unable to determine if the order of preference was applied for 1,163 of the veterans included in the audit. In these cases, additional information or analysis would be required to determine if the order of preference was applied.

There were no recommendations addressed to DFO in this audit. The report can be viewed on the Public Service Commission website [Audit on the Application of the Order of Preference for Veterans During the Data Transfer Outage Between the Department of National Defence and the Public Service Commission of Canada - Canada.ca](#).