

Details on transfer payment programs

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Grants

1) Grants in Support of Organizations Associated with Research, Development, Management and Promotion of Fisheries and Oceans-related Issues

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	123,000	133,000	275,500	130,550	130,550	144,950
Total contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	123,000	133,000	275,500	130,550	130,550	144,950

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances: Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

1.1 Class Grants - Grants to Support Organizations Associated with Research, Development, Management and Promotion of Fisheries and Oceans-related Issues

Start date: 1986

End date: Ongoing

Type of transfer payment: Grant

Type of appropriation: Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions: 2019-20

Link to departmental result(s): The class grants program supports all departmental results.

Link to the department's Program Inventory: The class grants program supports all programs in the Department's Program Inventory.

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program: The purpose is to encourage the research, development, management, conservation, protection, or promotion of fisheries and oceans initiatives and related issues by providing assistance to selected organizations for designated activities, which will contribute to program objectives, as described in the Main Estimates.

The objective is to provide support for safe, healthy, productive waters and aquatic ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations.

Results achieved: Improved capacity for recipients and stakeholders to share and obtain knowledge and understanding of fisheries and oceans issues

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25: Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25: No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This grant is exempted from section 42.1 of the *Financial Administration Act* as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25: targeted call for proposal and directed non-advertised processes

2) Grants in Support of Asset Disposal Programming

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	2,920,400	1,000,000	750,000	305,000	305,000	445,000
Total contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	2,920,400	1,000,000	750,000	305,000	305,000	445,000

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances: Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

2.1 Small Craft Harbours Class Grant Program

Start date : April 1, 2012

End date: Ongoing

Type of transfer payment: Grant

Type of appropriation: Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions: 2022-23

Link to departmental result(s): The commercial fishing industry has access to safe harbours

Link to the department's Program Inventory: Small Craft Harbours

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program: The purpose of this transfer payment program is to offer grants to eligible recipients who accept a small craft harbour in "as is" condition. A grant is given in lieu of DFO's repairing a harbour for divestiture and leaves repair decisions to the recipient. All DFO responsibilities for the divested harbour are assumed completely by the recipient at the time of transfer.

Results achieved : The Class Grant Program now includes a performance indicator for monitoring and reporting, integrated into its approved terms and conditions. The 2024–25 target for grant delivery was one, and this target was met. One grant was successfully awarded in support of a small craft harbour divestiture project (Hardisty harbour). No gaps were identified between planned and actual results.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25: No internal audit related to this subject was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25: No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This grant is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25: There are no formal mechanisms to engage applicants and recipients for the class grant program. Once a site has been deemed to be a surplus asset and is slated for divestiture, Small Craft Harbours staff will engage with the aforementioned groups. Should a

group express interest, Small Craft Harbours staff then engages in negotiation with that group to find a mechanism and the terms for the transfer that are satisfactory for both the identified group and the Government of Canada. A grant-in-lieu of repairs through the class grant programs is one of the mechanism that can be identified to move forward with the transfer.

2.2 Grants and Contributions Program for the Divestiture of Surplus Lighthouses – Grants

Start date : April 1, 2012

End date : 2025-26

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2022-23

Link to departmental result(s) : Internal Services

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Internal Services

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this transfer payment program is to facilitate the sale or transfer of surplus lighthouses to non-profit organizations and municipalities.

Results achieved :

- Advancement of the main objective of the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act which is to facilitate sales or transfers of heritage lighthouses.
- Preservation and public accessibility of heritage lighthouses.
- Disposal of surplus lighthouses at the lowest overall cost for the federal government.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No internal audit related to this subject was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This grant is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The program issues a few grants each year and as such, close collaboration with each proponent to negotiate the optimal amount of the grant to fulfill program objectives is achieved.

3) Grants in Support of Aquatic Species and Aquatic Habitat

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	1,112,008	1,917,818	2,600,000	3,090,893	3,090,893	490,893
Total contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	1,112,008	1,917,818	2,600,000	3,090,893	3,090,893	490,893

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances: Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

3.1 Oceans Management Program – Grants

Start date : 2016-17

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Marine Planning and Conservation

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Oceans Management Grant funding in support of Indigenous groups is to support the development and implementation of oceans conservation and management activities in areas where management of marine resources or proposed marine conservation measures overlap with traditional territories or domestic fishing areas established under modern treaties.

Results achieved : Grant portion has not yet been used. See program information under Contributions Section 10.2.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned in fiscal year 2027-28.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Targeted consultations with eligible recipients.

3.2 Indigenous Habitat Participation Program – Grants

Start date : 2018-19

End date : March 31, 2026

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP) is to support the participation of Indigenous groups, Indigenous communities, and Indigenous organizations in consultations with the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program on departmental Crown conduct (i.e. decisions, such as arrangements, approvals, authorizations and permits) under the *Fisheries Act*, *Species at Risk Act* and section 82 of the *Impact Assessment Act*, and to support consultation when the program is the federal Crown consultation coordinator for a designated project after the Impact Assessment decision statement is issued under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Grant funding may also be used for the following activities when the materiality of funding, and the risk profile of applicants and recipients is low: for engagement on the development of program policies, program and regulatory initiatives; and, the development of the technical capacity of Indigenous Peoples to support their greater involvement in the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat and in other collaborative activities.

Results achieved :

Indicator: 140 agreements / arrangements involving Indigenous groups

Indicator: 630 Indigenous People trained through agreements / arrangements

Indicator: 89% of decisions (authorizations/permits) made by DFO consider impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including appropriate accommodation measures to mitigate those impacts

Indicator: 84 grant agreements to support habitat restoration planning and the participation in consultations with the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program on Departmental Crown conduct, totaling over \$2.9M

Indicator: 528 Indigenous groups/communities provided input/feedback to initiatives.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit related to this subject was completed in 2024-25

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned in fiscal year 2027-28.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Engagement activities were centered around the new streamlined approach for grants and contributions agreement processes and reporting to ensure applicants and recipients understood the changes and improvements to the process. Additionally, engagement activities supported work with recipients to finalize proposals and agreements.

3.3 Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk – Grants

Start date : 2024-25

End date : March 31, 2026

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) :

- negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous People

Link to the department's program inventory : Species at Risk

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR) grant program is to support the efforts of Indigenous People in building the technical capacity regarding species at risk policies, programming, and regulatory initiatives and to support their greater involvement in the cooperation and consultation processes in the listing and related recovery document development for species at risk, as per the *Species at Risk Act* and Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*. By actively including and integrating Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives in the listing, protection, and recovery of aquatic species at risk, the CNFASAR grant seeks to uphold the rights and interests of Indigenous communities.

The overall objective related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems transfer payment programs is to conserve and protect Canada's oceans, other aquatic ecosystems, and aquatic species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved : The CNFASAR grant was launched late in Fall 2024. Four grants were issued in 2024-2025, two supporting participation of Indigenous groups in consultations on listing decisions and two supporting cooperation in recovery document development under SARA. All groups that received funding had their input incorporated in support of decision making.

Although the grant contributes to overall participation of Indigenous groups in species at risk collaboration and consultation activities, not all processes are of interest to groups and non-participation does not necessarily reflect a lack of capacity. Increased participation is expected in future years as a result of the availability of grant funding, but increases are also likely to depend on ensuring processes are streamlined, flexible and adapted to the realities of interested groups.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned in fiscal year 2027-28.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : General information on the grant is available on the DFO CNFASAR website, but opportunities to apply for grant funding are formally offered in writing to affected and potentially affected Indigenous groups when the department consults on listing decisions, and engages in cooperative preparation of recovery documents for listed species at risk, as required under the *Species at Risk Act*.

4) Grants to Support Indigenous Reconciliation Priorities

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	0	0	745,860	745,860	0	745,860
Total contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	0	0	745,860	745,860	0	745,860

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Funding will be spent in future years in order to meet program requirements to advance reconciliation on Indigenous rights and fisheries issues.

4.1 Indigenous Reconciliation Transfer Payment Program – Grants

Start date : June 2020

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose is to support priorities such as Indigenous reconciliation including building and sustaining Indigenous capacity to implement, monitor, evaluate and report on project and/or agreement activities. These activities will often require consultation, engagement, and participation of Indigenous groups in preparation for agreeing to the reconciliation measures.

Results achieved : No grants administered in 2024-25

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audits completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and expected to be publicly available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25: The Reconciliation Agreement Program (RAP) administers funds associated with negotiated reconciliation agreements on fisheries matters. Grants may include funds to support Indigenous partners in implementing the obligations set out in reconciliation agreements (e.g. collaborative management of fisheries resources). By implementing reconciliation

agreements on fisheries matters through the RAP, DFO supports the implementation of the fisheries rights and interests of Indigenous peoples across the country.

5) Grants in Support of Salmon Enhancement Programming

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	65,200	1,285,000	1,575,000	1,195,311	1,195,311	379,689
Total contributions	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	65,200	1,285,000	1,575,000	1,195,311	1,195,311	379,689

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

5.1 Salmon Enhancement Programming – Grant

Start date : 2021-22

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s) : Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Salmonid Enhancement Program

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The Salmon Enhancement Program aims to enhance salmon stocks and their habitat by supporting hatchery production, public education, stewardship, and engagement activities, thereby contributing to salmon conservation, ecosystem health, and sustainable fisheries. The program works with the public and First Nations to produce fish that support conservation, rebuilding, harvesting, assessment, education, and community involvement, thus contributing to ecosystem health, engagement, and economic productivity.

Results achieved : In 2024–2025, grant-funded projects across British Columbia supported a diverse array of salmon enhancement, stock assessment, habitat restoration, and public education initiatives. Community groups and non-profits operated hatcheries to raise and release millions of Coho, Chum, Chinook, and Pink salmon. They also conducted stream and stock assessments and restored critical habitats through riparian planting, invasive species removal, and infrastructure upgrades.

Public engagement was a key focus, with many projects hosting school programs, hatchery tours, and stewardship events to foster a culture of conservation.

Enhancement Partnership investments under the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) Pillar 2 were strategically aligned with SEP TPP objectives. Funding was directed toward modernizing hatchery infrastructure, improving fish health and biosecurity, enhancing stock assessment capabilities, and supporting Indigenous-led conservation and training. These targeted investments addressed urgent conservation needs and strengthened long-term resilience (and climate) in salmon enhancement efforts.

Importantly, many of these projects were designed to meet multiple objectives simultaneously. For example, a single initiative might contribute to both stock rebuilding and habitat restoration, or combine public outreach with conservation education. This integrated approach ensured that the wide range of activities—spanning enhancement, assessment, stewardship, infrastructure, and outreach—collectively advanced the program’s goals in a coordinated and impactful way.

A total of 81 Public Involvement Program (PIP) recipients were funded, which includes 6 Indigenous hatchery projects and 1 Indigenous non-hatchery project. Of these, 64 were hatchery and 17 were non-hatchery initiatives. 2 Community Economic Development Project (CEDP) hatcheries also received grant funds.

Project Partners	# Volunteers	# Volunteer Hours	# Classroom Visits	# Events / Tours	# People Employed	# People Trained
482	3,307	163,410	1,398	946	60	689

In total, the funded activities included goals and objectives that supported:

- **22** harvest enhancement
- **50** stock rebuilding
- **38** stock assessment
- **73** stewardship
- **24** conservation
- **6** harvest production
- **52** infrastructure modernization
- **44** fish health
- **43** enumeration and **17** marking activities
- **88** public engagement
- **88** partnerships
- **86** educational initiatives
- **40** habitat restoration

These numbers reflect the breadth and integration of efforts that collectively supported the long-term sustainability of salmon populations and their ecosystems.

The Hatchery Reform team advanced key objectives by delivering four grant agreements totaling \$102,836 to academic institutions and an environmental non-governmental organization. These investments expanded capacity and expertise in hatchery science to support salmon conservation, rebuilding, harvest, and assessment objectives, as well as community education and stewardship. Funded projects are advancing salmon enhancement activities, environmental evaluations, and public outreach efforts. This work has directly resulted in peer-reviewed publications and ongoing research that is actively informing program management decisions.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audits completed in 2024-25

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation was conducted in 2024-25.

Decision following the results of last evaluation: Continuation

This grant is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Program staff engage regularly with program partners, both directly and virtually, to provide ongoing technical, biological, and administrative support for the successful delivery of enhancement programs. This communication ensures alignment with program objectives, fish health standards, and operational outcomes, while collaboration with recipients and applicants supports salmon conservation, public education, and sustainable fisheries.

6) Grant to the Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation for the Great Bear Sea Project Finance for Permanence Marine Stewardship Fund

6.1 Grant to the Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation for the Great Bear Sea Project Finance For Permanence Marine Stewardship Fund

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	0	0	0	80,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000
Total contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	0	0	0	80,000,000	80,000,000	80,000,000

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Received incremental funding in-year for the Great Bear Sea Initiative.

Start date : 2024-25

End date : Unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement, it will expire on March 31, 204026 with survival clauses remaining in effect past this date.

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's program inventory : Marine Planning and Conservation

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : Contribute to the Marine Stewardship Fund to support ongoing management and stewardship activities by the Ultimate Recipients (i.e., the North Pacific Coast Indigenous Nations who are signatories to the Great Bear Sea Project Finance For Permanence (GBS PFP) Closing Agreement and the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network Agreement as of their effective dates), including collaborative governance and implementation of new MPAs and the MPA Network; and, support the implementation of the GBS PFP Closing Agreement and the MPA Network Agreement and the Nation MPA Agreements.

Results achieved : Not applicable.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This grant is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Targeted negotiations.

6.2 Grant to the Coastal Indigenous Prosperity Society for the Great Bear Sea Project Finance For Permanence Community Prosperity Fund

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	0	0	0	120,000,000	120,000,000	120,000,000
Total contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	0	0	0	120,000,000	120,000,000	120,000,000

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Received incremental funding in-year for the Great Bear Sea Initiative.

Start date : 2024-25

End date : Unless terminated earlier in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, it will expire on March 31, 202640, with survival provisions outlining the terms and conditions that extend beyond this date.

Type of transfer payment : Grant

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2023-24

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's program inventory : Marine Planning and Conservation

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose is to establish the Community Prosperity Fund to support Ultimate Recipients (i.e., the North Pacific Coast Indigenous Nations who are signatories to the Great Bear Sea Project Finance For Permanence (GBS PFP) Closing Agreement and the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network Agreement as of their effective dates) in activities related to community development, cultural programming, scaling up of stewardship infrastructure, and conservation-based economic development, and any other activities that support the spirit and intent of the GBS PFP; and, support the implementation of the GBS PFP Closing Agreement and the MPA Network Agreement and the Nation MPA Agreements.

Results achieved : Not applicable.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This grant is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Targeted negotiations.

Contributions

1) Contributions in Support of the Integrated Fish and Seafood Sector Management Framework

Financial Information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	55,226,364	92,229,573	82,894,265	80,972,412	79,846,759	3,047,506
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	55,226,364	92,229,573	82,894,265	80,972,412	79,846,759	3,047,506

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

1.1 Atlantic Fisheries Fund

Start date : 2017-18

End date : 2025-2026

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation: Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2018-19

Link to departmental result(s) : Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fish and Seafood Sector

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program

- increase productivity, competitiveness, quality, and sustainability in the fish and seafood sector
- enhance capacity to adapt to and address ecosystem shifts and their impacts on the fish and seafood sector, including shifts related to climate change; and support for the protection and restoration of priority fish stocks across Canada, such as wild salmon
- increase recognition of Canadian fish and seafood products as market-leading in terms of quality and sustainability

Results achieved : AFF was largely able to meet its expected results, while also strategically re-investing funds un-utilized by completed projects that could be redirected to new projects with new recipients, including in response to emerging priorities. Developing new projects with clients and routing through the approval process resulted in less time being dedicated to monitoring and closing project files. In 2024-2025, 318 claims were processed and payments were issued to clients, 96 new projects were approved for funding valued at \$26.2 million in federal and provincial contributions, and 55 project files were closed. Currently 1,201 projects remain active, with 172 in-progress of being implemented, and 1,029 being monitored and prepared for file closure. The current repayable portfolio that is also being managed is \$99 million federal

(\$141.4 million federal and provincial), with \$9 million federal (\$13.6 million federal and provincial) already received in repayments from clients.

Key program impacts in 2024-2025 included responding to emerging industry priorities such as investing in projects that sought to mitigate the impacts of the resurgence of MSX in Atlantic Canadian waters, coordinating pan-Atlantic improvements in aquatic animal health policies, investing in innovative sustainable harvesting techniques, assisting the Atlantic harvesting sector in transitioning to the reopened redfish fishery, supporting knowledge transfer activities, and supporting market development activities. The year also saw the program continuing its investments in improved productivity, quality, and sustainability through the adoption or adaptation of innovative technologies, processes, and equipment.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This contribution is ending in 2025-26, therefore no evaluation is required.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The Atlantic Fisheries Fund continued to meet with its recipients in-person through site visit monitoring to document contribution agreement compliance, project progress, and results. In addition, the Atlantic provincial partners continued to be regularly engaged to discuss the evolving needs of the sector and emerging priorities for all parties. Also, ongoing engagement was conducted with funding recipients to effectively manage the program, process expense claims, administer repayments, and closeout project files. While not anticipated, there was also an opportunity to continue investing funds in new projects with new recipients as funds became available for re-investment when they were not completely utilized by completed projects. This required engagement with clients to develop these new projects.

1.2 Quebec Fisheries Fund

Start date : 2018-19

End date : 2025-26

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2018-19

Link to departmental result(s) : Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed

Link to the department's Program Inventory: Fish and Seafood Sector

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program

- increase productivity, competitiveness, quality, and sustainability in the fish and seafood sector
- enhance capacity to adapt to and address ecosystem shifts and their impacts on the fish and seafood sector, including shifts related to climate change; and support for the protection and restoration of priority fish stocks across Canada, such as wild salmon
- increase recognition of Canadian fish and seafood products as market-leading in terms of quality and

Results achieved: The Quebec Fisheries Fund (QFF) signed 31 contribution agreements with various partners in the Quebec fishing industry, exceeding its target of 28 projects. The majority of these projects involve the adoption of new technologies and fishing gear, thereby promoting the sustainable development of Quebec's fisheries.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This contribution is ending in 2025-26, therefore no evaluation is required.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The provincial partner was regularly consulted to discuss the changing needs of the sector and the priorities raised by the industry. Weekly meetings were held to follow up on issues and challenges. In addition, meetings with beneficiaries, associations, and other industry representatives were held throughout the year to monitor project progress and discuss the sector's concerns. These exchanges took place via email, telephone, or in-person visits.

1.3 British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund

Start date : 2018-19

End date : 2025-26

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2018-19

Link to departmental result(s) : Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fish and Seafood Sector

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program

- increase productivity, competitiveness, quality, and sustainability in the fish and seafood sector
- enhance capacity to adapt to and address ecosystem shifts and their impacts on the fish and seafood sector, including shifts related to climate change; and support for the protection and restoration of priority fish stocks across Canada, such as wild salmon
- increase recognition of Canadian fish and seafood products as market-leading in terms of quality and sustainability

Results achieved : Phase 2 projects are ongoing. They began in 2024 and will end in 2026. Thus far, all of the 73 Phase 2 projects have resulted in improvements in one or more of the following areas: protection and conservation of wild Pacific salmon, improving understanding of ecosystem shifts, or involving Indigenous Knowledge.

- 100% (73/73) of projects were on time, on scope, and on budget
- 73 signed contribution agreements
- 17 infrastructure projects
- 30 science partnership projects with a focus on climate change and/or ecosystems
- 26 new or innovative products, processes, technologies, or equipment were adopted/adapted through British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) funding
- 270 Indigenous People trained through agreements
- 320 Indigenous People employed through agreements
- 29% (21/73) funded projects contributed to the improved sustainability of fishing practices
- 86% (63/73) funded projects supported the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon
- 39 published or publicly released studies/articles resulting from funded projects
- 64% (47/73) projects incorporated Indigenous Knowledge
- 74% (54/73) agreements involved Indigenous groups as project leads or partners
- 85% (62/73) of all projects support Pacific Salmon
- in the first year of BCSRIF (2023-24), Phase 2 project results included:

- 31 publications/datasets were produced/released
- 977 people were paid with BCSRIF funds
- 690 people were trained
- 93% (68/73) projects involved women

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation was conducted in 2024-25.

Decision following the results of last evaluation: Continuation

This contribution is ending in 2025-26, therefore no evaluation is required.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : BCSRIF conducts intensive engagement both externally with eligible organizations and internally with government colleagues (i.e. DFO and BC) in order to arrive at both strategic funding priorities for each application round and to bilaterally analyze the priorities of potential applicants in order to provide advice and determine potential for funding. For example and from the last BCSRIF funding round, 172 engagement sessions were held, tracked as part of the DFO Jambo pilot project:

- Indigenous 33%
- internal (DFO) 18%
- environmental non-government organizations 13%
- industry 10%
- academia 10%

2) Contributions to Support Indigenous Reconciliation Priorities

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total contributions	9,006,985	24,878,094	65,799,309	113,078,557	60,912,187	4,887,122
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	9,006,985	24,878,094	65,799,309	113,078,557	60,912,187	4,887,122

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

2.1 Indigenous Reconciliation Transfer Payment Program – Contributions

Start date : 2020-21

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose is to support priorities such as Indigenous reconciliation including building and sustaining Indigenous capacity to implement, monitor, evaluate and report on project and/or agreement activities. These activities will often require consultation, engagement, and participation of Indigenous groups in preparation for agreeing to the reconciliation measures.

Results achieved: Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

- Number of agreements / arrangements involving Indigenous groups - RESULT: 35
- Number of Indigenous people trained through agreements / arrangements - RESULT: 67
- Number of indigenous people employed through agreements / arrangements - RESULT: 269

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audits completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluations completed in 2024-25 An evaluation of the Department's efforts towards Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples (including Indigenous Reconciliation Transfer Payment Programs) is being conducted and will be finalized in 2025-26. The next evaluation of the Aboriginal Programs and Treaties Program is planned for 2029-30.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The Reconciliation Agreement Program (RAP) administers funds associated with negotiated reconciliation agreements on fisheries matters. Contributions

may include funds to acquire fisheries access, vessels, and gear and funds to support Indigenous partners in implementing the obligations set out in reconciliation agreements (e.g., collaborative management of fisheries resources). By implementing reconciliation agreements on fisheries matters through the RAP, DFO supports the implementation of the fisheries rights and interests of Indigenous peoples across the country.

3) Contributions to Support of Organizations Associated with Research, Development, Management and Promotion of Fisheries and Oceans-related Issues

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	1,440,960	272,335	91,217	600,000	600,000	508,783
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	1,440,960	272,335	91,217	600,000	600,000	508,783

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

3.1 Contributions to Support Organizations Associated with Research, Development, Management and Promotion of Fisheries and Oceans-related Issues - Class Contributions

Start date : April 2009

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2019-20

Link to departmental result(s) : The class contribution program supports all Departmental Results.

Link to the department's Program Inventory : The class contribution program supports all programs in the Department's Program Inventory.

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose is to encourage the research, development, management, conservation, protection, or promotion of fisheries and oceans initiatives and related issues by providing assistance to selected organizations for designated activities.

The objective is to provide support for safe, healthy, productive waters and aquatic ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations.

Results achieved:

- Improved capacity for recipients and stakeholders to share and obtain knowledge and understanding of fisheries and oceans issues;
- Information disseminated concerning fisheries and oceans issues; and
- Support provided to recipients for DFO's Core Responsibilities (i.e., Fisheries, Aquatic Ecosystems, Marine Navigation, and Marine Operations and Response).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the *Financial Administration Act* as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 :

- targeted calls for proposals
- directed non-advertised processes

4) Canadian Coast Guard Marine Operations and Response Transfer Payment Program – Contributions

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	17,875,660	25,645,874	31,778,794	36,529,414	36,529,414	4,750,620
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	17,875,660	25,645,874	31,778,794	36,529,414	36,529,414	4,750,620

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Received incremental funding as well as a reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

4.1 Canadian Coast Guard Marine Operations and Response Transfer Payment Program – Contributions

Start date : 2019

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2022-23

Link to departmental result(s) :

- Canadian Coast Guard has the capability to respond to on-water incidents
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Marine Environmental and Hazards Response
- Search and Rescue

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The overarching purpose of this transfer payment program (TPP) and its 2 components is to support enhancements in marine safety and marine environmental protection in Canadian waters, while embracing the concepts of co-development and sustainable economic development.

The objectives of the Canadian Coast Guard's TPP are to enhance the capacity and facilitate the participation of partners and stakeholders in support of marine safety and marine environmental protection by increasing response capacity outside of the agency, as well as by improving and implementing holistic mechanisms within the national response framework.

Results achieved:

- The Canadian Coast Guard's (CCG) Indigenous Search and Rescue (ISAR) Training and Exercising program delivered search and rescue and marine safety training to 451 Indigenous participants across 63 communities in 2024-25.
- CCG Auxiliary members are available to respond to maritime search and rescue incidents. In 2024-25, the CCGA responded to 22.5% of maritime SAR incidents. This exceeds the 2024-25 target value of 20% for the fiscal year, and is on-track to meet the overall performance indicator of 25% by March 2027 as a five-year average.
- Indigenous and coastal communities have improved capacity to respond to marine incidents.
- Enhance relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people in Marine Operations and Response. This result was calculated based on number of active contribution agreements (CA) involving Indigenous groups (Indigenous Community Boat Volunteer Program (ICBVP), Indigenous Community Response Training (ICRT), Indigenous Search and Rescue Training and Exercising (ISAR)) and the result is 32 active CA's for 2024-25. This exceeds the target of 5 for the fiscal year, and is an increase from 29 in 2023-24.
- CCGA members have the capacity to respond to maritime search and rescue incidents, specifically looking at the percentage of Indigenous Auxiliary units funded through ICBVP that are equipped, trained, and available to respond. The target value is 'greater than or equal to 75%'. The result for 2024-25 is 61.8%, although it is worth noting that 5 more recipients were funded in 2024-25, but two additional units became operational. While the target percentage was not met, the trend of units becoming operational is increasing. SAR continues to work with the Auxiliaries and ICBVP recipients to ensure that they become operational as soon as possible, and meet the target deadline of March 31, 2027. Many factors can influence their operational status, including vessel inspections/acceptances, equipment resupply, availability of training opportunities and an acceptable number of certified volunteers each year to ensure the unit can be operational.
- Increasing Indigenous participation in the federal SAR system by looking at the total percentage of Indigenous community units who continue to be active members of the CCG Auxiliary via funding through ICBVP: target of 100%. The result for 2024-25 is 98%. SAR continues to work with the Auxiliaries and ICBVP recipients to ensure that they are onboarded as active members of the CCGA as soon as possible, and meet the target deadline of March 31, 2027. Many factors can influence their status, including manufacturing and delivery timelines, availability of training opportunities, and an acceptable number of certified volunteers to ensure the unit can be operational.
- The Canadian Coast Guard's Marine Environmental and Hazards Response (MEHR) program has enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people through the following three activities:
 - On July 4 2024, the Heiltsuk Nation Marine Emergency Response Team (MERT) initiative was renewed through the signing of a second Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Heiltsuk Nation, Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada. This MOU pledges all three parties to continue discussions on a collaborative and comprehensive approach to expanding response and oceans protection within Heiltsuk territory, and to further develop the Heiltsuk MERT as a pilot for what community-based oil spill response could look like on the Central Coast of British Columbia.
 - In 2024-25 the Heiltsuk Nation MERT achieved the following results: 2024-25 contribution agreement renewal, training of 36 Heiltsuk MERT responders in Incident Command System (ICS) and oil spill response education, completion of a Heiltsuk MERT Concept of Operations, updates to Heiltsuk marine pollution, preparedness and response plans and the purchase of a specialized landing craft vessel used to support marine environmental response activities.
 - In 2024-25, the MEHR program continued to work towards advancing other economic development opportunities with Indigenous and non-Indigenous coastal communities within the framework of the federal marine preparedness and response system.
- The Environmental Response Training & Exercising (ER T&E) initiative, originally launched under the first phase of the Oceans Protection Plan (OPP), continues to provide eligible participants with the opportunity to participate in CCG-led introductory Environmental Response training courses and exercises. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, of the OPP Contribution Agreements submitted, 15 included funding allocated for ER T&E. To date, a total of 59 Indigenous people have participated in ER

training and/or exercises. We anticipate the remaining results from other communities to be collected and reported in the fall of 2025.

- Under the Improving Environmental Response Community Caches in the Arctic project, the first 8 of 29 caches were delivered in the Nunavik and Nunatsiavut regions. Decisions for best geographical placement were based on consultation and Indigenous knowledge via site visits and engagement workshops with Indigenous partners.
- The Coastal Marine Response Team initiative distributed \$1.6M in contribution funding to 28 partners to develop marine response capacity in communities. The initiative will also develop a framework so that this capacity can be integrated with the broader marine safety system. Through the Integrated Marine Response Planning (IMRP) initiative, a total of 46 contribution agreements were disbursed in 2024-25, nearing 2.5M, to support Indigenous and coastal community participation in the development of integrated area response plans. The Communication Portal for Integrated Incident Response (CPIIR) project was expected to continue co-developing and nationalizing the CPIIR tool with Indigenous and coastal communities across Canada, through the Trans-Mountain Expansion (TMX) accommodation measure and OPP Renewal. The project has done so successfully by including Indigenous communities in the CPIIR working group, scrum meetings with the vendor and/or engagement opportunities within the community directly. As a result, the first version of CPIIR tool was released in March 2025, with ongoing development and a major new release planned for summer 2026.
- The Co-Developing Community Response (CDCR) TMX Accommodation measure aimed to enhance oil spill response capacity for Indigenous communities that could be impacted by increased tanker traffic along the TMX corridor. Since 2019, Coast Guard dispersed approximately \$30M in contribution funding to 31 Indigenous communities along the TMX corridor. Further, CDCR supported 25 communities in completing training that would enable them to participate in a marine response as well as supported 24 communities to participate in marine responses exercises.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit completed in 2024-25

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. The CCG information for will be shared with Department of National Defence for planning purposes.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Engagement with program participants and recipients for the TPP programs (ICBVP, CCGA, MEHR and ISAR programs) was conducted through a combination of virtual methods (e.g., emails correspondence, online meetings) and in-person meetings. These efforts aim to identify and better understand the specific needs within each community. Maintaining consistent and open lines of communication was essential in fostering positive and collaborative relationships. Regional representatives of these programs worked closely with communities to develop and complete work plans in support of funding requests, ensuring alignment with community priorities as well and program objectives.

5) Contribution in Support of the Salmon Sub-Committee of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	300,500	308,700	317,900	317,900	317,900	0
Total other transfer payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total program	300,500	308,700	317,900	317,900	317,900	0

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

5.1 Contribution Program for Salmon Sub-Committee

Start date : 1995

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s)

- Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Aboriginal Programs and Treaties
- Salmonid Enhancement

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : Chapter 16 of the Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement mandates the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC) to make recommendations to the Minister of Fisheries, Yukon First Nations governments, and/or the Yukon Government on all matters related to Pacific salmon allocations, salmon management, and salmon habitats in the Yukon, including legislation, research, policies, and programs.

Results achieved : Yukon Salmon sub-committee (YSSC) public engagement meetings were held four times in 2024/25 which included participation from First Nation governments, Renewable Resource Councils, NGOs and other stakeholders. One on one meetings were also held with First Nations and stakeholders. These sessions provide the YSSC a cross-section of perspectives to help inform the YSSC's input into the IFMP and fisheries management recommendation letters to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and to Yukon First Nation governments.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was conducted. Expected audit in 2027.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The YSSC Executive and Yukon Transboundary Rivers Area managers meet bilaterally once a month to discuss salmon management, exchange information and provide updates on new and emerging issues. The YSSC attends Area government to government (FN) fisheries management meetings (pre-season, in-season and post-season).

6) Contributions in Support of the Sustainable Management of Canada's Fisheries

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	29,901,106	70,526,038	22,920,723	16,545,308	16,545,308	6,375,415
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	29,901,106	70,526,038	22,920,723	16,545,308	16,545,308	6,375,415

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Explanation of variances : Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

6.1 Ghost Gear Transfer Payment Program – Grants and Contributions

Start date : 2019

End date : Ongoing

*There has been no funding under the Ghost Gear Transfer Payment Program since 2023-2024.

Type of transfer payment : Grants and Contributions

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2023-24

Link to departmental result(s) : Canada ensures the sustainable management of its fisheries and aquaculture, protects aquatic ecosystems from illegal activities, and bases its decisions on sound scientific data.

Link to the department's program inventory : Fisheries Management

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The objectives of DFO's fisheries-related transfer payment programs are to support the healthy, sustainable and economic productive use of fish stocks and ecosystems by promoting awareness of, and involvement in relevant domestic and international commitments in support of conservation, protection and restoration of fish stocks and ecosystems.

In 2020, the Ghost Gear Transfer Payment Program (Ghost Gear Fund) was introduced. The objective is to support activities that are aimed at improving the prevention and mitigation of marine litter, fisheries management and sustainability with an emphasis on prevention and mitigation abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), through improved fisheries management and sustainability, domestically and abroad. These activities are required to fall within the four eligible pillars of activities:

- Abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) Retrieval

- Responsible Disposal
- Gear Acquisition and/or Development of Innovative Technologies
- International Leadership

Results achieved : Through the Ghost Gear Fund, DFO has demonstrated Canada's global leadership in tackling the issue of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear, a significant threat to ocean health. Since its introduction, the Fund has provided over \$58.3 million to support 143 projects; 134 within Canada and 9 internationally, empowering Indigenous groups, fish harvesters, the aquaculture industry, non-governmental organizations, and coastal communities to take meaningful action against ghost gear.

The data and insights gathered from these projects have informed DFO's understanding of gear loss and shaped the Department's next steps in mitigation efforts across Canada. In February 2025, Canada hosted the 2nd International Fishing Gear Innovation Summit, convening global experts, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous harvesters, to explore innovative solutions to gear loss and whale interactions. Many of the participating organizations were recipients of Ghost Gear Fund support.

Building on the knowledge generated through these initiatives, DFO continues to develop the Canadian Ghost Gear Action Plan, scheduled for completion in 2027. This plan will provide a clear, actionable framework to enhance the management of ghost gear nationwide and support the long-term sustainability of Canada's fisheries and marine ecosystems.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable – no audit was completed during the reporting period.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : To support the ongoing development of the Canadian Ghost Gear Program, a series of engagement sessions were held in 2024 with partners and stakeholders, including all applicants to the Ghost Gear Fund. In addition, a gear management survey was conducted in November and made publicly available online, while also being distributed directly to all fund proponents. The survey explored a range of topics, including funding mechanisms, priority areas, and operational considerations.

6.2 Marine Mammal Protection Contribution Program

Start date : 2018-19

End date : 2025-26

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2023-24

Link to departmental result(s)

- Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fisheries Management

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The overarching purpose of this program is to encourage the sustainable management of Canada's fisheries, Indigenous fisheries programs, aquaculture activities, and support commercial fishing harbours.

The objectives of DFO's fisheries-related transfer payment programs are to support the healthy, sustainable, and economic productive use of fish stocks and ecosystems by promoting awareness of, and involvement in relevant domestic and international commitments in support of the conservation, protection and restoration of fish stocks and ecosystems.

Results achieved : The MMRP received 12 proposals in the 2024-25 fiscal year through a request for proposals process. 11 of the 12 proposals (92%) met the program's priorities and were funded to build capacity for safe, effective, and timely marine mammal response across Canada.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed during the reporting period.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged and consulted through a targeted request for proposals process.

6.3 Pacific Salmon Commercial Transition Contribution Program

Start date : 2019-20

End date : 2025-26

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2023-24

Link to departmental result(s) : Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fisheries Management

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The objectives of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's fisheries-related transfer payment programs are to support the healthy, sustainable, and economically productive use of fish stocks and ecosystems by promoting awareness of, and involvement in, relevant domestic and international commitments in support of the conservation, protection, and restoration of fish stocks and ecosystems.

The Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative aims to modernize and stabilize salmon fisheries by transforming the way that salmon is harvested through extensive closures to commercial salmon fisheries. As a mitigation measure, the Pacific Salmon Commercial Licence Retirement Program will provide harvesters with the option to retire their licences for fair market value and will facilitate the transition to a smaller and more economically viable commercial harvesting sector.

Results achieved : In 2024-2025, the Department successfully retired 89 eligible commercial salmon licences following the completion of a third round of the licence retirement program. In total, 417 eligible commercial salmon licences have been retired since the program launch. In the Fall of 2024, the Department launched a fourth round of the intake process which closed in October 2024 and additional licence

retirements are expected to be completed by the Summer of 2025. Updates on the total number of licences retired by fleet as well as details of the future opportunities to apply to the program will be communicated through the Department's website.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was conducted in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the *Financial Administration Act* as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Since the program launch in December 2022 and the completion of three rounds of intakes in the Fall of 2024, applicants were provided with another opportunity to apply to the program through the fourth round of the intake process which closed on October 31, 2024. Applications with offers to retire commercial salmon licence eligibilities are being reviewed and applicants will be notified of the results in early summer 2025. Updates on the total number of licences retired by fleet as well as details of future opportunities to apply to the program will be communicated through the Department's website.

6.4 Sustainable Fisheries Contribution Program

Start date : 2023-24

End date : 2027-28

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2023-24

Link to departmental result(s)

- Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed
- fisheries, oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are protected from unlawful exploitation and interference
- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fisheries Management

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The overarching purpose of this program is to encourage the sustainable management of Canada's fisheries, Indigenous fisheries programs, and aquaculture activities; support commercial fishing harbours; increase maritime cooperation; and create a healthy marine environment while supporting measures against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

The objective of this program is to support the healthy, sustainable, and economically productive use of fish stocks and ecosystems by promoting awareness of and involvement in relevant domestic and international commitments that support the conservation, protection, and restoration of fish stocks and ecosystems.

Results achieved : DFO recognizes the global challenge of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and is committed to working with partners to combat these harmful activities, which can threaten the sustainability of Canadian stocks and the livelihoods of legitimate fish harvesters. IUU fishing also damages the world's marine resources and undermines efforts to conserve and protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity. The Department continued to combat this globally harmful activity by strengthening international governance, improving and leveraging Canada's enforcement capabilities and expertise, and building international partnerships through capacity-building efforts.

Debuting in 2023-24, the Shared Ocean Fund (SOF) of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy is a five year initiative aimed at supporting ocean management, reinforcing a healthy marine environment in the Indo-Pacific region through Canadian government support for a range of enhanced measures against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This Fund is investing over \$80 million Canadian over five years to combat IUU fishing and support a healthy marine environment via a three-pronged approach of governance; enforcement; and partnerships.

Our **governance** efforts are especially evident in Canada's multilateral engagement at Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (or RFMOs), where we negotiate legally-binding and science-based measures for the sustainable management of high seas fisheries, and to counter IUU fishing. In 2024-2025, examples include:

- To protect Canada's Pacific salmon that are at risk of being intercepted in international waters, Canada successfully championed an enforceable ban on the retention of salmon and steelhead trout species on board vessels in the north Pacific Ocean.
- To increase the oversight of transshipments (the transfer of fish or other goods at sea), which are often used to launder illegally caught fish, Canada helped usher through the adoption of a transshipment observer program by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

On **enforcement**, Canada significantly enhanced efforts to combat IUU fishing across the Indo-Pacific by expanding satellite-based surveillance, leading multinational patrols by sea and air, pursuing non-compliance with vessel authorities and within RFMO tables, building regional capacity, and supporting the development of advanced monitoring tools and intelligence-sharing platforms.

As part of the government's work to strengthen collaboration with reliable trading partners and allies around the world, DFO continued to build international partnerships through capacity-building efforts. One example was the delivery, in collaboration with key regional partners, of Canada's innovative Dark Vessels Detection (DVD) technologies to 15 small Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Canada's DVD supports the persistent space-based monitoring of the Indo-Pacific region's offshore fisheries resources in support of collaborative efforts to ensure protection of marine ecosystem health and sustainability for the many PICs which rely on these resources for food security, employment, and national revenues.

The Department also worked to ensure that fishery officers have the equipment and tools they need to protect marine biodiversity and enforce the *Fisheries Act*. For example, DFO took delivery of two 44-foot patrol vessels that will increase the capacity of fishery officers to monitor compliance with the *Fisheries Act*, retrieve more abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear; and monitor endangered whales and other species of concern. They will also support officer safety, as these vessels are capable of operating in adverse weather conditions.

Finally, Canada advanced strategic ocean **partnerships** in the Indo-Pacific region by leading global initiatives to combat IUU fishing, strengthening regional scientific and enforcement capacity, and fostering collaboration through targeted funding, training, and multilateral engagement. Contribution funds supporting this area of work are disbursed via the Sustainable Fisheries Contribution Program. In 2024-25, the SOF provided over \$3 million CAD in contribution funding. Canada is also proud to chair the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Action Alliance, or IUU-AA. This unique group is the only forum that draws actors across the public and private sectors to combat IUU fishing. It offers an opportunity to share one voice at international forums and better work together to eliminate the harmful effects that IUU fishing has on the ocean, vulnerable communities, and the rule of law around the world.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-2025.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the *Financial Administration Act* as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Proposals for funding may be solicited or may be directed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and may use an Expressions of Interest process. Canada builds robust relationships with a variety of international partners to develop and strengthen fisheries management

and compliance measures that regulate high seas fishing activity, and combat IUU fishing with a strong monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) presence. In particular, DFO supports projects that encompass holistic approaches to fisheries MCS, extending beyond the mere provision of novel technologies and prioritizing efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity. Project proposals are gathered from these contacts and organizations, with a DG-level Committee reviewing and approving project proposals at least twice a year. Ongoing reporting requirements are communicated to recipients in advance, with remaining balances released once final year-end reports have been received and reviewed.

7) Contributions in Support of Ecosystems and Oceans Science

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	28,492,074	27,303,457	28,148,650	28,271,059	28,271,059	122,409
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	28,492,074	27,303,457	28,148,650	28,271,059	28,271,059	122,409

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

7.1 Ocean and Freshwater Science Contribution Program

Start date : May 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s) :

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Aquatic Animal Health
- Biotechnology and Genomics
- Hydrographic Services, Data and Science
- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science
- Aquaculture Science
- Fisheries Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling

- hydrographic science (to support the development of community based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF), recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 29 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by academic institutions (8%), Indigenous organizations and groups (28%), Canadian research organizations (14%), Foreign Academic Institutions (7%), and not-for-profit organizations and community groups (3%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Science Funding Secretariat and the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
- DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter) promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians.

7.2 Freshwater Research Contribution Program

Start date : May 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s)

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions

- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous People

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Fisheries Science
- Aquaculture Science
- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science
- Hydrographic Services, Data and Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling
- hydrographic science (to support the development of community-based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 9 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by academic institutions (56%), Canadian research organizations (22%), Indigenous organizations and groups (11%), and Foreign Academic Institutions (11%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Science Funding Secretariat and the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
- DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn and X (formerly) Twitter promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians.

7.3 National Contaminants Advisory Group Contribution Program

Start date : May 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s)

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Fisheries Science
- Aquaculture Science
- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science
- Hydrographic Services, Data and Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling
- hydrographic science (to support the development of community-based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 12 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by academic institutions (58%), Canadian research organizations (17%), and business and Industry (including associations) (25%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Science Funding Secretariat and the Les Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
- DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians.

7.4 Whale Protection and Recovery Initiative Contribution Program

Start date : May 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s):

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's program inventory:

- Aquatic Animal Health
- Biotechnology and Genomics
- Hydrographic Services, Data and Science
- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science
- Aquaculture Science
- Fisheries Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program: The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling
- hydrographic science (to support the development of community based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 4 research projects and related science activities undertaken by academic institutions (25%), not-for-profit organizations and community groups (25%), Canadian research organizations (25%), and Foreign Academic Institutions (25%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website :

- The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Science Funding Secretariat and the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:
- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
- DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians

7.5 Coastal Environmental Baseline Contribution Program

Start date : May 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s)

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Fisheries Science
- Aquaculture Science
- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science

- Hydrographic Services, Data and Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling
- hydrographic science (to support the development of community-based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 42 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by Canadian research organizations (36%), academic institutions (33%), Indigenous organizations and groups (22%), not-for-profit organizations and community groups (7%), and Port Authorities (2%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Science Funding Secretariat and the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
- The Coastal Environmental Baseline Program released advertisement videos in collaboration with many funding recipients highlighting research funded by programming.
- DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians.

7.6 Marine Environmental Quality Regulatory / Non-regulatory Measures Contribution Program

Start date : May 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s)

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Fisheries Science
- Aquaculture Science
- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science
- Hydrographic Services, Data and Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling
- hydrographic science (to support the development of community-based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 10 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by academic institutions (40%), Canadian research organizations (30%), and Foreign Academic Institutions (30%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Science Funding Secretariat and the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
- DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians.

7.7 Ocean and Climate Change Science Contribution Program

Start date : May 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s):

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's program inventory:

- Aquatic Animal Health
- Biotechnology and Genomics
- Hydrographic Services, Data and Science
- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science
- Aquaculture Science
- Fisheries Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
- Ecosystem Science
- Oceanography and Modelling
- Hydrographic Science (to support the development of community-based hydrography)
- Freshwater Science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 9 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by Canadian research organizations (44%), academic institutions (33%), not-for-profit organizations and community groups (12%), and Foreign Academic Institutions (11%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Science Funding Secretariat and the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians.

7.8 Freshwater Habitat Science Contribution Program

Start date : May 2017

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s)

- scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Aquatic Ecosystem Science
- Oceans and Climate Change Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling
- hydrographic science (to support the development of community-based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 3 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by Canadian research organizations (67%), and Indigenous organizations and groups (33%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Grants and Contributions Secretariat and the Les Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) programs participated in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- There were several workshops and presentations hosted throughout the year where both DFO and potential applicants participated.
- DFO Communications remained active on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter) promoting a G&C open call for proposals.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat hosted and led the G&C Coordination Committee where EOSCF program leads and coordinators are provided updates on the latest G&C call for proposals. Thereby programs may provide their contacts that are eligible for G&C funding with accurate G&C information.
- The EOS Science Funding Secretariat participated in the National G&C Steering Committee which enables national communication and coordination of G&C programming. The committee assists with improving G&C programs to better serve Canadians.

7.9 Sustainable Fisheries Science Fund Contribution Program

Start date : 2020-21

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s) : Scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions

Link to the department's program inventory : Fisheries Science

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to encourage scientific research and related scientific activities (e.g., data collection, integration, monitoring, and communication, including communication via conferences and symposia) and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture science
- ecosystem science
- oceanography and modelling
- hydrographic science (to support the development of community-based hydrography)
- freshwater science

The objective of the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Terms and Conditions is to increase the pool of scientific knowledge aligned with DFO Science priorities.

Results achieved : Through project-based financial assistance provided under the EOSCF, recipients advanced Canada's scientific pool of knowledge in priority areas of interest, including the protection and recovery of whales, research on contaminants, oil spill mitigation, freshwater science, marine environmental quality, ocean observation, and fisheries science.

The Program supported 23 research projects and related science activities undertaken primarily by academic institutions (61%), Indigenous organizations and groups (22%), Canadian research organizations (9%), Businesses and industry (including business and industry associations) (4%), and Foreign Academic Institutions (4%).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Applicants and recipients were engaged through proposals solicited individually or in response to a formal call for project proposals on the DFO website.

The Ecosystems and Oceans Science (EOS) Grants and Contributions (G&C) Secretariat and the Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework (EOSCF) Program leads participate in the following initiatives to engage applicants and recipients:

- workshops and training to engage both DFO and potential applicants
- active communication on social media platforms, such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and X (Twitter), promoting grant and contribution (G&C) open calls for proposals

- collaboration of the Ecosystems and Ocean Science (EOS) G&C Secretariat with the National G&C Steering Committee to foster national communication and coordination of G&C programming and improved G&C program delivery
- ongoing updates and improvement to the EOS Contribution Framework Program website

8) Contributions in Support of Aquatic Species and Aquatic Habitat

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	109,281,814	141,902,422	124,657,915	125,030,228	125,030,228	372,313
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	109,281,814	141,902,422	124,657,915	125,030,228	125,030,228	372,313

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

8.1 Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk

Start date : 2018-19

End date : March 31, 2027

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2022-23

Link to departmental result(s)

- negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Species at Risk

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR) is to deliver on the Government of Canada's Nature Legacy initiative by engaging conservation partners in developing and implementing multi-species, place- and threat-based approaches to protecting and recovering aquatic species at risk. The fund brings together Indigenous communities, not-for-profit organizations, provinces and territories, and other partners to undertake stewardship actions.

The overall objectives related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems' transfer payment programs are to conserve and protect Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems and species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved : In 2024-2025, CNFASAR contribution funding successfully supported 76 projects involving recipients from Indigenous groups, provinces and territories, environmental organizations, industry, and academia that directly contributed to the recovery of aquatic species at risk. Of these projects, 14 are led by Indigenous groups whereas 36 projects include Indigenous partners supporting species at risk recovery. Overall, these projects are benefitting 125 species assessed as at risk, including 82 species listed under SARA.

In 2024-2025, based on year-end reports received to date, activities conducted through CNFASAR projects have implemented or completed 15% of recovery measures outlined in recovery documents, supporting

recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk. Since the beginning of CNFASAR (cumulative – 2018 to present), 31% of recovery measures are being implemented or have been completed with CNFASAR contribution funding.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned for fiscal year 2027-28.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : In addition to DFO's website that provides information and application forms for CNFASAR, communications with applicants and recipients are facilitated by the regions via direct check-ins, such as email and telephone. Quarterly follow up meetings are scheduled with successful recipients to ensure projects are progressing as planned.

8.2 Habitat Stewardship Program

Start date : 2018-19

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : Negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Species at Risk

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the transfer payment program is to contribute to the recovery of endangered, threatened, and other species of concern, by engaging Canadians in conservation actions to benefit wildlife to protect aquatic species at risk.

The overall objectives related to all of Fisheries and Ocean's aquatic ecosystems' transfer payment programs are to conserve and protect Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems and species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved : In 2024-25, HSP successfully supported 24 new projects involving partners from Indigenous communities, provinces and territories, environmental organizations, industry, and academia that directly contributed to the recovery of aquatic species at risk. These projects targeted 118 species assessed as at risk, including 87 SARA-listed species.

In 2024-25, Indigenous-led projects, and projects including Indigenous partners totaled 26 groups supporting aquatic species recovery.

In 2024-2025, based on year-end reports received to date, activities conducted through HSP projects have implemented or completed 14% of recovery measures outlined in recovery documents, supporting recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk. Since the beginning of FY 2018-2019, 25% of recovery measures are being implemented or have been completed with HSP contribution funding.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audits in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : In addition to DFO's website that provides information and application forms for the Habitat Stewardship Program, communications with applicants and recipients are facilitated by the regions via direct check-ins, such as email and telephone. Quarterly follow up meetings are scheduled with successful recipients to ensure projects are progressing as planned.

8.3 Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund

Start date : 2019-20

End date : 2024-25

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s)

- negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous People

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : This transfer payment program was designed to increase capacity within eligible Indigenous groups and enable the protection and restoration of aquatic habitats that may be impacted by the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) project or by the cumulative effects of development. The Program supports the restoration of valued marine and freshwater aquatic habitats, respond to fish habitat restoration priorities and contribute to the long-term sustainability of fish and fish habitat. Funding was available to 129 Indigenous groups whose communities or traditional territories are within the Fraser River and inland watersheds along the TMX pipeline and shipping corridor in the Salish Sea.

The overall objectives related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems transfer payment programs are to conserve and protect Canada's oceans, other aquatic ecosystems, and aquatic species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved:

Results achieved as of March 31, 2025:

- Phase 1 - Capacity funding agreements: 109
- Phase 2 - Project funding agreements: 114

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned for fiscal year 2026-27.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund (AHRF) engagement efforts in 2024-25 were focused on workplan and contribution agreement development and implementation for Phase 2 (Project Funding). The project funding and delivery models and project proposal assessment processes were collaboratively developed, which allowed Indigenous groups to have a say in how communities would be engaged, and funding would be distributed. In response to concerns raised by

some recipient groups about program sunset timelines, AHRF engagement focused on working with groups for the potential utilization of Contribution Agreements in 2025-26 on a case-by-case basis to minimize the need for recovery of any unexpended 2024-25 funding previously disbursed and enable some recipient groups to complete funded projects in 2025-26.

8.4 Indigenous Habitat Participation Program – Contributions

Start date : 2018-19

End date : March 21, 2026

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Fish and Fish Habitat Protection
- Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this transfer payment program is to support the participation of Indigenous Peoples, in engagement, capacity building and collaborative activities pertaining to the protection and conservation of fish and fish habitat.

The overall objectives related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems' transfer payment programs are to conserve and protect Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems and species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved:

- 140 agreements / arrangements involved Indigenous groups
- 630 Indigenous people trained through agreements / arrangements
- 89 % of decisions (authorizations/permits) made by DFO consider impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including appropriate accommodation measures to mitigate those impacts
- 528 Indigenous groups/communities provided input/feedback to initiatives

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit related to this subject was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned for fiscal year 2026-27.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : In 2024-2025, engagement activities were centered around the new streamlined approach for grant and contribution agreement process and reporting to ensure applicants and recipients understood the changes and improvements and to also support recipients to finalize proposals and agreements.

8.5 Salish Sea Initiative Contribution Program

Start date : 2019-20

End date : 2024-25

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s)

- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people
- scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aboriginal Program and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this transfer payment program was to support capacity building, development and implementation of stewardship and monitoring programs to assess the effects of human impacts on Valued Ecosystem Components within the Salish Sea marine environment. This included a long-term investment strategy (the Arms-Length Fund) to provide ongoing project delivery.

The overall objectives related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems' transfer payment programs were to conserve and protect Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems and species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved:

- Enhanced departmental relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people
 - Increased capacity for monitoring and research among all eligible participants
- Scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems was made available to inform management decisions
 - Information was shared through the creation of a shared, interactive map. This map is now held with the nations and information is uploaded and shared between nations and the GoC.
- Arms length fund established; facilitated through a newly formed non-profit society
- Gap assessment completed for potential future development of a cumulative effects management plan (recommendations 1&2).

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit occurred during 2024-2025

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation for this contribution program was completed in 2023-24.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The Salish Sea Initiative engaged with recipients directly through a team of engagement staff. Each eligible Nation or Aggregate was assigned an engagement lead with whom they had regular interaction to develop workplans, to report on findings, and to share information. Further to this the initiative had regularly scheduled "Webinar Workshops" with eligible nations to share information between GoC and recipients, and to foster relationship building and sharing between nations.

8.6 Aquatic Invasive Species Fund

Start date :

Subcomponent - Aquatic Invasive Species Contribution Program: 2017-18
Subcomponent - Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund: 2022-23

End date :

Subcomponent - Aquatic Invasive Species Contribution Program: ongoing
Subcomponent - Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund: March 31, 2027

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Treasury Board Submission: funding to expand the Aquatic Invasive Species Program to Protect Canada's fisheries and ecosystems

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : Negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aquatic Invasive Species

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this transfer payment program is to minimize the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species and reduce the risk of consequences from them, with a focus on key species, such as Invasive Carp.

In addition, the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund component of this transfer payment program is \$8.75 million over 5 years, with the purpose of detecting and responding to imminent aquatic invasive species invasions, including at borders, and facilitating on-the-ground action to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of aquatic invasive species through partnerships.

The overall objectives related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems transfer payment programs are to conserve and protect Canada's oceans, other aquatic ecosystems, and aquatic species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved:

The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Contribution Program had a total of 9 (3 new and 6 multi-year ongoing) agreements in 2024-25. These agreements achieved:

- increased capacity of Indigenous communities to participate in AIS prevention and early detection activities in areas considered high risk for Grass Carp;
- increased awareness of target audiences on how to identify and report invasive carps, with a focus on Grass Carp, the most immediate threat to the Great Lakes; and
- increased efforts towards early detection surveillance of invasive carps using eDNA and traditional gear types.

For the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund, a total of 11 multi-year projects and one single-year project were initiated in 2024-25. Additionally, 8 multi-year projects completed their final year of activities in 2024-25. Results from these projects include:

- increased awareness of target audiences on aquatic invasive species in general and national messaging campaigns such as "Don't Let it Loose" and "Clean, Drain, Dry"
- the development and implementation of local plans to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species such as Zebra and Quagga mussels
- the operation of watercraft inspection and decontamination stations to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species
- increased efforts towards early detection surveillance, response, and control of aquatic invasive

species including Zebra and Quagga mussels, European Green Crab, Flowering Rush, and biofouling species

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation was completed in 2024-25.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The Aquatic Invasive Species Contribution Program is a directed funding program. Consultations and interactions with applicants and recipients are done at the regional level via email, telephone, and virtual meetings. Quarterly check-ins with recipients are done to ensure projects are progressing as planned. Engagement in 2024-2025 included reaching out to potential and existing recipients to gauge interest to finalize agreements and annual/final reports.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund (AISPF) engages applicants and recipients via an open call for proposals and directed funding. In addition to DFO's website, which provides information including the application process, communications with applicants and recipients are facilitated at the regional level via direct check-ins, such as emails and phone calls. Quarterly follow-up meetings are encouraged with successful recipients to ensure projects are progressing as planned. . Additional engagement activities in 2024-25 included:

- In February 2025, the Honorable Élisabeth Brière, Minister of National Revenue, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Lebovillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, announced \$3.7 million in funding for seven multi-year projects at the first National Forum on Aquatic Invasive Species, which was funded through the AISPF.
- An additional AISPF project in the Magdalen Islands was announced by Minister Lebovillier in November 2024.

8.7 Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund

Start date : July 19, 2022

End date : March 31, 2027

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s)

- negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous People

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Fund (AERF) is to renew investments (previously provided through the Coastal Restoration Fund) for all Canadian coasts, with an expanded geographic scope to include upstream areas that have a direct impact on coastal aquatic ecosystems. Contribution funding is provided to Indigenous organizations, non-profit and community-based organizations, as well as academic researchers and institutions, to support aquatic restoration efforts in priority areas that have the greatest biological value, priority actions with the greatest benefit to mitigate specific coastal ecosystem threats, and activities that address the root causes of impacts on coastal areas. The expanded program addresses impacts on Canadian coastal aquatic environments (e.g., climate change, new contaminants, algae blooms, agricultural runoff, etc.) and supports DFO's commitment to continue to protect and restore our oceans and coasts by:

- contributing to strategic planning and addressing restoration priorities

- supporting restoration and rehabilitation of aquatic habitats and their long-term sustainability
- educating the public on the impacts of human behaviour on aquatic habitats
- supporting co-benefits of aquatic restoration activities (such as nature-based solutions to climate change)
- encouraging and building local community capacity
- supporting Indigenous groups through strategic partnerships

Results achieved:

- 33.3% of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects are Indigenous led
- 37% of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects took place in freshwater environments
- 11.8M square meters of aquatic habitat in marine and coastal areas of Canada have been restored
- 93% of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that will include Indigenous partners with a strong role in development and implementation

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit related to this subject was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned for fiscal year 2026-27.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : AERF program funding has been distributed to recipients. The program is currently in the monitoring phase. Ongoing engagement with recipients occurs regularly between the recipients and regional staff. Regular virtual check ins take place to ensure projects are proceeding as planned and advice is provided to recipients as required. The regional staff completed project site visits when travel budgets and recipient availability was aligned.

8.8 Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative – Contributions

Start date : 2019-20

End date : 2024-25

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fish and Fish Habitat Protection

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this transfer payment program is to collaborate with Indigenous communities regarding cumulative effects of development on the land. The program focuses on providing contribution funding for Indigenous groups to address the priorities of highest importance to the communities related to cumulative effects along the pipeline route. DFO focus is specifically on projects and concerns related to freshwater fish and fish habitat.

The overall objectives related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems' transfer payment programs are to conserve and protect Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems and species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved : Over the course of the initiative :

Phase I (capacity funding; administered by Natural Resources Canada): 105 eligible groups signed capacity funding agreements.

Phase II (project funding); 24 contribution agreements signed supporting Indigenous-led projects related to cumulative effects.

All TCEI funds were fully allocated.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit related to this program was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned for fiscal year 2026-27.

Horizontal evaluation of the TMX Terrestrial Cumulative Effects Initiative was in progress in 2024-25 led by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC and supported by DFO) and is planned to be completed in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : TCEI engagement was led by ECCC and supported by DFO. Working groups with Indigenous partners advanced co-development of the [State of Knowledge Toolkit and Story Line](#), a main deliverable of the TCEI. Work included showcasing Indigenous-led TCEI projects on cumulative effects. The TCEI also hosted two Knowledge Series sessions in May and September 2024. The State of Knowledge Toolkit and Story Line were launched on February 19, 2025.

8.9 Oceans Management Program

Start date : September 2016

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s)

- negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Marine Planning and Conservation

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Oceans Management Contribution funding is to support the development and implementation of oceans conservation and management activities in Canada.

The overall objectives related to all of DFO's aquatic ecosystems' transfer payment programs are to conserve and protect Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems and species from human impact and invasive species.

Results achieved : Through active agreements in 2024-25, the OMCP contributed the following totals to Result 2.3 - Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people:

- 50 active agreements with Indigenous recipients received funding support involvement and capacity for meaningful engagement, management and monitoring related to marine conservation
- 82 Indigenous people were employed through active agreements as an outcome contributing to engagement, management and monitoring related to marine conservation and management*
- 343 Indigenous people received training and education as an outcome to advance Indigenous involvement and leadership in oceans management through active agreements*

* Note: These results were calculated from the 70 progress reports received (out of 142 active agreements) as of July 4, 2025.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned for fiscal year 2026-27.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The program provides funding to eligible recipients through a regional funding model for activities under Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Environmental Quality and Marine Conservation Targets as well as through a national, competitive process that was widely announced through social media, website updates and partner communications.

8. 10 Pacific Salmon Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships Program

Start date : April 1, 2024

End date : March 31, 2026

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s)

- negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous People

Link to the department's program inventory

- Fish and Fish Habitat Protection
- Salmonid Enhancement

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Pacific Salmon Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships Program (PSCSPP) is to support the participation and activities of external Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups providing advice to the Department on the conservation and stewardship of Pacific salmon.

Results achieved : In 2024–25, the Pacific Salmon Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships Program (PSCSPP) successfully supported the continued engagement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners in collaborative salmon conservation and stewardship efforts. Contribution agreements were implemented with multiple partners to advance integrated salmon ecosystem planning initiatives, stewardship and restoration actions to guide future planning, and emergency climate response with a focus on ensuring partner interests were reflected in planning activities. Mid-year check-ins and site visits provided valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships and gather insights on project progress. Performance indicators are being tracked; no significant gaps have been identified at this time.

However, a number of selected recipients received funding to support departmental outcomes for Pacific salmon recovery, aimed at benefitting salmon and their habitats as well as contributing to Indigenous reconciliation.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audits were conducted in 2024–25 for the Pacific Salmon Conservation and Stewardship Partnerships Program

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : As a targeted program, PSCSPP does not have an open application process, and all recipients were identified through a directed engagement process. In 2024–25, program officials engaged recipients through mid-year check-ins and site visits where possible, providing a mechanism for ongoing dialogue and collaboration. These engagements allowed for early identification of challenges, sharing of best practices, and strengthened relationships between the department and its partners. There were no major deviations from the planned engagement approach outlined in the Departmental Plan.

9) Contributions in Support of the Small Craft Harbours Class Program

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	2,514,351	2,737,821	750,000	2,151,313	2,151,313	1,401,313
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	2,514,351	2,737,821	750,000	2,151,313	2,151,313	1,401,313

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Received incremental funding as well as a reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

9.1 Small Craft Harbours Class Contribution Program

Start date : 2008

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2024-25

Link to departmental result(s) : The commercial fishing industry has access to safe harbours

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Small Craft Harbours

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of the Small Craft Harbours Class Contribution Program is to support the acquisition, development, construction, improvement, or repair of eligible fishing and recreational harbours, as well as their management, maintenance, safety, and accessibility. This will be accomplished by providing assistance to eligible recipients for designated activities which will contribute to the objectives of the Small Craft Harbours (SCH) Program.

Results achieved : In 2024-25, 30 new Class contribution agreements were signed under the SCH Class Contribution Program, 12 under the regular program and 18 under the Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels Removal Program, with annual expenditures of \$2,185,998. The total expenditures also include 14 multiyear contribution agreements that were signed in past fiscal years but where funding was allocated for this fiscal year.

Of the 12 agreements under the regular program, five (5) were related to harbour authority support and capacity building, six (6) were related to Indigenous engagement and/or Indigenous capacity building and one (1) related to habitat restoration. The 18 agreements under the Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels Removal Program responsibly removed and disposed of 24 abandoned and wrecked vessels to reduce risks to the economic well-being of the harbour authority, threats to navigation, impacts on the environment.

Seven (7) amendments have also been approved in order to add activities or an extra financial year to the agreement.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No internal audit related to this subject was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. An evaluation is planned for fiscal year 2027-28.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Small Craft Harbours (SCH) will continue to engage with harbour authorities across the country many of which receive funding through the SCH Class Contribution Program through existing mechanisms such as the National Harbour Authority Advisory Committee, the Regional Harbour Authority Advisory Committees and provincial harbour authority associations. Regional employees will also continue ongoing dialogues with recipients.

Also specific representations were made to different harbour authorities on the SCH Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels Removal Program and updated information is available on the SCH website.

Work continues on updating the Ts&Cs of the SCH Class Contribution Program in order to better respond to the needs identified by applicants and recipients in the context of this ongoing dialogue.

10) Contributions in Support of the Integrated Aboriginal Programs Management Framework

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	137,032,072	142,597,581	119,332,212	202,445,105	196,933,191	77,600,979
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	137,032,072	142,597,581	119,332,212	202,445,105	196,933,191	77,600,979

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Received incremental funding as well as funding that will be spent in future years in order to meet program requirements to advance reconciliation on Indigenous rights and fisheries issues.

10.1 Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy - Negotiation and Implementation of Fisheries Agreements

Start date : 1992

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : This transfer payment program provides for negotiated arrangements with Indigenous communities and organizations on the management of food, social and ceremonial fisheries, and facilitates participation in local management initiatives such as stock assessment, habitat restoration, and monitoring and enforcement by Indigenous Fishery Guardians. Financial contributions are intended to support participant organizations as they develop and maintain the capacity to deliver on these objectives.

Results achieved : In 2024-25, the AFS program established agreements with 143 Indigenous communities and organizations in different parts of the country. Funding delivered through these agreements contributed to the employment of 1,423 people in the fisheries and aquatic resource management space, with roles ranging from management and oversight of harvesting activities to various scientific, technical, communications and monitoring or enforcement functions.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : Fiscal year of last completed evaluation: 2024-25

Decision following the results of last evaluation: Continuation

Evaluation findings: [Evaluation of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy \(AFS\) and Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management \(AAROM\) Programs](#)

Fiscal year of next planned evaluation: 2028-29

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The AFS program is constantly working to embed the principle of co-development, co-design and co-delivery with Indigenous participants. Each year, in delivering on the AFS, the Department concludes approximately 135 contribution agreements with participating Indigenous communities and organizations across the country. Recipients are engaged at the outset to determine the activities they will undertake to deliver on their fisheries management objectives, with continued engagement throughout the year in the form of meetings, site visits and dialogue on the progress of work and related results and expenditures. Quarterly program bulletins are distributed to all participating Indigenous communities and organizations to inform them of upcoming events or funding opportunities. Calls for proposal to the annual Capacity Support Fund (CSF) are released every spring and allow further interaction with AFS participants on ways in which the program can lend additional support to short-term capacity development projects. Other ongoing co-design and co-delivery structures that contribute to strengthened program relationships include the Indigenous-led Capacity Development Team (CDT), a third-party service provider that supports participating communities in their continuous development of fisheries management capacity, as well as the Collaborative Programs Management Committee (CPMC), a joint DFO-Indigenous governance committee that oversees delivery of both the AFS and AAROM programs.

In 2024-25, AFS staff worked with representatives from five (5) First Nations to facilitate their participation as new entrants to the program. All were similarly engaged by the Indigenous-lead CDT to plan and develop their organizational and technical capacity objectives for fisheries and aquatic resources management. Six (6) additional Nations were invited to participate, and AFS staff will continue to engage with them toward the objective of AFS participation over the longer term.

10.2 Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program

Start date

2005-06

End date

Ongoing

Type of transfer payment

Contribution

Type of appropriation

Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions

2020-21

Link to departmental result(s)

Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program

The transfer payment program supports Indigenous groups as they work together to develop, grow and maintain aquatic resource and oceans management departments that provide fisheries, habitat, science, and oceans related services along a watershed, or participate in related management or advisory processes and decision making.

Results achieved:

In 2024-25, the AAROM program established agreements with 39 Indigenous organizations in different parts of the country. Funding delivered through these agreements contributed to the employment of 269 people in the aquatic resource and oceans management space, with roles ranging from planning, oversight and advisory services for collaborative research and fieldwork, to various scientific, technical, communications and aquatic resource monitoring functions.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25: Fiscal year of last completed evaluation: 2024-25

Decision following the results of last evaluation: Continuation

Evaluation findings: [Evaluation of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy \(AFS\) and Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management \(AAROM\) Programs](#)

Fiscal year of next planned evaluation: 2028-29

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25:

The AAROM platform is built upon the principle of co-development, co-design and co-delivery with Indigenous participants. This relies on regular technical meetings with the leaders of Indigenous AAROM departments on issues of program design and priority setting. It also involves actively promoting collaborative and solutions-based approaches to enhancing the technical and organizational capacity of the national network of AAROM departments. The National AAROM meeting, co-developed by a joint Indigenous-DFO steering committee and co-delivered by a host AAROM department on an annual or semi-annual basis, brings together Indigenous experts from more than 35 AAROM departments across the country and facilitates dialogue on program objectives and areas for improvement. Other ongoing co-design and co-delivery structures that contribute to strengthened program relationships include the AAROM Hub website (aarom.ca), the Indigenous-led Capacity Development Team (CDT) and the Collaborative Programs Management Committee (CPMC), a joint DFO-Indigenous governance committee that oversees both AAROM and AFS program renewal.

In 2024-25, the AAROM program co-developed and co-delivered the 4th National AAROM Meeting with the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. Hosted in the territory of the Hupačasath peoples, the meeting brought together over 70 participants from across the AAROM network. Over the course of 3 days, Indigenous AAROM departments, DFO, and other partner organizations exchanged knowledge, strengthened collaboration, and identified network objectives for the year ahead. To advance this work, the joint DFO-Indigenous AAROM Steering Committee met on a bi-monthly basis to inform priority setting and facilitate related communications.

10.3 Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

Start date : 2007-08

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The objectives of Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI) include:

- build knowledge and skills required to manage fisheries enterprises
- increase access to training to fish safely and effectively operate their vessels
- build the capacity needed to meet future commercial fisheries operations, administration and training requirements independently
- enhance economic returns from fisheries and aquaculture for the local and broader benefit of communities

Results achieved : In 2024-25, the AICFI program established 96 agreements with 32 First Nations in the Maritimes provinces and Gaspé region of Quebec. Funding delivered through these agreements contributed to the employment of 2,293 people in the communal commercial fisheries and Indigenous aquaculture enterprise space, as fish harvesters, commercial fisheries enterprise managers, aquaculture enterprise managers and labourers, etc. Under AICFI's harvester training component, 654 individuals received training in 2024-25.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation related to this subject is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25: Fisheries and Oceans Canada's transfer payment programs focused on Indigenous participation in fisheries are designed to support productive relationships that further the goals of sustainability and prosperity. The intended outcome is stable collaborative fisheries management regimes and industries that operate effectively within a larger integrated fishery, with respectful and transparent rules for all.

The Indigenous Commercial Programs are co-delivered with Indigenous partners and the administration of the programs are governed by management committees that are co-chaired by the DFO Program Authority and a partnering Indigenous organization. Additionally, key co-delivery partners of Indigenous Commercial Programs are the Commercial Fisheries Enterprise (CFE) Business Development Teams (BDTs) and the Training Advisory Coordinators (TACs). The BDTs provide comprehensive and hands-on advice and assistance to participating communities and CFEs, and in particular, assist with the preparation of business cases for funding and the implementation of projects. The TACs support Indigenous Commercial Program participants in the identification of specific training needs of their CFE. Working directly with the CFE, the TAC assists with the development and maintenance of CFE training plans, which prioritize harvester and enterprise management training activities that align with the priorities of the CFE.

10.4 Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

Start date : 2007-08

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI) provides funding and support to Indigenous groups and communities in British Columbia to maximize the potential of their communal commercial fishing enterprises and strengthen community economic self-sufficiency within the framework of an orderly, stable integrated commercial fishery. The program seeks to:

- improve accountability in fisheries information and decision making
- increase compliance with regulations and management controls in all fisheries
- improve collaboration within and between commercial fishing fleets and the federal government
- collaboration includes engaging at the multi-sector level in the management and promotion of sustainable integrated fisheries
- improve the business and operational capacities in BC required by Indigenous commercial fisheries enterprises to successfully manage sustainable fisheries

Results achieved : In 2024-25, the PICFI program established 59 agreements with 29 Indigenous commercial fishing enterprises (CFEs) and Aquaculture enterprises in British Columbia. Funding delivered through these agreements contributed to the employment of approximately 900 people in the communal commercial fisheries and Indigenous aquaculture enterprise space, as fish harvesters, commercial fisheries enterprise managers, aquaculture enterprise managers and labourers, etc. Under PICFI's harvester training component, 308 individuals received training in 2024-25.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation related to this subject is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Fisheries and Oceans Canada's transfer payment programs focused on Indigenous participation in fisheries are designed to support productive relationships that further the goals of sustainability and prosperity. The intended outcome is stable collaborative fisheries management regimes and industries that operate effectively within a larger integrated fishery, with respectful and transparent rules for all.

The Indigenous Commercial Programs are co-delivered with Indigenous partners and the administration of the programs are governed by management committees that are co-chaired by the DFO Program Authority and a partnering Indigenous organization. Additionally, key co-delivery partners of Indigenous Commercial Programs are the Commercial Fisheries Enterprise (CFE) Business Development Teams (BDTs) and the Training Advisory Coordinators (TACs). The BDTs provide comprehensive and hands-on advice and assistance to participating communities and CFEs, and in particular, assist with the preparation of business cases for funding and the implementation of projects. The TACs support Indigenous Commercial Program

participants in the identification of specific training needs of their CFE. Working directly with the CFE, the TAC assists with the development and maintenance of CFE training plans, which prioritize harvester and enterprise management training activities that align with the priorities of the CFE.

10.5 Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

Start date : 2017-18

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (NICFI) provides funding and support to Indigenous communities/groups aimed at communal commercial fishing enterprise and aquaculture enterprise development. This program is available to all Indigenous communities/groups not eligible for the Atlantic or Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiatives (AICFI or PICFI) in all areas where DFO manages the fishery; however, this does not apply for aquaculture-related projects. The objectives of NICFI include:

- build knowledge and skills required to manage fisheries enterprises
- increase access to training to fish safely and effectively operate their vessels
- build the capacity needed to meet future commercial fisheries operations, administration and training requirements independently
- enhance economic returns from fisheries and aquaculture for the local and broader benefit of communities

Results achieved : In 2024-25, the NICFI program established 49 agreements with 29 Indigenous commercial fishing enterprises (CFEs) and Aquaculture enterprises. Funding delivered through these agreements contributed to the employment of 337 people in the communal commercial fisheries and Indigenous aquaculture enterprise space, as fish harvesters, commercial fisheries enterprise managers, aquaculture enterprise managers and labourers, etc. Under NICFI's harvester training component, 236 individuals received training in 2024-25.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation related to this subject is currently underway and results are expected to be available in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : Fisheries and Oceans Canada's transfer payment programs focused on Indigenous participation in fisheries are designed to support productive relationships that further the goals of sustainability and prosperity. The intended outcome is stable collaborative fisheries management regimes and industries that operate effectively within a larger integrated fishery, with respectful and transparent rules for all.

The Indigenous Commercial Programs are co-delivered with Indigenous partners and the administration of the programs are governed by management committees that are co-chaired by the DFO Program Authority and a partnering Indigenous organization. Additionally, key co-delivery partners of Indigenous Commercial Programs are the Commercial Fisheries Enterprise (CFE) Business Development Teams (BDTs) and the

Training Advisory Coordinators (TACs). The BDTs provide comprehensive and hands-on advice and assistance to participating communities and CFEs, and in particular, assist with the preparation of business cases for funding and the implementation of projects. The TACs support Indigenous Commercial Program participants in the identification of specific training needs of their CFE. Working directly with the CFE, the TAC assists with the development and maintenance of CFE training plans, which prioritize harvester and enterprise management training activities that align with the priorities of the CFE.

10.6 Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk

Start date : 2004-05

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation: Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions: 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory

- Aboriginal Programs and Treaties
- Species at Risk

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) was established to facilitate active participation by Indigenous communities in the implementation of the *Species at Risk Act*. It contributes funding to Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada, as they develop organizational capacity and implement projects or activities that contribute to the conservation, stewardship, and recovery of species at risk.

Results achieved: In 2024-25 the AFSAR program supported fifty-one (51) projects focused on the conservation, stewardship and recovery of aquatic species at risk (SAR). These projects were developed and implemented by forty-one (41) Indigenous communities and organizations in all regions of the country.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was conducted in 2024-25. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : AFSAR is a program of general application that is open to all Indigenous communities and organizations across Canada. It operates on an annual cycle that engages Indigenous proponents at different times and for different purposes throughout the year. A formal call-for proposals is released in the autumn of each fiscal year, and is accompanied by related communications, guidance and application materials. Proposals are submitted, reviewed and approved during the winter months of a given year, with notifications and approval letters released at the start of the subsequent fiscal year. Once approved, national and regional program staff engage directly with successful proponents in the development of a contribution agreement that reflects their intended project and anticipated outcomes. During the course of project implementation, DFO staff are available to provide advice and guidance, and to provide updates on progress and related reporting.

In 2024-25, notifications and approval letters were sent to 41 Indigenous communities and organizations, who were then engaged directly by DFO program officers to develop and implement corresponding

workplans and budgets. The call out for 2025-26 proposals was released to participants on October 18, 2024, with all applications received by December 13, 2024.

10.7 Treaty Related Measures

Start date : June 2020

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation: Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s) : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous People

Link to the department's program inventory : Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The overall objectives of DFO's Aboriginal programming are to:

- provide support to Indigenous communities and organizations to more effectively collaborate with each other, DFO, and other parties in the management of sustainable fisheries, aquatic resources, and oceans resources
- provide for the management of communal food, social and ceremonial fisheries within integrated management systems that support sustainability and conservation of fisheries resources
- support Indigenous communities in becoming successful participants in commercial fisheries and aquaculture
- provide a more resilient and stable regulatory and enforcement regime related to Indigenous fisheries, in collaboration with Indigenous communities and others
- provide a foundation for the development and implementation of treaties and self-government agreements

The Treaty Related Measures (TRM) Program is an interim measure with a purpose to provide funding to 35 Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati communities while treaty and/or reconciliation negotiations are underway in order to directly advance governance approaches that may be adopted under a fisheries-related Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination Agreement or final agreement. TRM agreements deliver immediate, tangible benefits (e.g., economic benefits, employment) and enable First Nations to test fisheries governance structures and activities in advance of concluding a longer-term negotiated fisheries reconciliation agreement.

Results achieved : Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

- Number of agreements / arrangements involving Indigenous groups - RESULT: 13
- Number of Indigenous people trained through agreements / arrangements - RESULT: 15
- Number of indigenous people employed through agreements / arrangements - RESULT: 86

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation completed in 2024-25. An evaluation of the Department's efforts towards Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples (including Indigenous Reconciliation Transfer Payment Programs) is being conducted in 2025-26.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : The Treaty Related Measures Program (TRM) administers funds to support the 35 MMPFNs to help build their capacity and fisheries governance to participate effectively in negotiations of long term fisheries reconciliation agreements. Funds may include funds to acquire fisheries access, vessels, and gear and funds to support governance. Through TRM, DFO supports the implementation of the fisheries rights and interests of Indigenous peoples in Atlantic Canada.

10.8 Certification and Market Access Program for Seals

Start date: April 1, 2015

End date: Ongoing

Type of transfer payment: Contribution

Type of appropriation: Unfunded

Fiscal year for terms and conditions: 2020-21

Link to departmental result(s): Enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's program inventory: Aboriginal Programs and Treaties

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program: Currently unfunded, CMAPS is a contribution program designed to assist Indigenous communities in their efforts to access the European Union (EU) market and to support the broader seal industry to renew market access domestically and internationally

Results achieved: In 2024-25, the CMAPS program established 4 agreements with 3 Indigenous organizations to fund seal-harvest and marketing related activities. These activities included a sealskin workshop held in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories for Indigenous artists, as well support for training activities and marketing studies for two Indigenous seal-product businesses in Atlantic Canada.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25: Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25: No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the *Financial Administration Act* as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25: The Indigenous Commercial Programs are co-delivered with Indigenous partners and the administration of the programs are governed by management committees that are co-chaired by the DFO Program Authority and a partnering Indigenous organization. Additionally, key co-delivery partners of Indigenous Commercial Programs are the Commercial Fisheries Enterprise (CFE) Business Development Teams (BDTs) and the Training Advisory Coordinators (TACs). The BDTs provide comprehensive and hands-on advice and assistance to participating communities and CFEs, and in particular, assist with the preparation of business cases for funding and the implementation of projects. The TACs support Indigenous Commercial Program participants in the identification of specific training needs of their CFE. Working directly with the CFE, the TAC assists with the development and maintenance of CFE training plans, which prioritize harvester and enterprise management training activities that align with the priorities of the CFE.

11) Contribution in Support of the Pacific Salmon Foundation

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	1,404,426	1,505,850	1,590,633	1,666,142	1,666,142	75,509
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	1,404,426	1,505,850	1,590,633	1,666,142	1,666,142	75,509

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : 24/25 planned spending was based on an estimate. Actual calculations are based on annual revenues collected which ended up being higher.

11.1 Contribution Program with the Pacific Salmon Foundation

Start date : April 1, 2020

End date : March 31, 2025

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2022-23

Link to departmental result(s) : Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Salmonid Enhancement

Projects funded through the Contribution Program are linked to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Core Responsibility of Fisheries under the Salmonid Enhancement Program.

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to increase community capacity for, awareness of, and involvement in the conservation, protection and restoration of Canadian Pacific salmon stocks to achieve healthy, sustainable and naturally diverse stocks and habitat.

The objective of this program is to establish short-term and long-term partnerships with private sector individuals and organizations, First Nations organizations, and public sector agencies to further Pacific salmon stock and habitat conservation and restoration.

Results achieved:

OUTPUT FY2024-25	INDICATOR FY 2024-25
Funded community-based salmon conservation, restoration, and enhancement projects	<p>147 Total Projects</p> <p># Projects by Project Type:</p> <p>Education, Outreach and Training 74</p> <p>Habitat Assessment 16</p> <p>Habitat Rehabilitation 19</p> <p>Stewardship/Community Planning 11</p> <p>Stock Assessment 12</p> <p>Stock Enhancement 15</p>
Additional Revenue for the PSF	<p>Funds leveraged by PSF from other contributors</p> <p>\$10,212,289 leveraged cash and in-kind.</p>
Partnerships and resources (contributory, collaborative arrangements) to increase the salmon enhancement, habitat conservation and restoration efforts	<p>184 Total Partnerships</p> <p>Direct project support provided by:</p> <p>13 Indigenous Communities or their organizations</p> <p>7 Provincial ministries and programs</p> <p>19 Municipal Governments</p> <p>60 Industry, Business, Corporate entities</p> <p>75 Foundations and stewardship groups</p> <p>3 Post secondary institutions</p> <p>7 Schools, School Districts K-12</p>
Improved salmon habitat	33,960 square meters of habitat improved
Increased community capacity and involvement in salmon enhancement, habitat conservation and restoration projects	Not measured
Increased public awareness about salmon	73 projects funded for education, training and stewardship by product or activity.
Increased public support for rebuilding salmon resource	10 stock assessment projects by species

	<p>15 stock enhancement projects by project activity (facility/equipment upgrades; capital; operating costs)</p> <p>10 stock enhancement/assessment projects that contribute to a strategic initiative (e.g. watershed management plan, Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking, effectiveness monitoring)</p> <p>5,905 volunteer hours contributed to stock enhancement and stock assessment projects</p> <p>101,157 volunteer hours contributed to assessment, rehabilitation, education/outreach/training, community stewardship</p>
<p>First Nations, communities and organizations have resources (funds, information/advice, and technical support, project reviews, recommendations) to enable participation in cooperative fisheries and watershed stewardship activities.</p>	<p>147 of 160 projects funded as proportion of applications received (92%)</p>
<p>Increased collaboration among community stakeholders in salmon enhancement, habitat conservation and restoration projects</p>	<p>Name and type of community partners delivering the projects: Collaboration list is available in program (extensive).</p> <p>Direct funding provided by 31 organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Federal Government (not DFO) 1 Provincial Government (BC) 6 Municipal Government 6 Industry, Business, Corporate 9 Foundations 8 Groups and individuals
<p>Enhanced knowledge of key issues that impact salmon conservation, and improved effectiveness monitoring of projects</p>	<p>44 research information and effectiveness monitoring projects and usage of their data to inform future conservation activities, plans, and strategies</p>
<p>* Additional metric *</p> <p>Increased collaboration among Indigenous organizations</p>	<p>23 Indigenous community applications funded</p>

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No internal audit related to this agreement was conducted in FY2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No program evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This contribution is exempted from section 42.1 of the FAA as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : This is a single targeted 5-year agreement with the PSF that is currently active from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

12) Contribution Program with T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	18,308	21,087	21,367	18,585	18,585	2,782
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	18,308	21,087	21,367	18,585	18,585	2,782

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca .

Explanation of variances : Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

12.1 Contribution Program with T. Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation

Start date : 2014-15

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2022-23

Link to departmental result(s) : Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Fisheries Management

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The purpose of this program is to promote awareness of, and involvement in, conservation, protection and restoration of Canadian Pacific fish stocks and habitat to achieve healthy, sustainable and naturally diverse stocks and habitat.

Results achieved : Proponent achieved the expected results as set out in the activities for the year and detailed in the received annual report.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : Not applicable.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : No evaluation related to this subject was completed in 2024-25. This grant is exempted from section 42.1 of the Financial Administration Act as per the Policy on Results. However, when deemed applicable, it will be included in program evaluations.

This is an ongoing, relatively low value program with only one proponent and similar expected results from year to year. The annual mid-fiscal year meeting (and additional meetings if required), in addition to the required final report, are adequate to assess the results achieved by the singular proponent of the TPP.

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : DFO meets with the proponent each year to discuss progress and receive their Annual Report. New contribution agreements are presently developed every other year.

13) Contributions in Support of Salmon Enhancement Programming

Financial information (dollars)

Type of transfer payment	2022–23 actual spending	2023–24 actual spending	2024–25 planned spending	2024–25 total authorities available for use	2024–25 actual spending (authorities used)	Variance (2024–25 actual minus 2024–25 planned)
Total grants	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total contributions	4,606,983	7,102,346	7,516,000	7,523,481	7,523,481	7,481
Total other transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total program	4,606,983	7,102,346	7,516,000	7,523,481	7,523,481	7,481

For questions related to the information in this table, please contact the Parliamentary Reporting Operations team at DFO.NCRRResults-ResultatsRCN.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Explanation of variances : Reallocation of resources to align with program spending requirements.

13.1 Salmon Enhancement Transfer Payment Program – Contributions

Start date : April 1, 2018

End date : Ongoing

Type of transfer payment : Contribution

Type of appropriation : Estimates

Fiscal year for terms and conditions : 2021-22

Link to departmental result(s)

- Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed
- enhanced relationships with, involvement of, and outcomes for Indigenous people

Link to the department's Program Inventory : Salmonid Enhancement

Purpose and objectives of transfer payment program : The Salmon Enhancement Program aims to enhance salmon stocks and their habitat by supporting hatchery production, public education, stewardship, and engagement activities, thus contributing to salmon conservation, ecosystem health, and sustainable fisheries. The program works with the public and First Nations to produce fish that support conservation, rebuilding, harvesting, assessment, education, and community involvement, thereby contributing to ecosystem health, engagement, and economic productivity. From 2021 through 2026, funding for this program has been or will be substantially supplemented by Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) funding, with a focus on modernizing and upgrading key elements of the community hatchery program.

Results achieved : The Salmon Enhancement Transfer Payment Program (SEP TPP) supports the sustainable management of Canadian fisheries by funding activities that enhance salmon stocks and their habitats. Through its two pillars—the Community Involvement Fund and the Community Economic Development Fund—the program provided 35 contribution agreements to Indigenous groups, non-profits,

and community organizations for hatchery operations, habitat restoration, public education, and technical training.

Contribution agreements under the Salmon Enhancement Program supported a broad spectrum of integrated activities that collectively advance salmon conservation, community engagement, and Indigenous capacity-building. These activities typically include:

Hatchery Operations & Salmon Production

- Rearing and releasing hundreds of thousands of Pacific salmon stocks to support harvest, conservation, and stock rebuilding.

2023 Brood Year	Chinook	Chum	Coho	Pink	Sockeye	Grand Total
2023 Release		11,510	6,960			18,470
2024 Release	4,184,401	8,162,320	1,511,048	2,063,832	49,419	15,971,020
Grand Total	4,184,401	8,173,830	1,518,008	2,063,832	49,419	15,989,490

- 2024 Brood Summary Reports not available yet.
- Full-cycle hatchery operations: broodstock collection, egg takes, incubation, rearing (including netpen systems), and smolt release.

Infrastructure Maintenance & Modernization

- Ongoing maintenance of hatchery buildings, equipment, and rearing systems.
- Facility upgrades to improve fish health, safety, and operational efficiency—often supported by PSSI strategic investments.

Stock Assessment & Monitoring

- Collection of biological, genetic samples (e.g., for parental-based tagging) to support long-term monitoring, assessment to inform enhancement strategies.
- Supporting marking and assessment program capability.
- Collaboration with DFO science teams to integrate hatchery data into broader stock assessment frameworks.

Public Education & Stewardship

- Hosting hatchery tours and school visits to foster public awareness and youth engagement.
- Supporting classroom-based salmon education programs (e.g., Stream to Sea, Salmonids in the Classroom).
- Host and/or participates in public events

Indigenous Leadership & Employment

- Direct employment of Indigenous staff in hatchery operations.
- Strengthening Indigenous governance and technical capacity in salmon enhancement.

In 2024–25, core A-base funding continued to underwrite essential operational costs, helping to maintain foundational program stability for:

- 25 Community Economic Development Projects (CEDP) - of which 24 (10 indigenous) operate hatcheries, 1 indigenous non-hatchery and;
- 10 Public Involvement Program (PIP) hatcheries.

It is recognized that effective program delivery requires advance planning, coordination with partners, and timely resource allocation. Stable funding allows organizations to hire and retain skilled staff, schedule fieldwork, and manage facilities and activities that support salmon without uncertainty.

To complement core funding, PSSI Pillar 2 (B-base) investments provided operational supplements to offset inflationary pressures and delivered targeted, strategic investments to modernize hatchery infrastructure, improve fish health and biosecurity, enhance stock assessment capabilities, and support Indigenous-led conservation and training. These investments not only addressed urgent conservation needs but also strengthened the long-term resilience and effectiveness of community-based salmon enhancement efforts.

Result Area	Demonstrated Outcomes	Investment Impact
Modernized Infrastructure	Completion of critical upgrades across 24 hatcheries, including water systems, electrical, and incubation facilities	Strengthened facility resilience, safety, and readiness for multi-stock enhancement
Enhanced Operational Capacity	Expanded rearing and incubation systems, improved water reliability, and emergency power readiness	Increased production flexibility and continuity of operations during climate events
Improved Climate Resilience	Fire-smart infrastructure strategies, flood mitigation, and structural protection systems installed	Reduced vulnerability to wildfires, droughts, and extreme weather
Conservation Gains	Support for priority salmon stocks (e.g., Coho, Chinook, Chum) through targeted facility upgrades	Improved early-life stage survival and long-term stock recovery
Community-Led Success	110 CIP partners engaged using the SEP TPP, including Indigenous-led projects with cultural and economic co-benefits	Strengthened local stewardship, self-sufficiency, and reconciliation outcomes
Program Reach & Equity	PSSI P2 Operational supplements delivered to 62 facilities, including small/new PIPs and Upper Fraser rebuilding efforts	Broader and more equitable access to enhancement resources to offset inflationary pressures
Education & Stewardship	Investments in community education and engagement initiatives	Increased public awareness and participation in salmon conservation, focussed fish culture training opportunities

Funding provided to First Nations partners through contribution funding directly supported key milestones for new hatchery projects and aligned with the 2024–2025 Departmental Plan.

Funds enabled 3 First Nations to participate in project planning, complete critical reporting, and build capacity in enhancement strategies and hatchery operations within their communities. A large portion of total funding was used to purchase essential hatchery equipment not covered by other sources.

Findings of audits completed in 2024–25 : No audit was completed in 2024-25.

Findings of evaluations completed in 2024–25 : An evaluation was conducted in 2024-25. Decision following the results of last evaluation: Continuation

Fiscal year of next planned evaluation: 2029-30

Engagement of applicants and recipients in 2024–25 : This is a targeted program that does not have an open application process. Program staff meet (directly and virtually) with program partners regularly throughout the year to provide technical, biological and administrative support for partners' enhancement program delivery. Ongoing engagement with funding recipients and applicants is required to effectively manage the program in order to ensure fish health standards, production planning objectives and proper operational outcomes are achieved. DFO staff operational travel plays an essential role in ensuring effective program delivery.