

**ISSUE** Meeting with Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) Representatives - Cost Recovery

**BACKGROUND**

- DFO indicated in April 2005 that the costs of management would be shared by those who benefit from the resource. An important area for improvement in the recreational sector is catch monitoring.
- The recreational sector believes they are currently contributing more revenue to the Federal Government than the service costs provided to their sector. The annual licence fee revenues from approximately 325,000 tidal water recreational licences (licence fees and stamp) are approximately \$6.5M.
- The last licence fee increase was in 1996. The recreational community believes DFO did not follow through on the recommendations from that process to dedicate licence fees to recreational programs. This has caused friction within the SFAB and strained relations with DFO.
- The recreational community is generally supportive of minor increases providing the funds do not go into general revenue and they go directly to recreational fishing programs.
- If the recreational fishing participants are expected to fund additional programs, they would like to understand current revenue/costs. Regional staff has established a joint working group with the SFAB to review the current status and develop a revised funding package with various funding mechanisms.
- The two working group meetings held so far have been difficult due to past mistrust and a lack of understanding of current costs/benefits. The SFAB members are questioning the commitment levels of DFO to this process.

**KEY MESSAGES**

- **DFO is committed to working with the SFAB on this initiative. DFO will review current resources and make adjustments where necessary.**
- **Funding for increased catch monitoring and other new initiatives cannot be covered within current funding levels.**
- **We are interested to review the proposals put forward by the Joint Working Group to determine the option that best meets the SFAB and DFO's objectives.**

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