



Environmental Process Modernization Plan (EPMP) Discussion Guide

Introduction

This guide is intended to facilitate discussions on issues presented in the Environmental Processes Modernization Plan (EPMP) presentation. In that presentation, DFO staff described DFO's involvement in managing fish habitat and how it is moving ahead to manage fish habitat in a way that is:

- Responsive and efficient
- Flexible – results-oriented not rules-driven
- Shares regulatory responsibility among government citizens, etc.
- Effective – tools and practices in place to achieve policy
- Transparent/Predictable/Credible – where rules are known and applied consistently

While the EPMP is currently being implemented, the DFO would like your ideas on how it can be improved in the following areas.

Risk Management

1. What activities do you feel pose the greatest risk of damage or impact to fish habitat in your region or community, and what can be done to reduce the risk?
2. How could DFO's Habitat Management Program become more effective in conserving and protecting habitat for fish?

Streamlining

3. What "streamlining" suggestions do you have for how DFO's Habitat Management Program should respond to the increasing number of development activities and projects referred for regulatory reviews and environmental assessments?
4. What activities do you feel are low risk and common enough to be covered by streamlining tools (e.g., Operational Statements)?
5. How effective do you feel streamlining tools (e.g., Operational Statements) are in protecting fish habitat from low-risk activities?

Partnerships

6. What do you recommend about how DFO provides information concerning the habitat management program and EPMP? What is the most effective way for you to receive information?
7. In what manner could you see yourself, your organization or your community assist DFO in protecting fish habitat?

Habitat Compliance

8. How could monitoring be strengthened/changed to better protect fish habitat?
9. How can compliance be encouraged? How should non-compliance be addressed? What management tools are needed?

