



Agriculture, Fisheries,
Aquaculture and Forestry

Certified Fisheries Organizations Support Act **Questions and Answers**

1. Why do we need a *Certified Fisheries Organizations Support Act*?

The *Certified Fisheries Organizations Support Act* will provide certified fisheries organizations with core funding from those who are directly benefitting from the organizations' activities.

2. How will the act work?

Fishers will be given a period of time to voluntarily join a certified fisheries organization. Those fishers who do not voluntarily join a certified fisheries organization will be required to pay a support fee to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Forestry. The minister will forward all funds received to certified fisheries organizations.

3. Who will be required to pay support fees?

All core and bona fide fishers who have not paid voluntarily to a certified fisheries organization will be required to pay the support fee.

4. How much is the support fee?

The support fee will be set in regulations at \$100 plus applicable taxes (GST). The total payable in 2004 will be \$107.

5. Is there a provision for refunding the support fee?

Yes, all fishers who contribute to the fund will be able to apply for a refund of the total amount paid from the certified fisheries organization.

6. What if a fisher does not pay voluntarily to a certified fisheries organization and does not pay the support fee to the minister?

Under Section 9 of the act the individual would be guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than \$1,000.

7. Does payment of the support fee guarantee membership in a certified fisheries organization?

No, payment of the support fee does not guarantee membership in a certified fisheries organization. Membership criteria are determined by the individual certified fisheries organization(s). All fishers are encouraged to join a certified fisheries organization, by paying voluntarily.

8. Did consultation with the PEI fishing industry occur?

Yes, consultations and discussions occurred with the PEI fishing industry. Through those consultations it was determined that this legislation would proceed.

9. What criteria will be used to certify fisheries organizations?

Fisheries organizations will be required to:

- have a constitution or bylaws,
- be established as a non-profit company under part two of the *Companies Act*, and
- not be an issue-specific or species-specific organization.

As well further requirements will be mandated by regulation.

10. How will fisheries organizations know if they are certified as a fisheries organization?

The minister will publish a list of certified fisheries organizations in the Royal Gazette. The list will also be available on the department Web site at www.gov.pe.ca/af/index.php3

11. What happens to funding for issue-specific organizations?

Under the present Fisheries Organization Support Program, recognized organizations are provided funding assistance of 40 per cent of their collected membership fees. This program is scheduled to continue in 2004.

12. When will fishers be required to pay?

Only those fishers who have not contributed to a certified fisheries organization will be required to pay a support fee to the minister. In 2004 those fishers will be required to pay the fee to the minister by September 1, 2004. Notification will be sent to those fishers.

13. Are buyers and processors required to submit payment of support fees on behalf of fishermen?

Buyers and processors are not legally required to submit payment of support fees on behalf of fishermen. However, fishermen may request a buyer or processor to submit payment of the support fee on their behalf.