

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Legislation and Compliance Services

Business Brief

August 2003

Mission

To provide consultation, education, leadership and excellence in licensing, compliance and inspection, and quality evaluation in a timely and responsive regulatory framework for the benefit of Nova Scotians.

Core Business

Legislation and Compliance Services provides core and support functions for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the fishery and agriculture industries, aquaculture and the general public.

- ▶ Provide a quality evaluation service for industry in the areas of product standards, animal health and disease prevention, food safety, research and analytical testing in support of an integrated food safety system
- ▶ Provide a licensing program for seafood processors/buyers, retail food outlets, including restaurants, and coordinate the issuance of other agricultural permits and licences under a policy and regulatory framework.
- ▶ Provide a compliance, investigative and enforcement capacity for the Department in all areas of our mandate; in coordination with other federal and provincial agencies.
- ▶ Provide effective administrative leadership in dealing with matters and issues that impact the Department, the industry and other agencies.

Strategic Goals

Administration

- ▶ Provide leadership and direction for the Department in areas such as food safety, research and analysis, animal health, and licensing.
- ▶ Provide administrative and technical advice in specific areas such as harness racing, animal health and animal cruelty and bio-security.
- ▶ Provide support and direction for the enhancement and development of inter-agency co-operation for the benefit of industry.
- ▶ Strengthen our capacity to deal with animal health and disease prevention, in partnership with industry and other agencies

Quality Evaluation

- ▶ Develop and enhance programs and policies that affect industry and the public through a fully-integrated food safety program.
- ▶ Strengthen our capacity in laboratory services and expand the client base in terms of centres of excellence in food analysis.
- ▶ Negotiate new opportunities and partnerships with other departments, provincial and federal governments, in order to provide cost effective and efficient client services.
- ▶ Educate, promote and assure public confidence in food and consumer products produced or consumed by Nova Scotians.

Licensing

- ▶ Develop, promote and apply consistent licence requirements through a formal regulatory and policy framework.
- ▶ Ensure that all persons engaged in fish and meat processing, seafood buying and food distribution meet regulatory requirements.
- ▶ Coordinate the mandated licensing functions and review, consolidate and build the capacity of the service.
- ▶ Assess the cost recovery programs, and adjust fees when appropriate, in order to maintain service delivery.

Enforcement/Investigations

- ▶ Promote awareness, education and training to achieve compliance in food handling practices, resource stewardship, environmental and leasehold activities for the betterment of Nova Scotians.
- ▶ Enhance and develop our enforcement capabilities through Department initiatives, agency and industry partnerships, agency and industry partnerships, in order to achieve regulatory compliance.
- ▶ Build on agency partnerships with CCRA, DFO, CFIA and DOJ in order to combat the illegal trade in seafood.
- ▶ Review and enhance legislation in order to provide industry with an equitable regulatory climate and deter non-compliance activities.

Branch Functions

Administration

- ▶ Licensing game and fur farms
- ▶ Harness racing
- ▶ SPCA
- ▶ Animal health/pathology
- ▶ Issuance of fish processing and buying licences

Quality Evaluation

- ▶ Licensing - retail food shops, restaurants
- ▶ Inspection and compliance
- ▶ Meat inspection
- ▶ Laboratory Services - analysis of soil, water, feeds, pathology

Fisheries Licensing and Enforcement

- ▶ Licensing of fish processors and fish buyers
- ▶ Inspection of processing/buying facilities, aquaculture sites and marine plant harvesting
- ▶ Investigation and enforcement

Organizational Structure:

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Business Highlights

Corporate

- ▶ Minimize the risk of food borne illnesses and increase overall consumer confidence in food.
- ▶ Continue to implement initiatives that are directed at the illegal trade in fish and fish products.
- ▶ Enhance and promote animal health and disease prevention programs and respond to matters of bio-security through the veterinary services program.
- ▶ Further develop and enhance partnerships with other provincial and federal agencies in relation to analytical services, compliance, inspection and enforcement.

Federal/Provincial Partners

- ▶ Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- ▶ Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- ▶ Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency
- ▶ Health Canada
- ▶ RCMP
- ▶ Nova Scotia Departments of Health, Natural Resources, Environment and Labour, and Justice