



Fisheries Council of Canada
Conseil Canadien des Pêches

SUSTAINABILITY

Overview

The Canadian fisheries industry has a high standard for sustainability, with Canada ranking top five globally in Marine Stewardship Council sustainable fisheries certifications. This dedication underscores the critical importance of sustainable practices as the country works to unlock the vast potential of Canada's oceans.

The world's oceans currently have the potential to sustainably supply over six times more food than it does today, equating to more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the animal protein needed to feed the future population. With this exists a compelling opportunity to drive positive environmental change while creating a prosperous domestic blue-foods movement that restores Canada as a top global producer of high quality and sustainable fish and seafood.

Fish and seafood can have some of the lowest GHG emissions per unit of protein produced of all protein sources, up to 250 times less than beef. Increasing the fraction of ocean-based food in the global diet, and reducing the share of animal-based foods, would contribute significantly to climate change mitigation by helping Canada reach its GHG targets.

Investing in sustainably sourced ocean-based protein yields strong environmental, economic and health benefits - every \$1 invested in increasing production of sustainably sourced ocean-based protein is estimated to yield \$10 in benefits. With sustainability measures in place, Canada has the potential to double the value of Canadian seafood, double the economic benefits of the industry and double domestic consumption of Canadian seafood.

Objective

Increase domestic and international recognition of the sustainability of Canada's fisheries and promote investment in the Canadian seafood industry.

Key messages

1. **Canada has a responsibility to balance marine conservation with science-based sustainable use of fisheries resources to support the food supply chain.**
2. **The Canadian fisheries industry has a high standard of sustainability, ranking top 5 globally in Marine Stewardship Council sustainability certifications.**
3. **Sustainable fisheries contribute positively to climate change mitigation and economic prosperity of the industry.**



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Background & Facts

The United Nations' High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy has made three important conclusions. Oceans can sustainably provide over six times more food than they do today. With a lower carbon intensity, increasing the fraction of ocean-based food in the global diet, and reducing the share of animal-based foods, can contribute significantly to climate change mitigation. Every dollar invested in increasing production of sustainably sourced ocean-based protein is estimated to yield \$10 in health, environment and economic benefits.

The Canadian fisheries industry strives to be a world leader in sustainability. Canada's fisheries rank top 5 globally in Marine Stewardship Council sustainability certifications, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada reports that 95% of the country's fisheries are harvested at sustainable levels. Beyond that, Canadian fishing companies engage in significant levels of industry-led science and innovation that are constantly striving to create improved harvesting gear, practices and processing techniques to make fishing even more sustainable.

The Fisheries Council of Canada and the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance believe seafood has a significant role to play in lifting Canada back to its former position of leadership as a global sustainable seafood producer, and that this restoration would have a ripple effect of benefits throughout the economy.

FCC's *Innovation Storyboard* highlights the ongoing innovations being explored in Canada that are moving the sector forward through improved sustainability measures, among others. Canada has the resources to be a sustainable fisheries powerhouse, but only if the industry is adequately supported and managed. Long-term investment in fisheries innovations is the only way to ensure that the sector sustainably reaches its full potential.