



NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters' Federation: Responses Atlantic and Pacific

Atlantic and Quebec

1. *Do you support strengthening the owner-operator and fleet-separation policies by enacting regulations to give these policies the force of law?*

YES

We believe that owner-operator and fleet separation are essential to the survival of the inshore fishery. Giving owner-operators priority when allocating fishing licenses and quotas helps create jobs and supports surrounding communities.

2. *Does your party support such measures?*

YES

3. *If elected do you promise to work to ensure that the owner-operator and fleet-separation policies are strengthened and given the force of law?*

YES

The NDP has been vocal and committed in support of fleet separation and the owner-operator policies.

4. *Are you in favour of adopting new initiatives to provide loan guarantees for young people to finance licence transfers from retiring fish harvesters?*

YES

Loan guarantees that help support this critical industry will not only ensure the ongoing stability of the fishery, but will also provide benefits to the communities that rely on fishermen and their trade. Fisheries support boat building, fish processing, and much more in coastal communities, and the value of the spin-off economy can't be overstated.

Pacific

1. *Do you support fishermen and fishing communities, including First Nations, regaining and retaining their fishing rights, now and in the future?*

YES

Fishing rights are as important to coastal communities as the management of the fishery. The NDP believes that the right to the resource is basic and inherent, and we will fight to ensure that it is upheld.

2. *Do you support having fishing licenses and quotas held primarily by those who fish and their communities, and prevent them from becoming a speculative asset?*

YES

We believe that owner-operator and fleet separation systems have been and are essential to the survival of the inshore fishery on the Atlantic coast. Giving owner operators priority when allocating fishing licenses and quotas helps create jobs and supports surrounding communities. A similar system in the Pacific could benefit both fishermen and coastal communities

3. *As MP would you encourage the growth, investment in, and regeneration of small boat fleets and coastal communities throughout Canada?*

YES

Not only is an investment in small boat fleets and coastal communities necessary, the infrastructure that supports them is also essential. Small craft harbours, which are being abandoned by DFO under the current Conservative government, must be properly maintained and managed. We are a country built on the wealth of our resources, and we must ensure that our resource dependent industries are both protected and fostered.

4. *Does your party support such measures?*

YES

5. *If elected do you promise to work to ensure a stronger regulatory framework to protect fishermen, small boat fleets and rural fishing communities?*

YES

A strong regulatory framework that helps support this critical industry will not only ensure the ongoing stability of the fishery, but will also provide benefits to the communities that rely on fishermen and their trade. Fisheries support boat building, fish processing, and much more in coastal communities, and the value of the spin-off economy can't be overstated.

If elected will you work to ensure Canada's fisheries resources remain a publicly owned resource, managed sustainably in the best interests of coastal communities, while keeping current and future generations of fishermen in mind?

YES

Not only must the resource remain publicly owned, it must also be properly managed, with adequate science and long-term sustainability as the core factors in decision making. The current government has made decisions based on political factors, and the previous Liberal government did the same, much to the detriment of both cod and salmon. We will ensure that stewardship, based on consultation with those who know the fishery best, is the key to long term sustainability.