

# Evaluation of the International Engagement Program

## About the Program

The Program ensures **access for Canadians to fish resources** that are managed internationally; promotes **sustainable fisheries management** and healthy global marine ecosystems with the **support of scientific research**; and contributes to a stable **international trade** regime for Canadian fish and seafood products.

## About the Evaluation

The evaluation was conducted in 2017 by the Evaluation Directorate. Evidence was gathered from documents, financial and administrative data, key informant interviews, and an exploratory survey of international activities occurring across Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard.

The International Engagement Program directly supports the Department's international priorities

International fisheries management

Stable international trade regime for Canadian fish & seafood products

Scientific expertise & best management practices for decisions and policy development

Positive relations & collaboration with international & domestic partners

## The Evaluation Confirmed

A **wide variety of international activities** are being performed by groups **across DFO and CCG**.



68%

of survey respondents perform international activities (% does not include responses from three sectors delivering the Program)



What kinds of international activities do you perform?  
What role do they fulfill?

## Key Finding

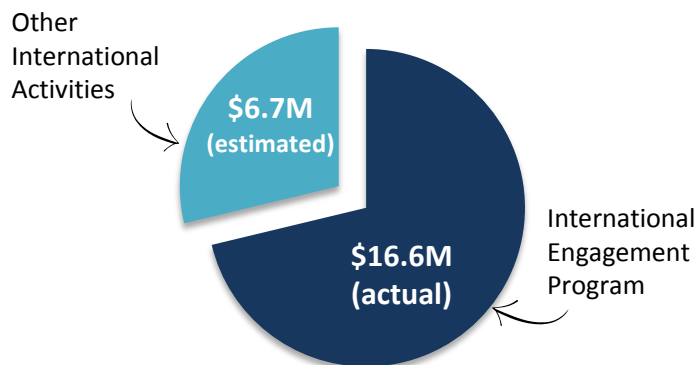
There is an opportunity for DFO to **communicate more fully** the **variety** of international work within the Department.

## Key Finding

There is a pressing need to establish an **overall vision** for international activities, across the Department.



## 2016-2017 **Estimated** Expenditures on all International Activities occurring across the Department



### Growth of International Work

- Renewed emphasis on international collaboration
- Investments in oceans-related work
- Increase in environmental clauses within international agreements

### Expected outcomes being achieved

- ✓ Sustainable international fisheries management
- ✓ Effective bilateral relations, including international scientific collaboration, to achieve Canada's outcomes
- ✓ Decisions that reflect Canadian goals in Arctic and Global Marine Affairs
- ✓ Decreased illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activity in zones of international waters that DFO is responsible for patrolling
- ✓ Effective governance of internationally managed marine ecosystems
- ✓ Market access for Canadian fish and seafood products

### Other Key Evaluation Findings

- There is a **continued need** for the International Engagement Program
- The Program is reaching its expected outcomes, but there are **opportunities to increase efficiencies**
- Existing **coordination and collaboration** efforts do not sufficiently support the needs of the International Engagement Program and other groups engaged in international activities across the Department
- **Greater coordination and collaboration are needed** to support the variety of international activities taking place across Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard
- Strong representation and relationships are key components for influencing international decisions

### Recommendations

1

Develop and implement a process to improve existing coordination and collaboration efforts, with regards to the bilateral and multilateral activities under the International Engagement Program.

2

Initiate a department-wide process aimed at establishing a strategic vision, based on shared priorities and goals, for all international activities taking place across Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard.

3

Establish a process to support the implementation of a department-wide strategic vision for the Department's international work.