

2024 to 2025 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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Introduction to the 2024 to 2025 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy Report

The [2022 to 2026 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy \(FSDS\)](#) presents the Government of Canada's sustainable development goals and targets, as required by the [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#). This is the first FSDS to be framed using the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and provides a balanced view of the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

In keeping with the purpose of the Act, to make decision-making related to sustainable development more transparent and accountable to Parliament, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) supports the goals laid out in the FSDS through the activities described in DFO's 2023 to 2027 Departmental Sustainable Development Strategy (DSDS). This Report details progress related to DFO's DSDS in the fiscal year 2024 to 2025.

The [Federal Sustainable Development Act](#) also sets out [7 principles](#) that must be considered in the development of the FSDS as well as DSDSs. These basic principles have been considered and incorporated in DFO's DSDS and 2024 to 2025 DSDS Report.

To promote coordinated action on sustainable development across the Government of Canada, DFO's departmental strategy reports on Canada's progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and advancing the SDGs, supported by the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) and Canadian Indicator Framework (CIF) targets and indicators. The Report also now captures progress on SDG initiatives that fall outside the scope of the FSDS.



Commitments for Fisheries and Oceans Canada





GOAL 4: PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FSDS Context:

We recognize the importance of knowledge and capacity building in the context of fisheries management, marine conservation, and the sustainable use of ocean resources. This is reflected in various activities undertaken by the Department, including: developing outreach programs to raise awareness of the importance of marine conservation; partnering with educational institutions and Indigenous organizations to advance research on aquatic ecosystems; and, investing in capacity building and training initiatives to enhance the knowledge and skills of marine partners and stakeholders.

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “**Promote knowledge and skills for sustainable development**” but not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Promote environmental knowledge and data sharing.	Report annually on the state of Canada’s oceans and aquatic ecosystems Program: Aquatic Ecosystem Science	Performance indicator: # of Canada’s State of the Ocean reports published. Starting point:	Contribution to the FSDS: Canada’s State of the Ocean reports are summaries of the current status and trends of marine ecosystems in Canada’s three oceans. An ongoing reporting cycle presents information on one of Canada’s	Indicator result: In 2024-2025, the Department published 1 State of the Ocean report. Since March 31, 2016, DFO has published 6 State of the Ocean Reports.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Since March 31, 2016, DFO has published 4 State of the Ocean Reports. Target: 4 additional reports by March 31, 2027.</p>	<p>oceans per year; followed by a national report being undertaken in the fourth year. A plain-language public report along with communication and outreach products is published annually so that all Canadians are more informed on the current and ongoing state of the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific oceans.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDDS goal by providing annually updated and recent technical and plain-language information on Canada's marine ecosystems. This program uses outreach and knowledge sharing initiatives to communicate ocean science to all Canadians.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 4: This action contributes to SDG 4 by ensuring that accurate, clearly communicated information is available on Canada's ocean ecosystems in order to inform Canadians and the general public on the science on which decision-making is based.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 4 – Canadians have access to inclusive and quality education throughout their lives</p>	<p>Notes: In February 2025, DFO released the second public report on the state of Canada's Arctic Ocean. The <i>Canada's Oceans Now: Arctic Ecosystems 2023</i> report provides high-level, plain language information from a technical report published in September.</p> <p>The report contains new knowledge about the state of marine ecosystems in the Canadian Arctic including research data up until 2023. It highlights key themes such as the current status of the Arctic Ocean environment; its habitats, species, food webs, biodiversity, and linkages between them; and, growing participation of Indigenous communities in scientific research and monitoring.</p>

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			GIF Target: 4.7 – By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.	

Initiatives advancing Canada's implementation of SDG 4 – Quality Education

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue to advance the Open Science Action Plan to promote knowledge equity and science literacy. DFO will leverage modern digital tools to more easily share scientific data with the Canadian public, and enable scientists to publish their research in open access journals.	This work advances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. 	In 2024-2025, the Department continued to advance the Open Science Action Plan by fostering knowledge equity and enhancing science literacy across Canada. By leveraging transformative agreements with publishers, DFO is making scientific data more accessible to the public and supporting researchers in publishing their findings in open-access journals. A key milestone in this effort has been the update to the scientific publication policy, which promotes Open-Access publication and ensures that scientific outputs are available to all Canadians immediately. This

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		initiative directly supports the promotion of sustainable development through inclusive access to knowledge, fostering global citizenship, and promoting an appreciation of cultural diversity.
<p>Continue to support learning and training through the establishment of academic awards, professional development opportunities, educational resources, capacity exchange programs, and other initiatives to support current and future members of the ocean science and technology workforce.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued to support learning and training by providing leadership and support for activities that aim to empower women and other equity groups in science sectors, and to inspire youth interested in ocean science. For example, as part of its ongoing partnership with Ingenium, Canada's Science and Innovation Museum, DFO provided \$73,000 and in-kind resources to develop publicly available digital resources, as well as host events and activities to promote gender equity. Examples include the production of nine online posters and educational materials showcasing women and gender-diverse individuals in ocean science; participating at a kiosk hosted by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO at the Women and Girls of Science event at the Montreal Science Centre that included activities and games featuring the women and gender-diverse individuals in ocean sciences; and, hosting a Wikipedia edit-a-thon to increase online content about women and individuals from other equity groups.</p> <p>During the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Forum that was held in Ottawa, October 8-10, 2024, a commitment was made to promote, prioritize, and coordinate ocean literacy and engagement in ocean science, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, Early Career Ocean Professionals, and Atlantic coastal communities to further advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. This international event brought together over 160 in-person participants from 20 countries to advance a shared ocean agenda.</p>



GOAL 8: ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CANADA

FSDS Context:

We are committed to fostering a blue economy, which balances economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability in the maritime sectors. This is reflected in various activities undertaken by the Department, including: promoting sustainable and science-based practices in the fish and seafood sector; supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy; and, creating initiatives that generate economic opportunities and innovation in sectors such as marine tourism, coastal restoration and protection, marine renewable energy, and ocean technology.

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal ‘Encourage inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Canada’ but not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Support workers, businesses and communities.	Promote opportunities in the fish and seafood sector for the protection and restoration of Pacific salmon in British Columbia. Program: Fish and Seafood Sector	Performance indicator: % of funded projects that support the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon. Starting point:	The British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund is a contribution program that supports protection and restoration activities for priority wild fish stocks, including salmon, and ensures the seafood sector in British Columbia is	Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 85% of funded projects supported the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon.

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		<p>60% as of March 31, 2021. Target: 75% by March 31, 2026.</p>	<p>positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by supporting the commercial fishing industry in British Columbia to participate in activities that promote the sustainability of the fish and seafood sector. Through this work, internal and external salmon restoration and stewardship actions are targeted towards conservation priorities.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 8: This action contributes to SDG 8 through the creation of opportunities in the fish and seafood sector that align with the protection and restoration of Pacific salmon, fostering economic development while simultaneously addressing environmental sustainability. The fish and seafood sector plays a crucial role in the regional economies of British Columbia, and by promoting opportunities that are aligned with the protection and restoration of Pacific salmon, we achieve a balance between economic growth and the conservation of vital aquatic ecosystems and their inhabitants.</p>	<p>Notes: Among the 85% of funded projects considered salmon-centric, the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF) supported several types of projects that contribute to wild Pacific salmon recovery, such as salmon habitat restoration, salmon stock monitoring, salmon fishing sustainability research and salmon ecosystem assessments.</p> <p>Among the 15% of funded projects that are not salmon-centric, BCSRIF also considers many as providing secondary support to salmon recovery, such as research and recovery for salmon prey species (e.g., herring, rockfish, eulachon) and sustainability in non-salmon fisheries (e.g., sablefish, groundfish trawl).</p>

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			<p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 8 – Canadians contribute to and benefit from sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>GIF Target: 8.4 – Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead</p>	

Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Publish the Blue Economy Strategy to outline Canada’s plan for transforming its ocean sectors from a traditional ocean economy toward a sustainable blue economy. The strategy will highlight the key strategic objectives that will be used to guide future actions and investments in the ocean space and address regulatory gaps within the blue economy. This will include examining how to sustainably grow Canada’s ocean and freshwater</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued to advance Canada’s Blue Economy by leveraging existing significant actions and investments to unlock the strength and opportunity associated with Canada’s ocean economy. The Department is working across government to bring a cohesive and coordinated approach to sustainable ocean management. This includes strengthening the resiliency of ocean communities, sectors</p>

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<p>economy, and will support the long-term sustainable growth of Canada’s fish and seafood sector.</p>		<p>and ecosystems in the face of climate change and trade disruption; creating and growing new sustainable and equitable wealth and good jobs from fisheries and other ocean resources; generating clean energy to power Canada’s economy and meet climate objectives; and, harnessing the power of technology and data to drive productivity and environmental gains in ocean sectors.</p>
<p>Complete the Blue Economy Regulatory Review to examine how regulatory practices that apply to ocean sectors can be adapted to better enable the introduction of new technologies and practices offering environmental and economic benefits, while continuing to prioritize health, safety, security, and environmental responsibilities in the blue economy.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIF Target 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors. 	<p>Published in June 2024, the Blue Economy Regulatory Roadmap outlines a plan of action to support innovation and economic growth in five main areas: marine renewable energy and environmental protection, marine spatial planning, maritime autonomous surface ships, ocean technology, and sustainable fishing gear and practices. It features 13 initiatives to support a more modern and agile regulatory framework for Canada’s ocean sectors, addressing regulatory and operational challenges and exploring innovative approaches to seize emerging opportunities within the blue economy.</p>
<p>Provide financial support through Canada’s fisheries funds and provide commercial fish harvesters and other users with safe and accessible Small Craft Harbours.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIF Target 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead. 	<p>Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF): In 2024-2025, the Department provided \$43.4 million in financial support through the AFF and committed over \$26.3 million in new contributions to 96 environmentally and economically sustainable projects. One notable AFF project with promising results in 2024-2025 was led by the Verschuren Centre, located in Sydney, Nova Scotia. This project has been working proactively to identify mitigation strategies to address Multinucleated Sphere Unknown (MSX) and its impacts on the oyster industry in Atlantic Canada since its approval in 2021-2022. Specifically, in 2024-2025, this project constructed a mobile land-based hatchery used to produce oyster larvae and to refine methods of spawning and decontamination to enable oysters of suitable size to be introduced to mobile/floating nurseries for its oyster leaseholders, as it has been demonstrated that oysters raised closer to the water’s surface survive MSX exposure better than those cultured on the seabed.</p> <p>Quebec Fisheries Fund (QFF):</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>In 2024-2025, the QFF financed a third-party redistributor project enabling fishing companies wishing to take part in the redfish fishery to acquire the equipment needed to fish redfish, or to make modifications to existing boats to increase fishing efficiency or fish quality. The QFF has also financed several seafood processing projects, one of which involved the acquisition of processing equipment to enable the company to innovate by marketing seafood sausages on the Quebec, Ontario and Maritime markets. These projects will contribute to a diversified Canadian economy offering high-quality products.</p> <p>The QFF also provided financial support for a number of innovative projects aimed at avoiding or reducing the impact of whale entanglements with fishing gear, including the development of a device to break the rope of a snow crab fishing trap when a marine mammal entangles in it. The adoption of this innovative system will contribute to compliance with the <i>Marine Mammals Protection Act</i> by reducing the impact of snow crab fishing on marine mammals.</p> <p>British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF): Funded through phase 2 of the BCSRIF program, the A-Tlegay Fisheries Society is undertaking assessment, design, construction, and operation of a tidal waters selective fishery salmon trap close to their traditional fishing sites in the Campbell-Quinsam rivers estuary on Vancouver Island.</p> <p>Historically, heart and chevron shaped traps were used extensively by First Nation communities along the estuary to capture adult salmon. Recent revitalization of fish traps as a terminal fishery in other areas along the coast has been successful in catching and selectively harvesting hatchery marked salmon species while releasing wild (unmarked) salmon and steelhead. This innovative initiative is developing First Nations' capacity for sustainable salmon stewardship through the development of selective harvest fishing methods in traditional fishing areas, while preserving wild stocks of conservation concern.</p> <p>Small Craft Harbours:</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>In 2024-2025, the Department worked to provide commercial fish harvesters and other users with safe and accessible Small Craft Harbours by investing in the repair, renewal, and replacement of critical harbour infrastructure. This included continued administration of the Hurricane Fiona Recovery Fund to support the restoration of facilities damaged by the 2022 storm. During the past fiscal year, two additional Hurricane Fiona projects were completed, adding to the 74 projects finalized in 2023-2024.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Department successfully completed 11 projects in support of Budget 2021 Small Craft Harbours initiatives, as well as an additional 24 projects under Budget 2024, contributing to the long-term resilience and functionality of key harbour assets.</p>



GOAL 10: ADVANCE RECONCILIATION WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TAKE ACTION ON INEQUALITY

FSDS Context:

We recognize the importance of addressing inequalities, particularly in the context of fisheries and oceans management, where the rights of Indigenous Peoples play a significant role. Fisheries and oceans are of significant cultural, economic, spiritual, and social importance to Indigenous Peoples, particularly in coastal areas. We actively engage and collaborate with Indigenous partners, recognizing their unique relationship with the land, waters, and resources. Through meaningful partnerships and co-management arrangements, as well as negotiated agreements such as treaties, the Department and Indigenous partners work together to ensure that Indigenous perspectives, expertise and Indigenous Knowledge are integrated into management decisions.

Target theme: Advancing reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis communities

Target: Between 2023 and 2026, and every year on an ongoing basis, develop and table annual progress reports on implementing *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada).

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Implement the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> .	Engage with Indigenous partners to implement the UNDA Action Plan.	Performance indicator:	Contribution to the FSDS: Collaborative engagement empowers Indigenous communities to play a central	Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 10 APMs had engagement undertaken.

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	<p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p># of Action Plan Measures (APMs) where engagement has been undertaken.</p> <p>Starting point: 0 as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 11 by March 31, 2028.</p>	<p>role in shaping policies and decisions that directly affect their rights, lands, and well-being. Involving Indigenous partners in the co-creation of APMs facilitates a genuine and respectful exchange of knowledge and perspectives, ensuring that the Act's implementation is rooted in Indigenous voices and priorities.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by recognizing the distinct needs and aspirations of Indigenous communities and ensures that Indigenous voices, perspectives, and priorities are integrated into policies, programs, and decisions that affect their rights and well-being.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 10: This action contributes to SDG 10 by ensuring that Indigenous communities are active participants in the process of formulating concrete and context-specific measures that align with their unique needs, aspirations, and rights. This approach fosters a more inclusive society and contributes to the overarching global goal of reducing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions:</p>	<p>Notes: DFO recognizes the need for consultative and collaborative processes that: ensure Indigenous perspectives in guiding fisheries management, habitat protection, and oceans planning; aim to secure Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC); and, foster respectful, inclusive, and transparent relationships with Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>The Department engaged with Indigenous partners on 10 of the 11 APMs it leads. In addition to these, the Department collaborates with other federal departments to implement APMs linked to its mandate, such as Indigenous data sovereignty, and those requiring a whole-of-government approach.</p>

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			<p>CIF Ambition: 10 – Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced.</p> <p>GIF Target: 10.3 – Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.</p>	
	<p>Increase cultural competency of departmental staff and support a broader understanding of the impacts of government decisions on Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous communities</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Percentage of departmental staff who have completed Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) online foundational course IRA101.</p> <p>Starting point: 27% as of March 31, 2023 (3,825 completed / 13,835 workforce).</p> <p>Target: An increase of at least 5% annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Public servants are in a unique position to help build respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. This action contributes to the FSDS target by encouraging departmental staff to increase their cultural competency skills and awareness of issues related to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis in Canada, and their knowledge of the UN Declaration. This action contributes to the development of necessary cultural competency knowledge and skills to implement the UN Declaration.</p> <p>The following CSPS courses will be strongly encouraged for all departmental staff in fiscal year 2023-24:</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 85% of departmental staff completed CSPS online foundational course IRA101.</p> <p>(11,434 completed / 13,497 workforce as of March 31, 2025).</p> <p>Notes: To foster a more inclusive culture, the Department focused on increasing awareness, understanding, and participation through the CSPS training course Reflecting on Cultural Bias: Indigenous Perspectives (IRA101).</p> <p>This is a percentage rate increase of 58% since March 31, 2023, exceeding the target of a five per cent annual increase.</p>

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		<p>Performance indicator: Percentage of departmental staff who have completed CSPA online foundational course IRA102.</p> <p>Starting point:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRA101: Reflecting on Cultural Bias: Indigenous Perspectives IRA102: The Uncomfortable Truth: A Brief History of the Relationship Between Indigenous Peoples and the Government of Canada <p>Contribution to UN SDG 10: This action contributes to SDG 10 by supporting employees to engage more effectively with Indigenous communities and issues, fostering a more inclusive and informed approach to policy-making and service delivery. As staff gain a deeper understanding of the history of Indigenous Peoples and their relationship with the Government of Canada, they are better prepared to collaborate on initiatives that address disparities, amplify Indigenous voices, and contribute to building a more equitable and just society.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 10 – Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced. GIF Target: 10.3 – Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices</p>	<p>This represents a nearly 300% increase in the total number of employees who have completed the course within that same timeframe (3,825 to 11,434, employee completed the course).</p> <p>The Department has made this training mandatory since the publication of the 2023-2027 DSDS. All employees, including students and casuals, were to complete IRA101 by March 31, 2025.</p> <p>The data reflects employees, including students and casuals, who have an active CSPA learning platform account and have transferred their CSPA learning profile to the Department, while removing any duplicate entries. Of note, up to 2,800 CCG seagoing employee profiles that have completed this training could be missing from this calculation due to the operational nature of their positions and their respective limited internet access.</p> <p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 81% of departmental staff completed CSPA online foundational course IRA102.</p>

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		<p>25% as of March 31, 2023 (3,504 completed / 13,835 workforce).</p> <p>Target: An increase of at least 5% annually.</p>	<p>and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard</p>	<p>(10,914 completed / 13,497 workforce as of March 31, 2025).</p> <p>Notes: Fisheries and Oceans Canada aims to establish a foundation of knowledge and awareness across our workforce that better enables us to take meaningful actions within the Reconciliation journey.</p> <p>This is a percentage rate increase of 56% since March 31, 2023, exceeding the target of a five per cent annual increase.</p> <p>It is an increase of over 300% in the total number of employees who have completed the course within that same timeframe (3,504 to 10,914).</p> <p>The Department has made this training mandatory since the publication of the 2023-2027 DSDS. All employees, including students and casuals, were to complete IRA102 by March 31, 2025.</p> <p>The data reflects employees, including students and casuals, who have an active CSPA learning platform account and have transferred their CSPA learning profile to the Department, while removing any duplicate entries. Of note, up to 2,800 CCG</p>

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				seagoing employee profiles that have completed this training could be missing from this calculation due to the operational nature of their positions and their respective limited internet access.

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “Advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and take action on inequality” but not a specific FSDS target.

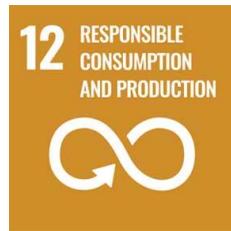
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Co-manage natural resources, collaborate, and share benefits with Indigenous peoples.	Engage Indigenous Peoples in collaborative decision-making and management bodies. Program: Marine Planning and Conservation	Performance indicator: # of new federal Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and/or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) with active co-management agreements. Starting point: 0 as of March 31, 2023. Target:	Contribution to the FSDS: MPAs and OECMs are measures that contribute to biodiversity conservation by prohibiting, or otherwise managing, human activities. DFO works with Indigenous partners through co-management agreements to effectively manage MPAs and OECMs. This action supports the FSDS goal by creating a collaborative and inclusive	Indicator result: Since March 31, 2023, 5 new federal MPAs and/or OECMs were developed with active co-management agreements. Notes: Two MPAs designated in 2024 (the Tang.gwan – ȩačxwiqak – Tsigis (ThT) and Tuvaijuittuq) have active co-management agreements. Three new OECMs were

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		24 by December 31, 2025.	<p>approach to the management of MPAs and OECMs with Indigenous partners. Through this work, Indigenous Peoples are engaged in collaborative decision-making and management bodies on new sites.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 10: This action contributes to SDG 10 by strengthening relationships, and supporting Indigenous reconciliation. It addresses historical marginalization, and upholds the rights of Indigenous Peoples by involving them in the development of policies and programs. By amplifying Indigenous voices in decision-making processes, advancing new and innovative partnerships, and by collaborating with Indigenous Peoples in developing policies and guidance, we can make meaningful change, prevent further injustices, and continue on our path towards reconciliation.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 10 – Canadians live free of discrimination and inequalities are reduced.</p> <p>GIF Target: 10.2 – Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.</p>	<p>recognized in 2025: Banks marine refuge, Ġaw Káahlíi (Masset Inlet) marine refuge, and Xaana Kaahlíi (Skidegate Inlet) marine refuge. These areas are co-managed with First Nation partners.</p>

Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Work with Indigenous partners to better integrate Indigenous Knowledge, governance and expertise into planning and policy decisions through the Indigenous Habitat Participation Program.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department worked with Indigenous Peoples to better integrate Indigenous Knowledge, governance and expertise into planning and policy decisions through the Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP). This included providing 528 Indigenous groups/communities with funding to ensure their knowledge and feedback were provided in the development of policies, processes or program initiatives related to the protection and conservation of fish and fish habitat.</p>
<p>Advance reconciliation and nature protection by supporting Indigenous-led partnerships in conservation including Project Finance for Permanence initiatives.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department signed two Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) agreements, the Great Bear Sea PFP and the SINAA PFP, in June 2024 and February 2025, respectively. These agreements support Indigenous-led conservation and are anticipated to result in the establishment of new marine protected and conserved areas in the Great Bear Sea area in British Columbia, and in the Qikiqtani region of Nunavut.</p>
<p>Develop and operationalize a DFO-CCG Northern Recruitment and Retention Strategy in collaboration with Inuit, First Nations and Métis governments and organizations to ensure a representative workforce in the North.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 10.2: Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department, through the leadership of its Arctic Regions, continued advancing the development of the DFO-CCG Northern Recruitment and Retention Strategy (NRRS).</p> <p>The NRRS is rooted in insights gathered through more than 60 engagement sessions held between 2018 and 2021. It is shaped by the lived experiences of past and present Northern and Indigenous employees, including the first Community Engagement Coordinators, and informed by dialogue with Inuit, First Nations, and Métis governments and organizations, Northern residents and communities, federal departments and agencies, provincial and territorial governments, industry stakeholders, and academic institutions.</p>



GOAL 12: REDUCE WASTE AND TRANSITION TO ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

FSDS Context:

We work to reduce the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems through proper waste and disposal practices, as well as through the implementation of pollution prevention measures. This is reflected in various activities undertaken by the Department, including through initiatives that minimize waste, prevent and respond to marine pollution, and promote resource efficiency. This work is guided in part by the Greening Government Strategy, which aims to reduce environmental impacts within federal operations on waste, water and biodiversity.

Target theme: Federal Leadership on Responsible Consumption

Target: By 2030, the Government of Canada will divert from landfill at least 75% by weight of non-hazardous operational waste (All Ministers).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Maximize diversion of waste from landfill.	Complete waste audits for large facilities (i.e., more than 10,000m2 of total floor space) situated within a municipality (or equivalent with a population of over 100,000) where waste diversion services are available and report annual rate of diversion of non-hazardous operational waste from landfill.	<p>Performance indicator: % by weight of non-hazardous operational waste diverted from landfill in Crown-owned buildings.</p> <p>Starting point: 74% in fiscal year 2022-23.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Actions that reduce the generation of non-hazardous operational waste will help to reduce Scope 3 emissions for the production, transport and disposal of material. Diverting waste from landfill reduces landfill gas and transport hauling emissions. Material recovery via recycling</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 63% by weight of non-hazardous operational waste was diverted from landfill in Crown-owned buildings.</p> <p>Notes: A total of one waste audit was completed during FY 2024-2025 that meets the</p>

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	<p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Target: At least 75% by March 31, 2031.</p>	<p>reduces emissions for the extraction and production of virgin materials.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target as waste audits inform decision-making and guide strategic efforts for waste reduction and diversion. These audits enable targeted interventions by identifying key sources of waste generation, and provide the foundation for targeted waste reduction strategies. The waste audit reporting cycle is every five years for all required facilities.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by providing valuable data on waste generation, enabling us to identify areas for waste reduction and prevention. Implementing strategies such as source reduction and improved procurement practices can contribute to more responsible consumption patterns. Additionally, waste audits highlight opportunities for recycling, reuse, and resource recovery, supporting the transition to a circular economy.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p>scoping requirement of this commitment. The audit was completed at Victoria Base in the Pacific region. 63% of total non-hazardous operational waste was diverted from landfill. Waste audits at the other sites subject to this commitment will be completed in future years, and action will be taken to achieve the 75% diversion target by March 31, 2031.</p> <p>Waste audits for large facilities are completed on a five-year cycle. The Department owns seven sites which meet the threshold to be considered a large facility under this Greening Government Strategy (GGS) commitment.</p> <p>The starting point will be amended in a future update to “0% in fiscal year 2022-2023” to reflect a more accurate calculation.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>CIF Indicator: 12.3.1 – Total waste diversion per capita. GIF Target: 12.5 – By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p>	
	<p>Complete waste audits for large buildings (i.e., more than 10,000m2 of total floor space) situated within a municipality (or equivalent with a population of over 100,000) where waste diversion services are available and report annual rate of diversion of plastic waste from landfill.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % by weight of plastic waste diverted from landfill in Crown-owned buildings.</p> <p>Starting point: 27% in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Target: At least 75% by March 31, 2031.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Actions that reduce the generation of plastic waste will help to reduce Scope 3 emissions for the production, transport and disposal of material. Diverting plastic waste from landfills reduces the transport hauling emissions. Material recovery via recycling reduces emissions for the extraction and production of virgin materials.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target as waste audits inform decision-making and guide strategic efforts for waste reduction and diversion. These audits enable targeted interventions by identifying key sources of waste generation, and provide the foundation for targeted waste reduction strategies.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by providing valuable data on waste generation, enabling us to identify areas for waste reduction and prevention.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 19% by weight of plastic waste was diverted from landfill in Crown-owned buildings.</p> <p>Notes: A total of one waste audit was completed during FY 2024-2025 that meets the scoping requirement of this commitment. The audit was completed at Victoria Base in the Pacific region. 19% of total plastic waste was diverted from landfill. Waste audits at the other sites subject to this commitment will be completed in future years, and action will be taken to achieve the 75% diversion target by March 31, 2031.</p> <p>Waste audits for large facilities are completed on a five-year cycle. The Department owns seven sites which meet the threshold to be considered a large facility under this GGS commitment.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>Implementing strategies such as source reduction and improved procurement practices can contribute to more responsible consumption patterns. Additionally, waste audits highlight opportunities for recycling, reuse, and resource recovery, supporting the transition to a circular economy.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. CIF Indicator: 12.3.1 – Total waste diversion per capita. GIF Target: 12.5 – By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p>	<p>The starting point will be amended in a future update to “0% in fiscal year 2022-2023” to reflect a more accurate calculation.</p>

Target: By 2030, the Government of Canada will divert from landfill at least 90% by weight of all construction and demolition waste (All Ministers)

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Maximize diversion of waste from landfill.	Ensure construction project general contractors track and disclose the amount	Performance indicator:	Contribution to the FSDS:	Indicator result: N/A.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
	<p>of construction and demolition waste generated, as well as the amount diverted from landfill for projects with a total of over \$5 million and in areas where commercial waste services are available.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>% by weight of construction and demolition waste diverted from landfill in Crown-owned buildings.</p> <p>Starting point: 97% in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Target: At least 90% by March 31, 2031.</p>	<p>Actions that reduce the generation of constructions and demolition waste will help to reduce Scope 3 emissions for the production, transport and disposal of material. Diverting waste from landfill reduces landfill gas and transport hauling emissions. Material recovery via recycling reduces emissions for the extraction and production of virgin materials.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by increasing accountability, transparency, and data-driven decision-making, ensuring that waste management practices align with the broader environmental objectives of sustainable development. Diversion rates will be reported on once, in the year in which the project is completed.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by identifying opportunities to minimize waste generation, improve resource efficiency, and implement sustainable construction practices. Tracking waste allows for the identification of specific waste streams and their sources, enabling targeted interventions for waste reduction and prevention. Disclosing this information promotes transparency and</p>	<p>In 2024-2025, there were no projects completed with a value of over \$5 million.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			accountability in the construction industry, encouraging stakeholders to adopt more sustainable practices. Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. CIF Indicator: 12.3.1 – Total waste diversion per capita. GIF Target: 12.5 – By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	

Target: The Government of Canada’s procurement of goods and services will be net-zero emissions by 2050, to aid the transition to a net-zero, circular economy (All Ministers)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Transform the federal light-duty fleet.	Each year, at least 75% of new light-duty on-road conventional fleet vehicle purchases will be zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) or hybrids, where suitable options	Performance indicator: % of new vehicles purchased annually as replacements or additions to the light duty vehicle fleet that are ZEV or hybrids,	Contribution to the FSDS: This action contributes to the FSDS target by reducing emissions, promoting sustainable consumption and production, fostering innovation, and showcasing	Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 92% of new vehicles purchased annually as replacements or additions to the light duty vehicle fleet were ZEV or hybrids, where suitable

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	<p>are available and meet operational feasibility</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>where suitable options are available and meet operational feasibility.</p> <p>Starting point: (57 new ZEV or hybrid vehicles purchased / 66 new vehicles purchased) = 86% in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Additional information by vehicle type for fiscal year 2022-23:</p> <p>[6 Battery Electric, Hydrogen or Fuel Cell Vehicles purchased / 66 new vehicles purchased] = 10%.</p> <p>[42 Hybrid Electric Vehicles purchased / 66 new vehicles purchased] = 64%.</p> <p>[9 Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles / 66 new vehicles purchased] = 14%.</p> <p>Target: 75% annually.</p> <p>Note: Figures are adjusted based on calculation of suitable options that are available and meet operational feasibility from Treasury Board Secretariat Greening Government Office.</p>	<p>leadership in the adoption of environmentally friendly transportation technologies and practices through the purchase of ZEVs and hybrid vehicles.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by promoting sustainable and responsible consumption and production patterns. This transition reduces resource consumption, lowers emissions, encourages technological innovation, and aligns with the broader goal of advancing sustainable development through more environmentally friendly transportation choices.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. CIF Target: 12.1.1 – Zero-emission vehicles represent 10% of new light duty vehicle sales by 2025, 30% by 2030 and 100% by 2040. CIF Indicator: 12.1.1 – Proportion of new light-duty vehicle registrations that are zero-emission vehicles. GIF Target: 12.7 – Promote public procurement practices that are</p>	<p>options were available and met operational feasibility.</p> <p>Notes: 92% is the adjusted total based on TBS Greening Government guidance for determining eligibility. Additional information by vehicle type for 2024-2025:</p> <p>[17 Battery Electric, Hydrogen or Fuel Cell Vehicles purchased / 65 new vehicles purchased] = 26%.</p> <p>[2 Hybrid Electric Vehicles purchased / 65 new vehicles purchased] = 3%.</p> <p>[41 Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles purchased / 65 new vehicles purchased] = 63%.</p> <p>DFO met the 75% target for new Hybrid/ZEV vehicle purchases in 2024-2025 by reaching 92% (60/65) after adjustments made in line with TBS guidance that considered ZEV availability for each vehicle specification code and category.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.	

	<p>Fleet management and renewal will be optimized with the objective that the conventional light duty on-road fleet will be comprised of 100% ZEVs by 2030, where suitable options are available and meet operational feasibility.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of conventional light duty fleet that is ZEV, where suitable options are available and meet operational feasibility.</p> <p>Starting point: 3% as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Additional information by vehicle type, as of March 31, 2023:</p> <p>[12 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet are Battery Electric, Hydrogen or Fuel Cell Vehicles / 1381 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet] = 1%.</p> <p>[37 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet are Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles / 1381 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet] = 3%.</p> <p>[104 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet are Hybrid Electric Vehicles / 1381 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet] = 8%.</p> <p>Target: 100% by March 31, 2030.</p> <p>Note: Figures are adjusted numbers based on calculation of suitable options that are available and meet operational feasibility from Treasury Board Secretariat Greening Government Office.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: This action contributes to the FSDS target by reducing emissions, promoting sustainable consumption and production, fostering innovation, and showcasing leadership in the adoption of environmentally friendly transportation technologies and practices through the purchase of ZEVs and hybrid vehicles.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by promoting sustainable and responsible consumption and production patterns. This transition reduces resource consumption, lowers emissions, encourages technological innovation, and aligns with the broader goal of advancing sustainable development through more environmentally friendly transportation choices.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner CIF Target: 12.1.1 – Zero-emission vehicles represent 10% of new light duty vehicle sales by 2025, 30% by 2030 and 100% by 2040 CIF Indicator: 12.1.1 – Proportion of new light-duty vehicle registrations that are zero-emission vehicles</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 11% of conventional light duty fleet is ZEV, where suitable options are available and meet operational feasibility.</p> <p>Notes: Light duty fleet inventory of 889 (see below) is based on the latest TBS Greening Government 2024-2025 land vehicle reporting guidelines and definitions.</p> <p>[29 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet are Battery Electric, Hydrogen or Fuel Cell Vehicles / 889 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet] = 3%.</p> <p>[66 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet are Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles / 889 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet] = 7%.</p> <p>[132 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet are Hybrid Electric Vehicles / 889 vehicles in conventional light duty fleet] = 15%.</p> <p>As per TBS-GGO definition, ZEVs are comprised of Battery Electric, Plug-in Hybrid Electric and Fuel Cell Electric vehicles.</p>
	<p>Reduce GHG emissions from the conventional light duty fleet.</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % change in GHG emissions from fleet vehicles from fiscal year 2005-06.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: This action contributes to the FSDS target by reducing emissions, promoting</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, GHG emissions from fleet vehicles have been reduced by 26%</p>

	<p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Starting point: 9,619kt in 2005-06.</p> <p>Target: 40% reduction by March 31, 2025.</p>	<p>sustainable consumption and production, fostering innovation, and showcasing leadership in the adoption of environmentally friendly transportation technologies and practices through the purchase of ZEVs and hybrid vehicles.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by promoting sustainable and responsible consumption and production patterns. This transition reduces resource consumption, lowers emissions, encourages technological innovation, and aligns with the broader goal of advancing sustainable development through more environmentally friendly transportation choices.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. CIF Target: 12.1.1 – Zero-emission vehicles represent 10% of new light duty vehicle sales by 2025, 30% by 2030 and 100% by 2040. CIF Indicator: 12.1.1 – Proportion of new light-duty vehicle registrations that are zero-emission vehicles. GIF Target: 12.7 – Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.</p>	<p>from fiscal year 2005-06.</p> <p>Notes: The Department continues to take action to right-size its conventional on-road fleet and to procure zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) where operationally feasible. A continued challenge is the Department’s on-road fleet is primarily composed of medium- to heavy-duty trucks, which currently have fewer ZEV options compared to light-duty vehicles.</p>
<p>Strengthen green procurement criteria.</p>	<p>Ensure all procurement and materiel management specialists are trained in green procurement (such as, the Canada School of Public Service course on green</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of procurement and materiel management specialists trained in green</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Green procurement incorporates environmental considerations into purchasing decisions and is expected to</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 96% of procurement and material management specialists have been trained in green procurement within</p>

	<p>procurement, or equivalent) within one year of being identified.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>procurement within one year of being identified.</p> <p>Starting point: 77% in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Target: 100% annually.</p>	<p>motivate suppliers to reduce the environmental impact of the goods and services they deliver, and their supply chains.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by equipping procurement specialists with the knowledge and skills to support the prioritization of environmentally friendly products and services, fostering a culture of sustainable consumption and production.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by equipping specialists with the knowledge and skills to integrate sustainability considerations into their purchasing decisions. Trained specialists can assess suppliers based on environmental criteria, such as energy efficiency, waste management, and sustainable sourcing. This promotes the procurement of environmentally friendly products and services, reducing our overall environmental footprint.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. GIF Target: 12.7 – Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.</p>	<p>one year of being identified.</p> <p>Notes: Employee training plans have been revised to include the Canada School of Public Service course on green procurement. The small number of employees who have not yet completed the course have been identified, and arrangements are in place to ensure they complete it within the current fiscal year. This approach will close the remaining gap and ensure full compliance is achieved.</p>
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Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles” but not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Remediate high-priority contaminated sites.	<p>Close sites currently in DFO’s inventory of suspected, or known contaminated sites, by conducting assessment and remediation activities at the sites.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of closed sites in DFO’s inventory of suspected, or known contaminated sites.</p> <p>Starting point: DFO is responsible for 1,837 open sites in the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory, as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Note: Open sites in the inventory are sites where contamination may exist, or is known to exist, and may pose harm to the environment or human health.</p> <p>DFO’s current remaining inventory of open sites (1,837) represents an 83% closure of DFO’s total inventory of 11,033 suspected, or known contaminated sites (i.e., 9,196 sites have been closed to date).</p> <p>Target: Increase the % of closed sites in DFO’s inventory of suspected, or known</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Through the renewed Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan, DFO is committed to the federal government’s long-term target to close 95% of existing contaminated sites by 2035.</p> <p>Sites are closed when human health and ecological risks are reduced to acceptable levels, and financial liabilities are reduced to zero. A contaminated site is where substances occur at concentrations that are above background levels and pose, or are likely to pose, an immediate or long-term hazard to human health or the environment, or exceed levels specified in policies and regulations.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by remediating contaminated sites that pose risks to human health and the environment. This work will effectively mitigate or manage ecological and human health risks and help to reduce waste,</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 87% of sites in DFO’s inventory of suspected, or known contaminated sites have been closed.</p> <p>Notes: DFO is responsible for 1,410 open sites in the Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory (FCSI) as of March 31, 2025.</p> <p>Open sites in the FCSI are sites where contamination may exist, or is known to exist, and may pose harm to human health or the environment.</p> <p>The Department closed 186 sites in 2024-2025, while four sites that were previously closed were reopened for a variety of reasons (e.g., to address stakeholder comments or address overlooked potential remaining sources of contamination). Additionally, DFO consolidated five sites thereby removing them altogether from DFO’s inventory and</p>

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		contaminated sites from 83% to 88%, by March 31, 2027. Note: The 5% increase in closed sites amounts to 600 open sites being closed over the four year period, or approximately 150 sites per year.	helping Canadians to live in clean, sustainable communities. Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by promoting sustainable land use practices and mitigating the environmental and health risks associated with contamination. Cleaning up and closing these sites helps prevent further pollution, protects ecosystems, and ensures the well-being of communities. Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. GIF Target: 12.4 – By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.	created three new sites to better reflect management needs bringing the total inventory down to 11,031 from 11,033. DFO’s current remaining inventory of open sites (1,410) represents an 87% closure of DFO’s total inventory of 11,031 suspected, or known contaminated sites (i.e., 9,621 sites have been closed to date). FY 2024-2025 marked the final year of the Phase IV of the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan. Phase IV (2020-2025) saw a total of 1,103 sites closed which represents an average closure rate of 221 sites per year.
Research innovative solutions for plastics.	Increase the uptake of new technologies to reduce and better manage plastic waste, including Ghost Gear. Program: Fisheries Management	Performance indicator: # of proponents acquiring or piloting retrieval and fishing gear technologies in Canada.	Contribution to the FSDS: Ghost gear, also known as abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), exacerbates the global plastics	Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 5 proponents acquired or piloted retrieval and fishing gear technologies.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Starting point: 34 proponents have received funding for projects which acquire or pilot retrieval and fishing gear technologies in Canada, as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: A further numerical target cannot be assigned to this performance indicator prior to proposals being received following future public calls for proposals.</p>	<p>crisis as much of this gear is constructed from persistent plastic materials. Gear can break down into fragments which are ingested by marine species and then enters the food chain, posing risks to both aquatic ecosystems and human health.</p> <p>DFO’s Ghost Gear Program was recently renewed for five years until 2027, with an overarching priority outcome that marine pollution from ghost gear is prevented and reduced. This will be achieved through improvements to data collection, lost and retrieved gear reporting systems, a regulatory review, and promotion of sustainable gear and best practices. The Ghost Gear Fund (under the Program) supports fish harvesters to acquire new clean technologies to reduce gear loss. It encourages the acquisition and/or piloting of market-ready technologies aimed at prevention, reduction, and retrieval of ghost gear.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by supporting technologies that reduce the amount of ghost gear in Canadian waters. Through this work, technologies to identify, retrieve or reduce the frequency and/or impact of abandoned, lost or</p>	<p>Notes: In 2024-2025, 5 proponents continued pilots of innovative fishing gear or retrieval technology, including satellite tracking buoys and a new automated rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) vessel for the detection and recovery of lost fishing gear.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>otherwise discarded fishing gear are acquired or piloted.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by supporting the development of biodegradable materials, improved recycling technologies, and sustainable waste management practices, thereby minimizing the environmental impact of plastic waste. By promoting collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the adoption of sustainable practices, these efforts contribute to creating a circular economy, reducing resource consumption, and mitigating the adverse effects of plastic waste on ecosystems and human health.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. GIF Target: 12.5 – By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p>	
	<p>Support new approaches in commercial fisheries to reduce or mitigate the impacts of ghost gear.</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of commercial fisheries in which: 1) in-season ghost gear retrieval are piloted; and, 2) alternatives to plastic gear tags are piloted.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Piloting in-season ghost gear retrieval and exploring alternatives to plastic gear tags is a proactive approach to directly reduce plastic waste in marine environments.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 2 commercial fisheries piloted in-season ghost gear retrieval.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Starting point: 1) 2 commercial fisheries in which in-season ghost gear retrieval are being piloted; and, 2) 0 commercial fisheries in which alternatives to plastic gear tags are being piloted, as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 1) 3 commercial fisheries pilot in-season ghost gear retrieval; and, 2) 3 commercial fisheries pilot alternatives to plastic gear tags, by March 31, 2025.</p>	<p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal as successful pilot programs demonstrate the potential of timely gear retrieval to prevent plastic fragmentation, while exploring alternative gear materials showcases the viability of reducing plastic content in fishing equipment. Through this work, Canada pilots new approaches in commercial fisheries to reduce or mitigate impacts of ghost gear.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 12: This action contributes to SDG 12 by reducing marine litter and minimizing the adverse impacts of plastic waste on marine environments. By encouraging the implementation of innovative gear designs and materials that reduce plastic components and mitigate gear loss, this action contributes to the reduction of plastic pollution in oceans.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 12 – Canadians consume in a sustainable manner. GIF Target: 12.5 – By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p>	<p>In 2024-2025, 1 commercial fishery piloted alternatives to plastic gear tags.</p> <p>Notes: Two commercial fisheries are partaking in a pilot project that uses mobile gear for incidental ALDFG retrieval authorized in NAFO Divisions 0A/0B for offshore Greenland Halibut and in Shrimp Management Areas 0, 1, DSE, DSW, NUE, NKE, 4, 5, and 6 for northern shrimp harvesters (with the exclusion of Nunavut/ Nunavik West). A third in-season pilot is being explored.</p> <p>An alternative tag (steel tags) pilot was completed. Trials took place in the Pacific and Gulf regions aquaculture industries.</p>

Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>DFO will implement a five-year program ending in 2026-27 to explore and implement solid non-hazardous waste and plastic waste management improvements at targeted Real Property, Canadian Coast Guard, and Small Craft Harbour sites owned by the Department. This initiative will evaluate risk mitigation strategies that address waste management challenges, redirect waste back into the economy, and develop systems to ensure that accumulation of waste is avoided.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 12.5: Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued to implement solid non-hazardous waste and plastic waste management improvements by identifying specific actions needed to address waste management issues at 79 targeted sites and assessing whether those actions are practical and achievable. In some cases, teams are working on both identifying the issues and evaluating solutions at the same time. This work is to be completed before the end of the program on March 31, 2027.</p>



GOAL 13: TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

FSDS Context:

We recognize the significant impact of climate change on the health of aquatic ecosystems, as well as the livelihoods and well-being of rural and coastal communities. Our commitment to take action on climate change is reflected in various initiatives including: conducting research on climate change and its impacts to identify and address vulnerabilities; integrating climate change considerations into decision-making processes, including adaptive fisheries management decisions to ensure the resilience of the fish and seafood sector and the sustainability of Canada’s fisheries resources in response to increasingly complex and uncertain environmental, social and economic conditions; taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from internal operations; and, supporting global initiatives and agreements to collectively tackle climate change.

Target theme: Federal Leadership on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions and Climate Resilience

Target: The Government of Canada will transition to net-zero carbon operations for facilities and conventional fleets by 2050 (All Ministers).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Implement the Greening Government Strategy through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve climate resilience, and green the government’s overall operations.	Reduce the Department’s greenhouse gas emissions from facilities and on-road vehicles Program: Internal Services. Program: Internal Services	Performance indicator: % change in GHG emissions from facilities and on-road vehicles from fiscal year 2005-06.	Contribution to the FSDS: Actions that rationalize the real property portfolio, share facilities, reduce the demand for energy or switch to lower carbon sources of energy will lead to	Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, GHG emissions from facilities and on road-vehicles were 30 kt CO2e.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Starting point: Facilities = 39.8 kt CO2e in 2005- 06. On-road fleet = 9.6 kt CO2e in 2005-06.</p> <p>Total = 49.4 kt CO2e in 2005-06.</p> <p>Target: 40% reduction by March 31, 2026; and, 90% reduction by March 31, 2051.</p>	<p>reductions in GHGs from real property operations.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By integrating new technology, completing energy efficiency projects, and ensuring new buildings and major retrofits are designed and constructed to minimize energy consumption, these changes in facility and fleet leads to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Target: 13 – By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Indicator: 13.1.1 – Greenhouse gas emissions GIF Target: 13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</p>	<p>Facilities = 23 kt CO2e in 2024-2025. On-road fleet = 7 kt CO2e in 2024-2025.</p> <p>Total = 30 kt CO2e in 2023-2024.</p> <p>This represents a 38% reduction in GHG emissions from 2005-06.</p> <p>Facilities = reduction of 41% compared to FY 2005-06</p> <p>On-road fleet = reduction of 25% compared to FY 2005-06</p> <p>Notes: In 2024-2025, the Department continued to take action to reduce operational GHG emissions from facilities and the on-road fleet. The Department ensures new buildings and major retrofits are designed and constructed to minimize energy consumption and reduce emissions. Additionally, any new procurement of on-road vehicles prioritizes zero emission vehicles when it is operationally feasible to do so. Through this action, the Department remains on track to achieve the federal GHG reduction target.</p>
	<p>Replace or convert all existing equipment that uses 10kg or more refrigerants with a</p>	<p>Performance indicator:</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS:</p>	<p>Indicator result:</p>

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	<p>Global Warming Potential (GWP) above 2,200 to use lower-GWP refrigerants by 2030, and all new HVAC-R equipment installations to use lower-GWP refrigerants where economically and technically feasible.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>% of existing HVAC-R equipment using 10 kg or more of refrigerants with a GWP over 2200 that have been replaced or converted.</p> <p>Starting point: 0% of existing HVAC-R equipment (0/124 units) using 10 kg or more of refrigerants with a GWP over 2200 have been replaced or converted, as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 100% (124/124 units) of existing equipment that use 10kg or more of refrigerants with a GWP above 2,200 are replaced or converted to use lower-GWP refrigerants by 2030-31 (where economically and technically feasible).</p>	<p>Limiting the use and procurement GWP potential and ozone depleting refrigerants will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in government operations. GWP examines each greenhouse gas's ability to trap heat in the atmosphere compared to carbon dioxide (CO2). The larger the GWP, the more that a given gas warms the Earth compared to CO2 over that time period.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing the use of high GWP refrigerants, there are reduced greenhouse gas emissions through the occurrences of accidental releases. These targets accelerates the pace of converting/replacing equipment that have higher environmental risk to refrigerants that have lower environmental risk.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Target: 13 – By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>As of March 31, 2025, 0% of existing HVAC-R equipment using 10 kg or more of refrigerants with a GWP over 2200 have been replaced or converted.</p> <p>Notes: The starting point for this action will be revised to note a total of 24 HVAC-R systems that meet the scoping requirement. This number has been revised from the initially reported total based on an internal review of data in line with the Treasury Board Secretariat's <i>Guidelines for Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration</i>. The Department continues to explore options to meet this target by the 2030-31 deadline.</p>

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			<p>CIF Indicator: 13.1.1 – Greenhouse gas emissions. GIF Target: 13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</p>	
	<p>Disclose the amount of embodied carbon in the structural materials (i.e., concrete) of major construction projects based on material carbon intensity or a life-cycle assessment, and reduce the embodied carbon by 30%, starting in 2025, using recycled and lower-carbon materials, material efficiency and performance-based design standards</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % reduction of embodied carbon of construction materials of major construction projects compared to Regional Industry Average Environmental Product Declaration.</p> <p>Starting point: New action – reporting requirement beginning in 2023- 24.</p> <p>Target: Starting January 1, 2025, reduce the embodied carbon of the construction materials of major construction projects by 30% compared to Regional Industry Average Environmental Product Declaration.</p> <p>Note: An Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) is a document that quantifies environmental impact data from manufacturing a product. It is a summarized report extracted from an in-depth Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: “Embodied carbon” refers to carbon dioxide emitted during the manufacture, transport and construction of building materials together with end-of-life emissions. Embodied carbon forms a significant proportion of the whole life carbon emissions from construction projects. The Standard on Embodied Carbon in Construction sets minimum requirements for the procurement of design and construction services to disclose and reduce the embodied carbon of major construction projects.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by reducing the amount of embodied carbon released by major construction projects. Major construction projects are defined as projects over \$10 million where design services are solicited on or after December 31, 2022. Major construction projects typically include the renovation or new construction of buildings or engineering assets. The scope changes to</p>	<p>Indicator result: Not applicable.</p> <p>In 2024-2025, no major construction projects meeting the scope of this GGS commitment were completed.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>projects over \$5 million where design services are solicited after December 31, 2024. All projects in-scope must also use a minimum of 100m3 of material.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ensuring new buildings will be designed and constructed to minimize their carbon footprint and energy consumption. This encourages the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy integration, and sustainable building practices, leading to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Target: 13 – By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Indicator: 13.1.1 – Greenhouse gas emissions. GIF Target: 13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Modernize through net-zero carbon buildings.</p>	<p>All new buildings (including build-to-lease and public-private partnerships) will be net-zero carbon unless a life-cycle cost-benefit analysis indicates net-zero-carbon-ready construction.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of new buildings built that completed a greenhouse gas life-cycle cost analysis and are built to net-zero carbon or zero-carbon ready in a given fiscal year.</p> <p>Starting point: Measured on an annual basis.</p> <p>Target: 100% annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Actions that rationalize the portfolio, share facilities, reduce the demand for energy or switch to lower carbon sources of energy will lead to reductions in GHGs from real property operations.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By promoting net-zero carbon standards, new buildings will be designed and constructed to minimize their carbon footprint and energy consumption. This encourages the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy integration, and sustainable building practices, leading to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Target: 13 – By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Indicator: 13.1.1 – Greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Indicator result: Not applicable.</p> <p>In 2024-2025, no major construction projects meeting the scope of this GGS commitment were completed.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			GIF Target: 13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.	
Apply a greenhouse gas reduction life-cycle cost analysis for major building retrofits.	<p>Incorporate GHG emissions reduction into the departmental decision-making process using GHG options analysis methodology for major retrofits (over \$2.5 million) and any other significant real property project that affects energy consumption (e.g., building envelope upgrades and HVAC replacements).</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of completed major retrofits and other significant real property projects that affect energy consumption with a completed GHG reduction life-cycle cost analysis.</p> <p>Starting point: Measured on an annual basis.</p> <p>Target: 100% annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Actions that rationalize the portfolio, share facilities, reduce the demand for energy or switch to lower carbon sources of energy will lead to reductions in GHGs from real property operations.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by prioritizing actions that help reduce GHG emissions, helping to identify alternatives that result in lower emissions and increased energy efficiency. Additionally, it highlights opportunities for incorporating energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources, ensuring projects are designed with sustainability in mind.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Target: 13 – By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 100% of completed major retrofits and other significant real property projects that affect energy consumption had a completed GHG reduction life-cycle cost analysis completed.</p> <p>Notes: A GHG life-cycle cost analysis was completed for a project completed at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO), specifically for the Murray Building on site. It was determined that 1) the Murray building envelope would need to be overhauled to a high-performance system; and, 2) the Murray mechanical, electrical, and controls systems would need to be upgraded to take advantage of BIO's seawater heating and cooling infrastructure. These measures are included in project plans. A roof-top solar photovoltaic system was also recommended in the study and is proceeding in the project.</p>

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			CIF Indicator: 13.1.1 – Greenhouse gas emissions. GIF Target: 13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.	Another project at Snootli hatchery was also completed in FY 2024-2025, however, the design of this project was completed prior to this Greening Government Strategy commitment coming into effect, therefore a GHG life-cycle cost analysis was not completed to inform the design.

Target: The Government of Canada will transition to net-zero carbon national safety and security fleet operations by 2050 (Ministers with national safety and security fleets)

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Improve environmental performance of national safety and security fleets.	Renew the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG)'s national fleet to improve environmental performance and reduce GHG emissions. Program: Fleet Maintenance; Fleet Procurement	Performance indicator: % change in GHG emissions from CCG fleet operations from fiscal year 2005-06. Starting point: 145 kt CO2 eq in 2005-06. Target:	Contribution to the FSDS: CCG is committed to reducing GHG emissions from its national safety and security fleet, while continuing to provide Canada with effective operational capability. Expected to be completed in 2024, CCG's first iteration of the Operational Fleet Decarbonization Plan (OFDP) will highlight focused efforts	Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, GHG emissions from CCG fleet operations were 148 kt CO2 eq. This represents a decrease of 2% in GHG emissions from 2005-06, based off the starting point noted below. Notes:

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		<p>40-45% GHG reduction below 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.</p>	<p>towards reducing the fleet's operational GHG emissions.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by ensuring CCG's national safety and security fleet utilizes green technologies and low-carbon fuels when available, affordable and operationally feasible. Through this work, a renewed national safety and security fleet will generate early and cross-cutting Greening Government Strategy net-zero 2050 results.</p> <p>The CCG intends on analyzing 100% of its vessel classes identified in the 2019 Fleet Renewal Plan for the potential of green technology and low carbon fuels.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by reducing GHG emissions associated with fleet operations. This includes transitioning to cleaner energy sources and implementing measures to enhance fuel efficiency. Additionally, it sets an example for other maritime organizations, encouraging the adoption of environmentally friendly practices and contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.</p>	<p>In March 2025, CCG finalized the first edition of an Operational Fleet Decarbonization Plan (OFDP) outlining how the organization will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in line with the overall net-zero by 2050 target.</p> <p>Notable sources of emission reductions in fiscal year 2024-2025 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCGS <i>Sir Wilfrid Laurier</i> bunkered 1,871,441L of low-carbon fuel blends, specifically B5 (58,966L), B10 (288,995L), B15 (83,723L), B17 (745,746L), RD40 (593,157L) and RD41 (100,852L). • CCGS <i>Tanu</i> bunkered 141,659L of low-carbon fuel blends, specifically B5 (103,153L) and RD27 (38,506L). • CCGS <i>Vector</i> bunkered 11,191L of low-carbon fuel, specifically B5 (7,577L) and RD32 (3,614L). • Funded by TBS' Low Carbon Fuel Procurement Program (LCFPP), CCG purchased the environmental attributes of 1,324,898L of RD22 through a book and claim procurement process. <p>The CCG aims to reduce emissions, enhance operational resilience, modernize service delivery, and prepare for net-zero</p>

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			<p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Target: 13 – By 2030, reduce Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45%, relative to 2005 emission levels. By 2050, achieve economy-wide net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. CIF Indicator: 13.1.1 – Greenhouse gas emissions. GIF Target: 13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</p>	<p>GHG emissions by 2050, in alignment with the GGS. Actions are already underway, with interim emission reduction targets quantified, and a commitment to working with partners confronted with similar challenges.</p> <p>As the CCG continues to quickly adopt low-carbon fuels, this process will continue to drive market signals across the country and enable a clear and proven pathway to support decarbonization of the marine industry, a transitory step towards an energy resilient maritime operating environment.</p> <p>The starting point will be amended in a future update to “150 kt CO2 eq in fiscal year 2005-06” to include the totals NSS fleet (marine and air). The Program for this action will also be listed as “Fleet Operational Capability”.</p>

Target: The Government of Canada will transition to climate resilient operations by 2050 (All Ministers).

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<p>Reduce risks posed by climate change to federal assets, services and operations.</p>	<p>Assess the risk of climate change impacts at mission critical assets.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of mission critical assets where the risk of climate change impacts is assessed.</p> <p>Starting point: New program beginning in fiscal year 2023-24.</p> <p>Target: 100% by March 31, 2027.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: By assessing the risks of climate change impacts at mission critical assets, and developing plans to reduce the risks, the risk of disruption of critical service delivery to Canadians is reduced. Mission critical assets are defined through the Policy on Government Security and the Mandatory Procedures for Business Continuity Management Control in the Directive on Security Management. Priority Sites are defined in DFO’s National Portfolio Strategy.</p> <p>Climate risk assessments include high-level vulnerability assessments (e.g., Climate Infrastructure Vulnerability tools) and/or site-level risk assessments (e.g., the Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee [PIEVC] Protocol).</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by increasing the understanding of the vulnerability of critical Departmental assets to climate change, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, or changing temperature patterns. With this knowledge, we can develop targeted plans and strategies to mitigate the identified</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 93% of mission critical assets were assessed for the risk of climate change impacts.</p> <p>Notes: The Department has identified a total of 30 sites as containing mission critical assets which support the delivery of departmental critical services. These sites have all conducted a high-level climate risk assessment using an internally developed departmental tool called the Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI).</p>

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			<p>risks, enhance resilience, and minimize potential disruptions.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians are well-equipped and resilient to face the effects of climate change. GIF Target: 13.1 – Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.</p>	
	<p>Complete climate change risk assessments for all new buildings, major retrofits and energy performance contracts.</p> <p>Program: Internal Services</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of completed new buildings, major retrofits and energy performance contracts with completed climate change risk assessments.</p> <p>Starting point: Measured on an annual basis.</p> <p>Target: 100% annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: By assessing the risks of climate change impacts at mission critical assets, and developing plans to reduce the risks, the risk of disruption of critical service delivery to Canadians is reduced. The assessments should be conducted by an infrastructure resilience professional or equivalent, and be based on a vulnerability assessment methodology such as the Engineers Canada’s PIEVC Protocol.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 13: This action contributes to SDG 13 by increasing the understanding of the vulnerability of critical Departmental assets to climate change, such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events, or</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, no major construction projects meeting the scope of this GGS commitment were completed.</p> <p>Notes: A high-level climate risk assessment was completed for a project completed at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Maritimes region, specifically for the Murray Building on site.</p> <p>Another project at Snootli hatchery was also completed in 2024-2025, however the design of this project was completed prior to this Greening Government Strategy commitment coming into effect, therefore a climate change risk</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>changing temperature patterns. With this knowledge, we can develop targeted plans and strategies to mitigate the identified risks, enhance resilience, and minimize potential disruptions.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 13 – Canadians are well-equipped and resilient to face the effects of climate change. GIF Target: 13.1 – Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.</p>	<p>assessment was not completed to inform the design.</p>

Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 13 – Climate Action

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>DFO will focus on adapting harbour facilities in response to climate change by incorporating climate change adaptation tools into infrastructure design.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department worked to adapt harbour facilities in response to climate change by ensuring that all newly designed and built Small Craft Harbours assets, including wharfs and breakwaters, incorporate climate resiliency factors that are based on the best climate-resilience information available. Leveraged tools included the Canadian Extreme Water Level Adaptation Tool and the Coastal Infrastructure</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Vulnerability Index. The use of climate-resilient infrastructure has assisted harbours in improving their protection against storms, strong winds, and waves.</p>
<p>CCG will complete a Roadmap to Climate Change Resilience to provide guidance for CCG to increase its resilience to climate change through a series of adaptation and mitigation key actions in the short, medium, and long-term.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the CCG completed a Roadmap to Climate Change Resilience (the Roadmap) to increase its resilience to climate change through a series of adaptation and mitigation key actions in the short, medium, and long-term.</p> <p>The Roadmap builds on existing efforts and proposes new actions to be taken to increase the organization’s resilience to the impacts of climate change on the CCG’s programs, services, and operations. It was developed in alignment with national strategies such as the Greening Government Strategy and the National Adaptation Strategy.</p>
<p>CCG will complete an Operational Fleet Decarbonization Plan, outlining near- and long-term strategic objectives and lines of effort to achieve emission reductions through 2030, 2040 and 2050. The Plan focuses on reducing GHG emissions in the small and large vessel fleet and includes shore infrastructure as a component of a longterm energy system development roadmap.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIF Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the CCG finalized the first edition of an Operational Fleet Decarbonization Plan (OFDP) outlining how it will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in line with the overall net-zero by 2050 target, while maintaining operational service delivery to Canadians.</p> <p>CCG’s OFDP is anchored in 3 main lines of effort:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible Low-Carbon Biofuel Transition Fleet Performance and Efficiency Resilient Power and Energy Systems <p>The CCG is already registering GHG reductions through the adoption of low carbon fuels and continues to evaluate the feasibility of other alternative fuels and energy efficiency options for future fleet operations. Following the completion of the OFDP in March 2025, CCG is focused on implementing OFDP activities, developing new governance models to track progress and incorporating decarbonization-focused operations into standard business practices.</p>



GOAL 14: CONSERVE AND PROTECT CANADA'S OCEANS

FSDS Context:

We are the primary federal organization responsible for the management and stewardship of Canada's fisheries and three oceans, and play a vital role in supporting and promoting the health, resilience and sustainability of marine ecosystems. Our work in undertaking scientific research and monitoring the ocean, protecting and conserving marine ecosystems, sustainably managing fisheries, addressing marine pollution, supporting climate change adaptation and resilience, and collaborating with Indigenous communities all contribute to achieving the targets and objectives of this FSDS goal and SDG 14.

The Minister of Fisheries is responsible for two FSDS targets under Goal 14, which will be reported on in a future FSDS Progress Report:

- Conserve 25% of marine and coastal areas by 2025, and 30% by 2030, in support of the commitment to work to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada, and achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050; and,
- By 2026, at least 55% of Canada's key fish stocks are in the Cautious and Healthy zone.

Target theme: Ocean Protection and Conservation

Target: Conserve 25% of marine and coastal areas by 2025, and 30% by 2030, in support of the commitment to work to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada, and achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050 (Minister of Fisheries).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Build knowledge of coastal and marine ecosystems and marine protected areas.</p>	<p>Conduct scientific research on coastal and marine ecosystems and marine protected areas.</p> <p>Program: Aquatic Ecosystem Science</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of scheduled science advisory processes on MPAs and OECMs that were completed.</p> <p>Starting point: 100% in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Target: 90% annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: DFO conducts scientific research and monitoring activities to better understand aquatic ecosystems, ultimately creating a stronger evidence base for decision-making. This work helps inform effective conservation and management strategies, contributing to the sustainable use of marine resources. As well, data are collected to support establishment and management of MPAs and OECMs, which are essential for safeguarding biodiversity and preserving critical habitats.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by developing scientific information that informs the conservation of marine and coastal areas. Through this work, scientific information on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems is available to inform management decisions.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by developing a deeper understanding of the ecological dynamics, biodiversity, and environmental processes within coastal and marine ecosystems. This research helps identify and assess the impacts of human activities, climate change, and other stressors on these ecosystems. The findings from scientific research provide valuable insights for policymakers to develop evidence-based conservation and management strategies.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions:</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 86% of scheduled science advisory processes on MPAs and OECMs were completed.</p> <p>Notes: DFO Science provided peer-reviewed advice on six of seven requested topics related to planning and/or management of MPAs/OECMs in 2024-2025. The complexity of some processes increases the time required for data acquisition and analyses in some cases, which can require more than one year to plan and deliver.</p>

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			<p>CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks.</p> <p>CIF Target: 14.1.1 – Conserve 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025, working towards 30% by 2030.</p> <p>CIF Indicator: 14.1.1 – Proportion of marine and coastal areas conserved.</p> <p>GIF Target: 14.5 – By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.</p>	

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<p>Protect, manage, and restore marine and coastal areas.</p>	<p>Establish new MPAs and OECMs.</p> <p>Program: Marine Planning and Conservation</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of new <i>Oceans Act</i> MPAs established.</p> <p>Starting point: 14 <i>Oceans Act</i> MPAs as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 15 additional <i>Oceans Act</i> MPAs by December 31, 2025.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: MPAs and OECMs are measures that contribute to biodiversity conservation by prohibiting, or otherwise managing, human activities. MPAs and OECMs both contribute to marine conservation targets.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2023, Canada has established 14 MPAs under the <i>Oceans Act</i>, and 60 OECMs. These areas contribute to conserving 14.66% of Canada’s marine and coastal areas.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by creating new MPAs and OECMs to achieve this target. Through this work, Canada’s network of protected areas is expanded and strengthened.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by safeguarding marine biodiversity, protecting critical habitats, and preserving ecosystem services. By designating new MPAs and OECMs, Canada demonstrates its commitment to marine conservation and sustainable resource management.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 2 new <i>Oceans Act</i> MPAs were established.</p> <p>Notes: The Tang.ḡwan – ḡačxwiqak – Tsigis (ThT) MPA was designated on June 19, 2024, and the Tuvaijuittuq MPA was designated by a second Ministerial Order on July 24, 2024.</p>

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		<p>Performance indicator: # of new marine OECMs recognized.</p> <p>Starting point: 60 marine OECMs as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 1 additional marine OECM by December 31, 2025.</p>	<p>These protected areas support the conservation of sensitive species and habitats, promote the recovery of ecosystems, and contribute to the resilience of marine ecosystems in the face of various threats such as overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. CIF Target: 14.1.1 – Conserve 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025, working towards 30% by 2030. CIF Indicator: 14.1.1 – Proportion of marine and coastal areas conserved. GIF Target: 14.5 – By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 3 new marine OECMs were recognized.</p> <p>Notes: Three new OECMs were recognized on March 11, 2025: Banks marine refuge; ᑕᗔᗔ ᑕᗔᗔᗔᗔ (Masset Inlet) marine refuge; and, ᑕᗔᗔᗔ ᑕᗔᗔᗔᗔ (Skidegate Inlet) marine refuge.</p>
	Effectively manage existing MPAs to ensure they achieve their conservation objectives.	<p>Performance indicator: % of MPAs that are effectively managed.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Effectively managing MPAs helps to conserve and protect marine species and</p>	<p>Indicator result: N/A</p>

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	<p>Program: Marine Planning and Conservation</p>	<p>Starting point: Data are not available as the framework for measuring effective management of existing MPAs is currently under development. It is expected to be developed in fiscal year 2024- 25.</p> <p>Target: 100% by December 31, 2025.</p>	<p>aquatic ecosystems while supporting sustainable development and benefiting coastal communities. Effective management can enhance species and ecosystem resilience, support climate change adaptation, and preserve cultural heritage. MPAs also promote public awareness and understanding of Canada’s marine heritage through recreation, tourism, and education activities.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target through ongoing monitoring, adaptive management practices, and community engagement, which are crucial for assessing ecosystem health, adjusting strategies based on new information, and incorporating local perspectives. Site specific reports that will describe management efforts in MPAs will be developed to demonstrate how MPAs are being managed and a national report will be published every five years (first iteration released in 2021) on national management. Through this work, Canada’s estuarine, marine, and coastal ecosystems and marine natural heritage are conserved and effectively managed.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14:</p>	<p>Notes: Data are not available as the framework for measuring effective management of existing conserved marine areas is currently under development, expected in 2026.</p> <p>Until a framework is established, these sites are actively managed according to the established conservation objectives and responsibilities shared with partners.</p>

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			<p>This action contributes to SDG 14 as effective management of these protected areas is crucial to maintaining marine biodiversity within their boundaries. Effective management strategies require partnerships with Indigenous governments and communities, scientific monitoring, and enforcement and compliance efforts that help to prevent overexploitation, habitat degradation, and other threats to biodiversity.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. CIF Target: 14.1.1 – Conserve 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025, working towards 30% by 2030. CIF Indicator: 14.1.1 – Proportion of marine and coastal areas conserved. GIF Target: 14.5 – By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.</p>	
	<p>Develop first generation marine spatial plans (or marine spatial planning frameworks) to enable improved decision making on ocean use.</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of conservation and/or management plans or frameworks developed.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Marine spatial planning is a process for managing ocean spaces to achieve ecological, economic, cultural and social</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 4 first generation marine spatial plans have been developed.</p>

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	<p>Program: Marine Planning and Conservation</p>	<p>Starting point: 0 as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 4 first generation marine spatial plans or frameworks by March 31, 2024.</p> <p>Note: First-generation marine spatial plans and first-generation marine spatial planning frameworks support common objectives (i.e., showcasing the progress made in relation to marine spatial planning processes in the different planning areas). While the terms are essentially synonymous the distinction in terminology is important for marine spatial planning partner relationships. Regulators and users are involved in the process of decisions and use information in development of plans.</p>	<p>objectives. DFO advances marine spatial planning in Canada in collaboration with other federal departments, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments as well as relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target as marine spatial plans contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem services, and the sustainable utilization of marine resources. Through this work, ocean regulators and users use information relating to the conservation and management of the marine environment to make decisions in a transparent manner.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by providing a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating marine space and resources in a sustainable manner. By integrating ecological, social, and economic considerations, marine spatial plans support a variety of uses of marine areas, minimizing conflicts between different sectors and ensuring the protection of sensitive habitats and species. These processes facilitate the identification of suitable locations for</p>	<p>Notes: First-generation marine spatial plans, or planning frameworks, are publicly available on the Department's website (Southern BC; Pacific North Coast; Newfoundland and Labrador Shelves; and, Scotian Shelf-Bay of Fundy).</p>

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			<p>various activities, such as fishing, aquaculture, shipping, renewable energy development, while also identifying areas where conservation efforts should be advanced. By promoting an ecosystem-based approach, marine spatial plans contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, the maintenance of ecosystem services, and the sustainable utilization of marine resources.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.2 – By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</p>	
	<p>Work with Indigenous Peoples, provinces and territories, industry, and local communities to support the design of MPAs and OECMs.</p> <p>Program: Marine Planning and Conservation</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of advisory committees established to support the design of a proposed MPA.</p> <p>Starting point: 3 as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target:</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: DFO collaborates with provincial and territorial governments; Indigenous governments and communities; industry and other maritime economy stakeholders; and, environmental groups while working towards the establishment</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 9 advisory committees had been established to support the design of a proposed MPA.</p>

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		13 additional advisory committees established by December 31, 2025.	<p>and ongoing management and monitoring of MPAs and OECMs.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by working with industry, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and external parties to better support the design of MPAs and OECMs. Through this work, industry, local communities, and external parties support the design of MPAs and OECMs.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by ensuring that the design of MPAs and OECMs are inclusive, culturally sensitive, and aligned with local and traditional knowledge and practices. By engaging domestic and Indigenous partners, their expertise and Indigenous Knowledge can be leveraged to enhance the effectiveness of MPAs and OECMs. Their involvement strengthens the connection between communities and Canada's protected areas.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks.</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>GIF Target: 14.2 – By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</p>	
	<p>Develop a national network of trained responders to strengthen marine pollution response.</p> <p>Program: Marine Environmental and Hazards Response</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of coastal marine response teams (CMRT) trained, equipped, and ready to respond to marine pollution incidents.</p> <p>Starting point: 1 as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 19 by March 31, 2027.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: In November 2022, Canada announced over \$1.2 billion for the next phase of the Oceans Protection Plan. This includes establishing a national network of trained emergency responders that includes multiple levels of government, Indigenous Peoples, and coastal communities to strengthen marine emergency response.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by ensuring responders are better prepared to respond to marine pollution, resulting in increased protection for marine and coastal areas. Through this work, the federal government and rural and coastal communities have improved capacity to respond to marine incidents.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by enhancing the Department's preparedness and response capabilities in addressing</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 1 CMRT has been trained, equipped, and is ready to respond to marine pollution incidents.</p> <p>Notes: The CMRT project is in the early stages of implementation. The focus is to prepare to engage with communities in order to start co-developing the program elements. Currently, 22 additional CMRTs across Canada are training, building capacity and contributing to the overall CMRT Framework development.</p>

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			<p>maritime pollution. By training responders, we can effectively and efficiently manage marine accidents, oil spills, vessel collisions, and other incidents that pose risks to marine ecosystems and human safety. This ensures a coordinated and swift response to mitigate the impacts of emergencies, minimize environmental damage, and protect marine biodiversity.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.</p>	
	<p>Expand the number of risk assessments conducted for wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels</p> <p>Program: Marine Environmental and Hazards Response</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of risk assessments conducted on wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels.</p> <p>Starting point: 2,733 risk assessments were conducted on wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2023, there are 1,490 vessels in the Department's national</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: This departmental action supports the FSDS target by identifying and conducting risk assessments on wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels, in order to prioritize remediation operations for hazardous vessels and wrecks. Addressing these vessels helps to mitigate the impacts they pose to the marine environment, its species and ecosystems.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14:</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 3,469 risk assessments have been conducted by the CCG on wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels.</p> <p>Notes: As of March 31, 2025, there are 1,358 vessels in the Government of Canada's National Inventory of wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels.</p>

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		<p>inventory of wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels.</p> <p>Target: 1,490 vessels remain in the national inventory and more are reported daily. The goal is to continue to conduct risk assessments on all vessels currently in the national inventory by March 31, 2027.</p>	<p>This action contributes to SDG 14 by minimizing the impact of hazardous vessels on the marine environment which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of Canada's oceans, seas and marine resources.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.</p>	
	<p>Test and implement new technologies to monitor hazardous vessels in Canadian waters.</p> <p>Program: Marine Environmental and Hazards Response</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of vessels in the national inventory of wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels equipped with BRNKL remote monitoring units.</p> <p>Starting point: 0 as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target:</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: This departmental action supports the FSDS target by ensuring that hazardous vessels in Canadian waters are more closely monitored through the use of BRNKL Rapid Deploy units. The device offers the Canadian Coast Guard near real-time status updates and alerts, allowing for faster deployment of marine environmental and hazard response teams to high-priority areas. Through a</p>	<p>Indicator result: This was a finite testing period which concluded on March 31, 2024. BRNKL units were equipped on vessels based on operational requirements.</p> <p>Notes: As of March 31, 2025, the BRNKL units had transitioned from the testing period to CCG environmental response equipment. Usage of the units varied</p>

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		<p>39 vessels in the national inventory of wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels are equipped with BRNKL remote monitoring units, by March 31, 2024.</p>	<p>partnership with Innovative Solutions Canada, 39 of these remote monitoring devices are planned to be installed on hazardous vessels across the country.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by enhancing the Department's ability to monitor wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels and ensure they do not negatively impact the marine environment. This helps with conservation and sustainable use of Canada's oceans, seas and marine resources.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.</p>	<p>throughout 2024-2025 based on operational requirements.</p>

Target theme: Ocean Sustainability

Target: By 2026, at least 55% of Canada’s key fish stocks are in the Cautious and Healthy zone (Minister of Fisheries)

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Build knowledge to support sustainable fisheries.</p>	<p>Conduct scientific research and monitoring activities for fisheries.</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Science</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of scheduled fisheries science advisory processes that were completed.</p> <p>Starting point: 82% in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Target: 90% annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Through scientific research, data is collected on fish stocks, their habitats, and the impacts of fishing practices. This knowledge helps inform evidence-based fisheries management strategies, such as setting catch limits, implementing conservation measures, and establishing protected areas.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by developing science advice on fisheries resources, their productivity, and factors affecting them to support sustainable fisheries management. Through this work, scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by supporting scientific research to better understand Canada’s fisheries, including their population dynamic and, migration patterns. This knowledge is crucial for</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 100% of scheduled fisheries science advisory processes were completed.</p> <p>Notes: 78 science advisory processes on the subject of Fisheries Science were scheduled and completed in 2024-2025.</p>

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			<p>implementing effective fisheries management strategies, setting sustainable catch limits, and preventing overfishing. Monitoring activities, such as data collection, stock assessments, and bycatch monitoring, provide valuable information for making informed decisions and adjusting fishing practices accordingly.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. CIF Indicator: 14.2.1 – By 2023, major fish and invertebrate stocks are managed and harvested at levels considered to be sustainable, from a baseline of 96% in 2016. GIF Target: 14.4 – By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Implement policies for sustainable fisheries.</p>	<p>Support sustainable, long-term fisheries through the continued implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Framework policies.</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of key fish stocks that have limit reference points and harvest control rules.</p> <p>Starting point: 44% as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: Equal to or greater than 50%, annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Framework policies provides the basis for ensuring that Canadian fisheries support conservation and sustainable use of fish resources. One of those policies, the Precautionary Approach Policy, requires DFO to develop and implement limit reference points and harvest control rules for key fish stocks to help ensure harvests of these stocks are within limits and maintain the stocks at healthy levels. The Sustainable Fisheries Framework provides the basis for ensuring that Canadian fisheries support conservation and sustainable use of resources, including through creating limit reference points and harvest control rules.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by ensuring that all key fish and invertebrate stocks are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and taking into account ecosystem factors. Through this work, Canadian fisheries are sustainably managed.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by providing a comprehensive approach to fisheries management, encompassing</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 45% of key fish stocks have limit reference points and harvest control rules.</p> <p>Notes: Between 2015 and 2024, 40 stocks were added to the Sustainability Survey for Fisheries, but the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and Limit Reference Points (LRPs) has not kept pace. The 2023 survey showed a net gain of two stocks with both an LRP and an HCR, indicating modest progress over the previous year.</p> <p>Data is from the 2023 survey (conducted in 2024), which included 199 stocks. It is carried out annually in spring/summer, and published by DFO in December or January, with data subject to revision until release.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Through the Sustainable Fisheries Framework's policies, we support science-based management measures, such as catch limits and fishing gear restrictions. This helps to prevent overfishing, and ensures the preservation of fish stocks and marine biodiversity.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. CIF Target: 14.2.1 – By 2023, major fish and invertebrate stocks are managed and harvested at levels considered to be sustainable, from a baseline of 96% in 2016. CIF Indicator: 14.2.1 – Proportion of fish stocks that are sustainably harvested. GIF Target: 14.4 – By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
	<p>Prescribe in regulation major fish stocks, thus making them subject to the Fish Stocks provisions (ss. 6.1-6.3) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i>.</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of major fish stocks prescribed in Schedule IX of the Fishery (General) Regulations.</p> <p>Starting point: 30 as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: Greater than 90 by December 31, 2025.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: The Fish Stocks provisions (ss. 6.1-6.3) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> impose binding obligations on the Minister of Fisheries to: (i) implement measures to maintain major fish stocks at levels necessary to promote sustainability; and (ii) develop and implement rebuilding plans to rebuild stocks that have become depleted. Moreover, the Fish Stocks provisions require that the Minister of Fisheries take into account the environmental conditions affecting the stock. These provisions only apply to stocks prescribed in regulation. This action contributes to the FSDS target by ensuring that the objectives of Department's 2009 Precautionary Approach Policy are elevated to a legislative requirement for DFO's major fish stocks.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by providing a binding obligation to manage prescribed fish stocks sustainably, and to implement plans to rebuild prescribed stocks when they become depleted. These obligations will be met using science-based management measures, such as catch limits and fishing gear restrictions. This helps to prevent overfishing, and</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 30 major fish stocks are prescribed in Schedule IX of the <i>Fishery (General) Regulations</i>.</p> <p>Notes: The Department is on track to meet this target by December 31, 2025. DFO is in the process of finalizing a second regulatory amendment to list over 60 more stocks in Schedule IX of the <i>Fishery (General) Regulations</i>.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>ensures the preservation and restoration of fish stocks and marine biodiversity.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. CIF Target: 14.2.1 – By 2023, major fish and invertebrate stocks are managed and harvested at levels considered to be sustain. CIF Indicator: 14.2.1 – Proportion of fish stocks that are sustainably harvested. GIF Target: 14.4 – By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics able, from a baseline of 96% in 2016.</p>	

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “**Conserve and protect Canada’s oceans**” but not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Reduce marine litter and support the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste.</p>	<p>Prevent and reduce marine pollution from Ghost Gear.</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: Amount (in tonnes) of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear removed from areas affected by Hurricane Fiona.</p> <p>Starting point: New action in response to Hurricane Fiona.</p> <p>Target: 100 tonnes of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear is removed from areas affected by Hurricane Fiona by March 31, 2024.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: The Ghost Gear Fund provides financial support to assist Indigenous groups, fish harvesters, and the aquaculture industry to take concrete actions to support ghost gear prevention, retrieval and responsible disposal.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by removing ghost gear, and lessening its impacts on the surrounding marine environment. Through this work, abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear is removed from Canadian waters.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 as marine litter, particularly fishing gear such as nets and lines, poses significant threats to marine ecosystems, wildlife, and habitats. By implementing effective management strategies and initiatives, such as improved waste management systems, recycling programs, and responsible fishing practices, we can mitigate some of the impacts of marine litter. This includes promoting proper disposal and recycling of fishing gear, encouraging the use of biodegradable materials, and supporting the</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 724 tonnes of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear have been removed from areas affected by Hurricane Fiona.</p> <p>Notes: Supported by funding through the Hurricane Fiona Recovery Fund, between November 2022 and March 31, 2024, 724 tonnes of gear (or 23,378 units) and 463 km of rope were removed from areas affected by Hurricane Fiona.</p>

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			<p>development of innovative solutions for gear retrieval and prevention of lost gear. Additionally, raising awareness among fishing communities, coastal residents, and the general public about the importance of reducing marine litter and its negative consequences can drive behavior change and foster a culture of responsible waste management.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.</p>	
	<p>Manage Canada's commercial fisheries to reduce the risk of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG).</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of wild capture commercial fisheries whose licences are revised for ALDFG ("ghost gear") best practices based on gear type.</p> <p>Starting point: 0% of wild capture commercial licences had been revised as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 20% by March 31, 2026</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Effective management of commercial fisheries is a crucial step in minimizing the risk of ghost gear, which poses significant threats to marine ecosystems. By implementing strategies such as standardized gear marking, responsible deployment and retrieval practices, and advanced monitoring techniques, fisheries can substantially reduce the occurrence of abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing equipment.</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 8% of wild capture commercial fisheries had licences revised for ALDFG ("ghost gear") best practices based on gear type.</p> <p>Notes: Ghost Gear Program officers continue to review best practices for commercial fixed gear fisheries. Gulf, Maritimes, Newfoundland and Quebec snow crab fishery licences and supported documents</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by minimizing the unintended consequences of ghost gear on aquatic ecosystems, safeguarding marine biodiversity and supporting the livelihoods of fish harvesters and coastal communities that depend on healthy oceans. Through this work, Canada's commercial fisheries are managed such that the risk of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is reduced.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 as measures such as gear marking, responsible deployment and retrieval practices, and enhanced monitoring help to reduce marine litter and prevent the environmental impacts of plastic waste. This approach promotes responsible patterns of production and consumption by reducing waste generated from fishing activities and ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.</p>	<p>have been reviewed for best practices and draft reports have been completed.</p> <p>The snow crab pots fishery represents 8% of fixed-gear wild capture commercial fisheries whose licences will be revised once implemented. Currently, a review is being completed on the Lobster fishery.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
	<p>Improve the collection and quality of lost and retrieved fishing gear data.</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of loss reports reported by commercial harvesters through the Fishing Gear Reporting System (FGRS).</p> <p>Starting point: 15% as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 35% by March 31, 2027.</p> <p>Note: Loss reports are reported to the Department by fish harvesters either via a PDF submitted by e-mail or through the FGRS system. The percentage is calculated based on submitted reports.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDDS: The FGRS is an online reporting system which makes it easier for commercial harvesters to report lost fishing gear. It will help DFO to identify hotspots for gear loss and inform areas to target for gear retrieval and find solutions to prevent future gear loss.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDDS goal as accurate and comprehensive data (e.g., types of gear, specific locations) enables informed decision-making, policy development, and targeted interventions to address the issue of ghost gear effectively. Through this work, collection and quality of lost and retrieved fishing gear data are improved.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by enhancing our understanding of the scale and implications of ghost gear in aquatic ecosystems, supporting the reduction of marine pollution, protection of biodiversity, and restoration of aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks GIF Target: 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 22% of loss reports were reported through the FGRS.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
	<p>Support new approaches in commercial fisheries to reduce or mitigate the impacts of ghost gear.</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of commercial fisheries in which 1) in-season ghost gear retrieval are piloted; and, 2) alternatives to plastic gear tags are piloted.</p> <p>Starting point: 1) 2 in-season ghost gear retrievals are being piloted; and, 2) 0 alternatives to plastic gear tags are being piloted as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 1) 3 commercial fisheries pilot in-season ghost gear retrieval; and, 2) 3 commercial fisheries pilot alternatives to plastic gear tags by March 31, 2025.</p>	<p>activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</p> <p>Contribution to the FSDS: Piloting in-season ghost gear retrieval and exploring alternatives to plastic gear tags is a proactive approach to directly reduce plastic waste in marine environments.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal as successful pilot programs demonstrate the potential of timely gear retrieval to prevent plastic fragmentation, while exploring alternative gear materials showcases the viability of reducing plastic content in fishing equipment. Through this work, Canada pilots new approaches in commercial fisheries to reduce or mitigate impacts of ghost gear.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by reducing marine litter and minimizing the adverse impacts of plastic waste on marine environments. By encouraging the implementation of innovative gear designs and materials that reduce plastic components and mitigate gear loss, this action contributes to the reduction of plastic pollution in oceans.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks.</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 2 commercial fisheries piloted in-season ghost gear retrieval.</p> <p>As of March 31, 2025, 1 commercial fisheries piloted alternatives to plastic gear tags.</p> <p>Notes: Two commercial fisheries are partaking in a pilot project that uses mobile gear for incidental ALDFG retrieval authorized in NAFO Divisions 0A/0B for offshore Greenland Halibut and in Shrimp Management Areas 0, 1, DSE, DSW, NUE, NKE, 4, 5, and 6 for northern shrimp harvesters (with the exclusion of Nunavut/ Nunavik West). A third in-season pilot is being explored.</p> <p>An alternative tag (steel tags) pilot was completed. Trials took place in the Pacific and Gulf regions aquaculture industries.</p>

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			GIF Target: 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.	
Support sustainable aquaculture	<p>Conduct targeted regulatory research to improve environmental decision-making and the sustainability of the aquaculture industry</p> <p>Program: Aquaculture Science</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of sustainable aquaculture research projects that provide information or advice to policy makers and decision makers.</p> <p>Starting point: 27 in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Target: 2 annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: The objective of the Aquaculture Science Program is to provide a strong science base to underpin regulatory, policy, and program decision-making on aquaculture.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by developing science advice to increase the stability and soundness of aquaculture-related decisions. Through this work, scientific information on fisheries resources is available to inform management decisions related to aquaculture.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by supporting research that allows policymakers to gain valuable insights into the environmental impacts of aquaculture practices and identify effective mitigation measures. This research helps in developing evidence-based regulations and guidelines that promote sustainable aquaculture practices, minimize pollution, and protect aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions:</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 5 sustainable aquaculture research projects provided information or advice to policy makers and decision makers.</p> <p>Notes: The calculation for this indicator has been updated to report only on projects completed within a given fiscal year, rather than including data from every year of multi-year projects. This change ensures consistency with reporting under the Departmental Results Framework.</p>

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			<p>CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.a – Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.</p>	
<p>Support the recovery and protection of Canada’s endangered whales.</p>	<p>Continue to implement management measures in support of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (SARA) Recovery Strategy and Action Plan related to Southern Resident killer whale (SRKW), Northern Atlantic right whales (NARW) and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga (SLEB).</p> <p>Program: Fisheries Management</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of identified management measures implemented to address actions under the SARA Recovery Strategies for SRKW, NARW and SLEB.</p> <p>Starting point: 100% as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 100% annually.</p> <p>Note: Department to continue to adapt and implement new measures as identified based on best available information.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Budget 2023 announced \$151.9 million over three years to continue to protect endangered whales, including the SRKW, NARW and SLEB, and their habitats. Management measures for SRKW, NARW and SLEB include: ensuring prey availability by expanding area-based and fishing closures; regulating acoustic and physical disturbances from vessels; establishing interim sanctuary zones; implementing adaptive fishing closures to reduce the risk of entanglement; implementing innovative “whalesafe” gear requirements to mitigate entanglement risk; supporting marine mammal response to endangered whales in distress, including disentanglement and necropsy; and, implementing further controls to reduce the threat of contaminants.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 100% of identified management measures were implemented to address actions under the SARA Recovery Strategies for SRKW, NARW and SLEB.</p> <p>Notes: The Department continues to implement informed management measures to reduce the impact of human activities on marine mammals, including entanglements, physical and acoustic disturbance from vessels and supporting prey availability. Additional investments have been made to increase capacity to respond to marine mammal incidents,</p>

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			<p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by taking action to help protect Canada's endangered whale populations. Through this work, management measures are in place in support of the SARA Recovery Strategies for SRKW, NARW and SLEB.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by addressing critical threats to Canada's endangered whales, including fishing gear entanglement, habitat degradation, noise pollution, vessel strikes, and declining prey availability. By implementing management measures, such as establishing fishing closures, implementing vessel speed restrictions, reducing underwater noise, and enhancing prey availability, we can improve the conservation status of these species and their habitats. These measures not only directly benefit the targeted species but also contribute to the overall health and resilience of aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.2 – By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their</p>	<p>such as entanglements and mortalities, through the marine mammal response program.</p> <p>Additionally, to ensure long-term protection for SRKW, the Department is in the process of increasing approach distances through amendments to the <i>Marine Mammal Regulations</i>. As part of the consultation plan for these amendments, a survey was launched in fall of 2024, and a What We Heard Report was published in 2025.</p> <p>Informed by the best available science and monitoring programming, the Department continues to implement dynamic fishery closures to reduce the threat of entanglement on NARWs, as well as piloting whalesafe gear modifications to further reduce the occurrence and severity of entanglements. In 2025, DFO will publish Canada's Whalesafe Gear Strategy which will guide the identification and implementation of whalesafe gear measures nationally.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.	
Support the recovery and protection of Canada’s marine ecosystem and wildlife.	<p>Support aquatic restoration projects in coastal and upstream inland communities that protect and restore Canada’s coastal areas.</p> <p>Program: Fish and Fish Habitat Protection</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of square meters of aquatic habitat in marine and coastal areas of Canada that have been restored.</p> <p>Starting point: New indicator, starting point to be established by March 31, 2024.</p> <p>Target: 700,000,000 square meters by March 31, 2027.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: The Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund supports projects that conserve and restore marine ecosystems. Projects will cover all of Canada’s coasts and further inland to create opportunities for freshwater and oceans sectors, and coastal and upstream inland communities.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by restoring aquatic ecosystems and mitigating human impacts on Canadian coastal and marine environments. Through this work, marine ecosystems are restored and proactive measures are in place for the ongoing protection against the impacts of marine shipping.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 14: This action contributes to SDG 14 by supporting restoration initiatives that play a crucial role in enhancing the health and resilience of aquatic ecosystems. These projects also contribute to the protection of biodiversity, including fish stocks and migratory species, while supporting the livelihoods of rural and coastal communities.</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 11,800,000 square meters of aquatic habitat in marine and coastal areas of Canada have been restored.</p> <p>Notes: The starting point for this indicator is 0 square meters, as of March 31, 2022.</p> <p>Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund projects collectively aim to restore and enhance marine ecosystems by rehabilitating degraded freshwater and marine habitats, particularly those critical to endangered species such as salmon populations. Through actions like watershed restoration, kelp forest rehabilitation, and estuary cleanup, they improve biodiversity, water quality, and habitat connectivity. These efforts also support climate regulation, cultural values, and food security, while fostering community involvement and resilience through nature-based solutions and adaptive management.</p>

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			<p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 14 – Canada protects and conserves marine areas and sustainably manages ocean fish stocks. GIF Target: 14.2 – By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</p>	

Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 14 – Life Below Water

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Finalize a Canadian Ghost Gear Action Plan by 2027 to reduce threats to vulnerable fish stocks, marine mammals and vital ecosystems.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14.1: Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department advanced the Canadian Ghost Gear Action Plan by holding engagement sessions across Canada with Indigenous and non-Indigenous harvesters, industry, harbour authorities, academics, partners, stakeholders and NGOs to discuss the long-term ghost gear strategy. An online survey on gear management was also conducted in November 2024, and in February 2025 Canada hosted the 2nd International Fishing Gear Innovation Summit in Moncton, New Brunswick, bringing together global experts including Indigenous and non-Indigenous harvesters to address fishing gear loss and whale interactions through innovative solutions that support sustainable and prosperous fisheries and communities.</p> <p>Using feedback from engagement sessions, the survey and the Summit, DFO personnel continue to work developing the Ghost Gear Action Plan and associated regulations and tools to address long term prevention and mitigation of ALDFG.</p>
<p>Continue dedicated whale management, science and technology programming through the renewal of the Whales Initiative to support the recovery of the endangered North Atlantic right whale, Southern resident killer whale and St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued to support the recovery of the NARW, SRKW and SLEB through renewed science and technology investments and management interventions to ensure evidence-based decision-making. This includes the implementation and enforcement of informed management measures that aim to reduce gear entanglements, physical and acoustic disturbance, and support improved prey availability, building capacity to respond to marine mammal incidents through DFO’s marine mammal response program and targeted research programs to address existing knowledge gaps to better inform species recovery.</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Advance nature protection by supporting Indigenous-led partnerships in conservation including Project Finance for Permanence initiatives through multi-party agreements to achieve long-term sustainable conservation.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14.2: Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department signed two Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) agreements, the Great Bear Sea PFP and the SINAA PFP, in June 2024 and February 2025, respectively. These agreements support Indigenous-led conservation and are anticipated to result in the establishment of new marine protected and conserved areas in the Great Bear Sea area in British Columbia, and in the Qikiqtani region of Nunavut.</p>
<p>Work in close collaboration with provincial and territorial authorities, Indigenous partners, fishing and stewardship organizations and implicated communities to implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued to implement the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI) through a series of collaborative salmon actions, processes, and policy modernization in partnership with provincial and territorial authorities, Indigenous partners, fishing and stewardship organizations and implicated communities.</p> <p>Regulatory improvements underway include proposed amendments to the <i>Coastal Fisheries Protection Act</i>, exploration of <i>Pacific Fish Traceability Regulations</i>, and a review of commercial salmon licence conditions. These efforts aim to enhance enforcement, reduce illegal activity, and strengthen compliance to support salmon conservation. Recent efforts include developing share-based management policies, reviewing recreational licensing under the <i>Service Fees Act</i>, and designing new licence categories such as guide licences.</p> <p>Further, DFO has been working closely with over 40 First Nations and Indigenous fisheries organizations on developing Indigenous Harvest Transformation partnership projects to increase sustainable fishing opportunities while reducing impacts on vulnerable salmon stocks. For example, Indigenous-led projects have advanced terminal fishing methods such as weirs, traps, and reef nets to enable more selective harvest. Indefinite closures in key areas further protect vulnerable stocks by reducing incidental impacts and supporting conservation goals.</p>
<p>Implement new protection standards for federal marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, including marine refuges, to help to protect and restore marine biodiversity.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued work to implement the MPA and OECM Protection Standards which were announced in 2019, and the MPA Protection Standard was further clarified in 2023.</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>The MPA Protection Standard applies to most federal MPAs established after April 2019. The Protection Standard helps safeguard MPAs from the potentially harmful effects of some industrial activities while providing greater consistency and clarity for industry on activities subject to the standard. The Tang.gwan – ḥačxwīqak – Tsigis (ThT) MPA, established in June 2024, implemented the MPA Protection Standard by prohibiting activities in scope of the standard (among other activities), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and gas exploration, development and production; • Mineral exploration and exploitation; • Disposal of waste and other matter, dumping of fill, and deposit of deleterious drugs and pesticides; and, • Fishing via bottom-trawl gear. <p>Under the OECM Protection Standard, all existing or foreseeable activities in an OECM are assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the risks they pose to the identified biodiversity conservation benefits (BCBs) are effectively avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>Three new OECMs were recognized in 2025: Banks marine refuge, Ḡaw Káahlii (Masset Inlet) marine refuge, and Ḥaana Kaahlii (Skidegate Inlet) marine refuge, all of which implement the OECM Protection Standard, helping to ensure the OECMs provide long-term biodiversity conservation benefits.</p>
<p>Strengthen domestic and international ocean science partnerships to advance innovative, solution-based science to support policy and decision-making, and to ensure a strong Canadian contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030).</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14a: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries. 	<p>In 2024-2025, Canada, led by DFO, continued to be an active supporter of the UN Ocean Decade. Through this platform, DFO helped to advance the 2030 Agenda SDGs through science activities with domestic and international partners. To date, more than 100 Canadian-led 'Ocean Decade Actions' (i.e., science projects) have been formally endorsed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (the international focal point for the Ocean Decade) that contribute to SDG 14 (Life Under Water).</p> <p>In 2024-2025, DFO continued to foster strong Canadian engagement in the Decade and supported equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives which also helped advance the work related to SDG 5 (Gender Equality). In October 2024, Canada hosted the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Forum which received formal Ocean Decade endorsement. DFO worked with Ingenium, Canada’s Science and Innovation Museum, to develop and launch nine new posters that showcase women and gender-diverse individuals in ocean sciences at the Forum where a commitment was made to further advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.</p>
<p>Provide financial support through Canada’s fisheries funds and provide commercial fish harvesters and other users with safe and accessible Small Craft Harbours.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14b: Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets. 	<p>Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF) In 2024-2025, the Department provided \$43.4 million in financial support through the AFF and committed over \$26.3 million in new contributions to 96 environmentally and economically sustainable projects. One notable AFF project with promising results in 2024-2025 was led by the Verschuren Centre, located in Sydney, Nova Scotia. This project has been working proactively to identify mitigation strategies to address Multinucleated Sphere Unknown (MSX) and its impacts on the oyster industry in Atlantic Canada since its approval in 2021-2022. Specifically, in 2024-2025, this project constructed a mobile land-based hatchery used to produce oyster larvae and to refine methods of spawning and decontamination to enable oysters of suitable size to be introduced to mobile/floating nurseries for its oyster leaseholders, as it has been demonstrated that oysters raised closer to the water’s surface survive MSX exposure better than those cultured on the seabed.</p> <p>Quebec Fisheries Fund (QFF): In 2024-2025, the QFF financed a third-party redistributor project enabling fishing companies wishing to take part in the redfish fishery to acquire the equipment needed to fish redfish, or to make modifications to existing boats to increase fishing efficiency or fish quality. The QFF has also financed several seafood processing projects, one of which involved the acquisition of processing equipment to enable the company to innovate by marketing seafood sausages on the Quebec, Ontario and Maritime markets. These projects will contribute to a diversified Canadian economy offering high-quality products.</p> <p>The QFF also provided financial support for a number of innovative projects aimed at avoiding or reducing the impact of whale entanglements</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>with fishing gear, including the development of a device to break the rope of a snow crab fishing trap when a marine mammal entangles in it. The adoption of this innovative system will contribute to compliance with the <i>Marine Mammals Protection Act</i> by reducing the impact of snow crab fishing on marine mammals.</p> <p>British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIF): Funded through phase 2 of the BCSRIF program, the A-Tlegay Fisheries Society is undertaking assessment, design, construction, and operation of a tidal waters selective fishery salmon trap close to their traditional fishing sites in the Campbell-Quinsam rivers estuary on Vancouver Island.</p> <p>Historically, heart and chevron shaped traps were used extensively by First Nation communities along the estuary to capture adult salmon. Recent revitalization of fish traps as a terminal fishery in other areas along the coast has been successful in catching and selectively harvesting hatchery marked salmon species while releasing wild (unmarked) salmon and steelhead. This innovative initiative is developing First Nations' capacity for sustainable salmon stewardship through the development of selective harvest fishing methods in traditional fishing areas, while preserving wild stocks of conservation concern.</p> <p>Small Craft Harbours: In 2024-2025, the Department worked to provide commercial fish harvesters and other users with safe and accessible Small Craft Harbours by investing in the repair, renewal, and replacement of critical harbour infrastructure. This included continued administration of the Hurricane Fiona Recovery Fund to support the restoration of facilities damaged by the 2022 storm. During the fiscal year, two additional Hurricane Fiona projects were completed, adding to the 74 projects finalized in 2023-2024.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Department successfully completed 11 projects in support of Budget 2021 Small Craft Harbours initiatives as well as an additional 24 projects under Budget 2024, contributing to the long-term resilience and functionality of key harbour assets.</p>

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Support global and regional efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing as well as to reduce the number of overfished stocks internationally, working through regional fisheries management organizations and similar arrangements.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 14c: Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want". 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued to represent Canada at seven Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), where it advocated for strengthened monitoring, compliance, and enforcement measures to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. For example, in March 2025, Canada helped usher through the adoption of a transshipment observer program at the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, which will increase the oversight of transshipments — the transfer of fish or other goods at sea — which is often used to launder illegally caught fish.</p> <p>The Department also led its second dedicated high seas vessel patrol in the North Pacific, under Operation North Pacific Guard, to detect and deter IUU fishing in the North Pacific Ocean. While at sea, fisheries officers used RFMO high seas boarding and inspection regimes to conduct boardings and found several fishing violations, including illegal shark fin harvest, evidence of fishing during a closed season, unreported catch, documented instances of marine pollution, targeted harvest of dolphins, and vessel marking violations.</p>



GOAL 15: PROTECT AND RECOVER SPECIES, CONSERVE CANADIAN BIODIVERSITY

FSDS Context:

We are committed to supporting the management and stewardship of fisheries and oceans, in part through the protection and conservation of marine biodiversity. This is reflected in various initiatives, including: working to protect and conserve biodiversity through species at risk programs; promoting effective prevention measures and practices to minimize the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species; protecting critical habitats; and, restoring degraded areas.

The Minister of Fisheries is responsible for one FSDS target under Goal 15, which will be reported on in a future FSDS Progress Report (with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change):

- By 2026, increase the percentage of species at risk listed under federal law that exhibit population trends that are consistent with recovery strategies and management plans to 60%, from a baseline of 42% in 2019.

Target theme: Conservation of Land Fresh Water

Target: Conserve 25% of Canada's land and inland waters by 2025, working toward 30% by 2030, from 12.5% recognized as conserved as of the end of 2020, in support of the commitment to work to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 in Canada, and achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050 (Minister of Environment and Climate Change).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Support Indigenous leadership in conservation.</p>	<p>Provide support for projects that support the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk projects that are inclusive of Indigenous groups and Indigenous Knowledge.</p> <p>Program: Species at Risk</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of Indigenous groups involved as project leads or partners that participate in DFO-supported stewardship activities that support the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk.</p> <p>Starting point: 110 as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 30 through the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk by March 31, 2026; 20 through the Habitat Stewardship Program by March 31, 2026; and, 60 through the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk by March 31, 2026.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: The Government of Canada recognizes the important role that Indigenous Peoples play in wildlife conservation and the need to consider Indigenous Knowledge in the assessment of species at risk, as well as in the development and implementation of relevant protection and recovery measures. As such, DFO funds stewardship actions for species at risk through three funds: Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk, the Habitat Stewardship Program, and the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by supporting meaningful collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and organizations to support the protection and recovery of aquatic species at risk across Canada. Through this work, projects are inclusive of Indigenous groups and Indigenous Knowledge and contribute to species protection and the recovery and conservation of Canadian biodiversity.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 by supporting the implementation of stewardship activities that support the</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 153 Indigenous groups are involved as project leads or partners that participate in DFO-supported stewardship activities that support the recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk.</p> <p>The specific totals for 2024-2025 are as follows:</p> <p>76 through the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR); 26 through the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP); and, 51 through the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR).</p> <p>These include both new and previously approved multi-year funding projects.</p> <p>Notes: The CNFASAR, the HSP, and the AFSAR are three federal funding programs that focus on the protection and recovery of species at risk. These programs seek to support Indigenous organizations and communities across Canada as they continue developing the capacity to lead in the stewardship of species at risk. This can include program related investments in:</p>

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			<p>recovery and protection of aquatic species at risk and aim to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the marine and freshwater environments in Canada.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards their population and distribution objectives. GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p>	<p>training and professional/skills development; local employment through project activities; the acquisition of appropriate technical resources, equipment and capital assets; community outreach and education; and, community-led documentation and management of Indigenous Knowledge.</p>

Target theme: Species Protection and Recovery

Target: By 2026, increase the percentage of species at risk listed under federal law that exhibit population trends that are consistent with recovery strategies and management plans to 60%, from a baseline of 42% in 2019 (Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Minister of Fisheries).

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Implement, innovate and modernize the regulatory and policy framework and tools to protect species at risk, other fish and fish habitat.</p>	<p>Publish recovery and management documents on the SAR Public Registry</p> <p>Program: Species at Risk</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of aquatic species/populations at risk listed under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> for which a recovery strategy/management plan is completed.</p> <p>Starting point: 90% (126/140) as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 80% annually.</p> <p>Note: The target for this performance indicator is a benchmark that DFO strives to maintain. The actual result will fluctuate as species are added to Schedule 1 of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (which will increase the denominator).</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: Access to information regarding species at risk and their critical habitat is a foundational element of species protection and recovery. By developing and publishing recovery and management documents on the Species at Risk Public Registry in a modernized and accessible way to the Canadian public, DFO contributes to disseminating information on aquatic species at risk and their critical habitat.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by supporting Canadians’ ability to take steps to comply with the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> and, more broadly, to the FSDS goal of species protection and recovery and conservation of Canadian biodiversity. Through this work negative impacts on Canada’s oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided.</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 92% (129 / 140) of aquatic species/populations at risk listed under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> have a completed recovery strategy / management plan.</p> <p>Notes: The starting point will be amended in a future update to “89% (125/140) as of March 31, 2023” as one species is awaiting a document amendment and should not have been included.</p>

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			<p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 by communicating to all partners and the general public actions required for the recovery and management of listed aquatic species at risk to enable the implementation of recovery measures aiming to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the marine and freshwater environments in Canada.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards their population and distribution objectives. GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p>	
	For species with critical habitat identified, protect the critical habitat for the survival or recovery of species at risk by implementing regulatory tools	Performance indicator: % of listed aquatic species at risk, with critical habitat identified (either partially or completely) for which a protection order has been made.	Contribution to the FSDS: A Critical Habitat Order is a regulatory tool that triggers protections against the destruction of any part of the critical	Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 100% (59/59) of listed aquatic species at risk, with critical habitat identified (either partially or completely) had a protection order.

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	<p>Program: Species at Risk</p>	<p>Starting point: 98% (57/58) as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 100% annually.</p> <p>Note: The actual result may fluctuate as species with critical habitat identified (either partially or completely) are added to or removed from Schedule 1 of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (which will change the denominator).</p>	<p>habitat of a listed endangered or threatened species.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target as the legal protections afforded to the critical habitats of aquatic species at risk are a key element contributing to the FSDS goal of species protection and recovery and conservation of Canadian biodiversity. Through this work, partner and other key stakeholders have the information and direction to make decisions and guide behaviour for the conservation of listed aquatic species at risk and their critical habitat.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 by providing legal protections to the critical habitat of aquatic species at risk, which contributes to species protection and recovery and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss in the marine and freshwater environments in Canada.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>their population and distribution objectives.</p> <p>GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p>	
	<p>Administer and ensure compliance for development projects taking place in and around fish habitat under the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and the relevant provisions of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>.</p> <p>Program: Fish and Fish Habitat Protection</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of development projects occurring in or near water that effectively avoid, mitigate or offset impacts to fish and fish habitat.</p> <p>Starting point: 93% as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 100% annually.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program promotes effective prevention measures and practices to protect critical aquatic habitats from works, undertakings or activities that may result in harmful impacts on fish or fish habitat, specifically the death of fish by means other than by fishing, or the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. The Program undertakes monitoring activities to report on compliance with its requirements, effectiveness of its activities, and on outcomes for fish and fish habitat, and supports proponents with projects near water through advice and the issuance of authorizations.</p> <p>This departmental action contributes to the FSDS goal by ensuring that impacts to fish are minimized, and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 88.5% of development projects occurring in or near water effectively avoid, mitigate or offset impacts to fish and fish habitat.</p> <p>Notes: The program conducted a total of 1124 Compliance Monitoring activities, and 129 records indicated incidences where management of the risk of harmful impacts to fish and fish habitat were considered inadequate. In these cases, DFO provided guidance to project proponents and ensured corrective actions were undertaken to resolve the issues identified.</p>

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			<p>fish habitat is mitigated. Through this work, negative impacts on Canada's oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 by helping to maintain healthy fish populations and preserving critical habitats, which are essential for maintaining ecosystem balance and resilience. Human activities, such as construction, dredging, and land reclamation, can destroy critical habitats like spawning grounds, affecting fish breeding and migration patterns. Further, pollution from various sources, including industrial discharge, agricultural runoff, and plastic waste, can contaminate aquatic ecosystems, causing habitat degradation and harming fish health.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards their population and distribution objectives.</p>	

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.	

<p>Work with partners to enhance foundational knowledge of species, habitats and ecosystems.</p>	<p>Identify critical habitat, either partially or completely, for the survival or recovery of aquatic species at risk in recovery documents.</p> <p>Program: Species at Risk</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of listed Endangered or Threatened aquatic species, with critical habitat identified (either partially or completely), in a proposed or final Recovery Strategy or Action Plan.</p> <p>Starting point: 70% (58/83) as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 80% annually.</p> <p>Note: The actual result could fluctuate as species with critical habitat identified (either partially or completely) are added to or removed from Schedule 1 of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (which will change the denominator).</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: The identification of critical habitat contributes foundational knowledge of endangered and threatened species habitat for their protection and recovery. After critical habitat is identified it is legally protected by a Critical Habitat Order, prohibiting its destruction.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target as by identifying and protecting the critical habitat of aquatic species, DFO supports their recovery, and supports species protection and the recovery and conservation of Canadian biodiversity. Through this work, partner and other key stakeholders have the information and direction to make decisions and guide behaviour for the conservation of listed aquatic species at risk and their critical habitat.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 by enhancing foundational knowledge that is required to enable the implementation of recovery measures aiming to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the marine and freshwater environments in Canada.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards their population and distribution objectives.</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 77% (64/83) of listed Endangered or Threatened aquatic species have critical habitat identified (either partially or completely), in a proposed or final Recovery Strategy or Action Plan.</p> <p>Notes: For the 19 species that do not have critical habitat identified in either a proposed or final Recovery Strategy or Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 species have overdue proposed recovery strategies; and, - 15 species have published Recovery Strategies or Action Plans but there is insufficient information to identify critical habitat. As per the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>, these recovery documents include a Schedule of Studies to provide the information necessary to complete the identification of critical habitat.
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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
	<p>Publish an online aquatic species at risk map that lets Canadians know where aquatic species at risk and their critical habitat are located across Canada.</p> <p>Program: Species at Risk</p>	<p>Performance indicator: # of unique page views to the National Aquatic Species at Risk Map.</p> <p>Starting point: The National Aquatic Species at Risk Map received an average of 541 unique page views per week, for an overall 28,133 unique page views in fiscal year 2022-23.</p> <p>Target: A consistent number of page views, with a target of 500 per week.</p>	<p>GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p> <p>Contribution to the FSDS: Publishing information regarding species at risk and their critical habitat is a foundational element of species protection and recovery. By developing and maintaining an online aquatic species at risk map, DFO contributes to disseminating information on aquatic species at risk and their critical habitat.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target by supporting Canadians' ability to take steps to comply with the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> and, more broadly, to the FSDS goal of species protection and recovery and conservation of Canadian biodiversity. Through this work, partner and other key stakeholders have the information and direction to make decisions and guide behaviour for the conservation of listed aquatic species at risk and their critical habitat.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, the National Aquatic Species at Risk Map received an average of 881 unique page views per week, for an overall 45,815 unique page views.</p>

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			<p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 by enhancing foundational knowledge that is required to enable the implementation of recovery measures aiming to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the marine and freshwater environments in Canada.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards their population and distribution objectives. GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p>	
<p>Work with partners to implement the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada and the Framework for Aquatic Species at Risk Conservation.</p>	<p>Work with partners to implement recovery measures for aquatic species at risk.</p> <p>Program: Species at Risk</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of measures in recovery documents (Recovery Strategy, Action Plan, or Management Plan) that are underway or completed to support aquatic species at risk.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: DFO relies on close collaboration with partners across Canada to implement recovery measures that support the protection and recovery of aquatic species at risk. Measures in recovery documents are implemented by DFO as well as</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 38% of measures in recovery documents (Recovery Strategy, Action Plan, or Management Plan) are underway or completed to support aquatic species at risk.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Starting point: 20% as of March 31, 2023.</p> <p>Target: 30% by March 31, 2026.</p>	<p>partners such as Provinces and Territories, environmental non-governmental organizations, and Indigenous groups.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS target as the implementation of recovery measures, using multi-species, place-based and threat-based approaches when appropriate, supports species protection and the recovery and conservation of Canadian biodiversity. Through this work, protection and recovery action for species at risk is enhanced.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 by supporting the implementation of recovery measures aiming to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in the marine and freshwater environments in Canada.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards their population and distribution objectives.</p>	<p>Notes: This result for 2024-2025 represents a conservative estimate. Data on activities from species at risk progress reports and other sources has not yet been compiled. As tracking is brought up to date, the result is expected to rise and more accurately reflect the actual percentage.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.	

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “**Protect and recover species, conserve Canadian biodiversity**” but not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Prevent, detect, respond to, control and manage invasive alien species.	Conduct science research, monitoring and provide advice to support the Department and partners in addressing aquatic invasive species. Program: Aquatic Invasive Species	Performance indicator: % of approved requests for science advice on aquatic invasive species completed each year. Starting point: 100% in fiscal year 2022-23 (3/3). Target:	Contribution to the FSDS: This action contributes to the FSDS goal by developing science advice to inform management decisions related to aquatic invasive species. Through this work, negative impacts on Canada’s oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are minimized or avoided.	Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 33% of approved request for science advice on aquatic invasive species were completed. Notes: The complexity of some of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) processes increases the time required to collate data,

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		90% annually.	<p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: This action contributes to SDG 15 as by studying the biology, behavior, and ecological impacts of invasive species, we can better understand their pathways of introduction, assess their potential impacts on native species and habitats, and develop effective management strategies. Through monitoring programs, we can track the distribution and abundance of invasive species, detect new introductions, and evaluate the success of control measures. This knowledge enables us to make informed decisions and provide evidence-based advice to stakeholders, including other levels of government, industry, and local communities. By addressing aquatic invasive species, we protect biodiversity, maintain the integrity of ecosystems, and prevent the negative economic and environmental consequences associated with invasive species. Moreover, by collaborating with partners, sharing knowledge and expertise, and implementing coordinated management approaches, we enhance the effectiveness of invasive species control efforts and foster a collective response to this global challenge.</p>	<p>undertake analyses and convening experts in some cases, which can require more than one year to plan, coordinate and deliver. Two of the three processes approved in 2024-2025 are planned for delivery in 2025-2026.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
			<p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. GIF Target: 15.8 - By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.</p>	
<p>Uphold international commitments related to wildlife.</p>	<p>Support commitments made to halt human induced extinction of known threatened aquatic species as well as the recovery and conservation of species.</p> <p>Program: Species at Risk</p>	<p>Performance indicator: % of listed aquatic species at risk that, when reassessed (and for which trends could be determined), showed progress towards the population and distribution objectives laid out in the recovery strategies or management plans.</p> <p>Starting point: In alignment with the SARA Annual report, the % of listed aquatic species at risk that were reassessed (and for which trends could be determined) that showed progress towards population and distribution objectives laid out in the recovery strategies or management plans was 64%, as of March 31, 2022.</p> <p>Target: 60% by March 31, 2026.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: By working with partners and taking action to protect and recover aquatic species at risk, DFO is supporting the Government of Canada's international commitments related to wildlife, including those in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as they relate to management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species, as well as the recovery and conservation of species as defined under Target 4: Species Recovery.</p> <p>This action contributes to the FSDS goal by supporting the preservation of aquatic biodiversity and the restoration of aquatic ecosystems. Through this work, listed aquatic species at risk are prevented from</p>	<p>Indicator result: As of March 31, 2025, 58% of listed aquatic species at risk, when reassessed (and for which trends could be determined), showed progress towards the population and distribution objectives laid out in the recovery strategies or management plans.</p> <p>Notes: Publicly available data from the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators program are used to calculate this result.</p> <p>As the starting point noted included both terrestrial and aquatic species at risk, it will be amended in a future update to "32% as of March 31, 2023" in order to solely capture aquatic species.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
		<p>Note: The reassessed listed aquatic species for which trends could be determined represents a subset of the total number of listed aquatic species at risk that were reassessed. The calculation method for this indicator has changed from the Department's 2020-23 DSDS.</p>	<p>extirpation or extinction and are supported in their recovery.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 15: By looking at innovative ways to increase the percentage of aquatic species at risk listed under federal law that exhibit population trends that are consistent with recovery strategies and management plans, the departmental action contributes to SDG 15 objectives related to species protection and recovery and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss in the marine and freshwater environments in Canada, in alignment with international commitments.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 15 – Canada ensures all species have healthy and viable populations. CIF Indicator: 15.2.1 – Proportion of species at risk showing progress towards their population and distribution objectives. GIF Target: 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p>	<p>As noted, in order to align with Environment and Climate Change Canada and Parks Canada Agency reporting in the SARA Annual Report, species for which trends could not be determined are excluded from this calculation.</p> <p>Reporting on the progress of those species for which trends can be determined better reflects data available and is better correlated with protection measures and actions.</p>

Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 15 – Life on Land

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Support the protection and recovery of aquatic species at risk, including by providing support for stewardship actions under the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk for priority threats, species and places.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department provided over \$19 million to partners to support stewardship actions through the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk in 9 priority freshwater places and to help address two priority marine threats.</p>
<p>Develop an inclusive, collaborative approach for restoring and rebuilding wild Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department published Canada’s first-ever national strategy to ensure the future of Atlantic salmon (2024-2036), which was developed through extensive engagement with Indigenous peoples, provincial governments, and stakeholders. The vision of the Atlantic salmon strategy is to set the conditions necessary for Atlantic salmon and the Atlantic salmon community to thrive. This strategy serves as a guide for Atlantic salmon restoration, science, policy, and management actions over the next 12 years. It builds a framework for coordination between Indigenous peoples, provincial governments and stakeholders across Atlantic Canada and Quebec to support healthy, climate-resilient Atlantic salmon populations across their range.</p> <p>With its publication, the Government of Canada announced \$6.1 million in projects already underway that reinforce the early implementation of the strategy by spurring collaboration with stakeholders, partners, provincial governments, and Indigenous organizations. An additional investment of \$1 million for the 2025-2026 fiscal year was also announced in March 2025.</p>



GOAL 16: PROMOTE A FAIR AND ACCESSIBLE JUSTICE SYSTEM, ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, AND MANAGE IMPACTS

FSDS Context:

We support the sustainable governance of marine resources by implementing effective regulatory frameworks, policies, and management practices. We recognize the critical importance of effective fisheries enforcement, both within Canada and internationally, to ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources, promote compliance with regulations, and combat illegal activities. We collaborate with a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, working towards effective governance and cooperation in shared fisheries resources, and implement robust enforcement measures that deter illegal fishing, protect vulnerable species, and support responsible and sustainable fishing practices.

Implementation strategies supporting the goal

This section is for implementation strategies that support the goal “Promote a fair and accessible justice system, enforce environmental laws, and manage impacts” but not a specific FSDS target.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA’S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Implement monitoring, inspection and enforcement activities.	Promote fisheries compliance and conservation by carrying out inspections, conducting investigations when a possible violation of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> is identified, and choosing the appropriate enforcement when an alleged violation is discovered.	<p>Performance indicator: % of inspection activities that have resulted in compliance actions.</p> <p>Starting point: 60% as of March 31, 2022.</p>	<p>Contribution to the FSDS: DFO enforces the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and associated regulations. Enforcement activities are carried out by fishery officers across Canada, who conduct regular patrols on land, sea, and air.</p>	<p>Indicator result: In 2024-2025, 68% of inspection activities resulted in compliance actions.</p> <p>Notes:</p>

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	DEPARTMENTAL ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR STARTING POINT TARGET	HOW THE DEPARTMENTAL ACTION CONTRIBUTES TO THE FSDS GOAL AND TARGET AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, TO CANADA'S 2030 AGENDA NATIONAL STRATEGY AND SDGS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
	<p>Program: Conservation and Protection</p>	<p>Target: Equal to or less than 60%, annually.</p>	<p>This departmental action supports the FSDS goal by ensuring compliance with the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, which improves protections for marine and freshwater species. This work ensures that fisheries, oceans and other aquatic ecosystems are protected from unlawful exploitation and interference.</p> <p>Contribution to UN SDG 16: This action contributes to SDG 16 by supporting the crucial role of Inspections and investigations in detecting and addressing instances of non-compliance, illegal fishing activities, and other violations. By taking appropriate enforcement actions, such as warnings, fines, or prosecutions, we deter future violations and send a strong message that adherence to the <i>Fisheries Act</i> is essential for sustainable fisheries management. This approach fosters a culture of compliance, strengthens the rule of law, and ensures equitable access to fisheries resources for present and future generations.</p> <p>Relevant targets or ambitions: CIF Ambition: 16 – Canadians are safe and secure, in person and online. GIF Target: 16.3 – Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p>	<p>Results continue to be collected to form a five year baseline (2021-2022 to 2025-2026), at the conclusion of which an informed new target can be set. Results are being collected and used for information purposes during this baselining period.</p> <p>Compliance occurs when a regulated entity conforms with applicable requirements under environmental laws and regulations. Non-compliant activities detected by the Department are subject to a range of compliance actions, including warnings, fines and charges laid.</p> <p>Understanding the proportion (and type) of inspection activities that result in violations detected, or otherwise, helps the Department to track, analyze and evaluate it's the effectiveness of its various compliance promotion efforts.</p>

Initiatives advancing Canada’s implementation of SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The following initiatives demonstrate how DFO programming supports the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, supplementing the information outlined above.

PLANNED INITIATIVES	ASSOCIATED DOMESTICS TARGETS OR AMBITIONS AND/OR GLOBAL TARGETS	RESULTS ACHIEVED
<p>Prioritizing enforcement related to high risk activities and species allows the Department to hone its monitoring, patrolling and investigative activities where the resource is at greatest risk and most vulnerable. Enforcement activities align with departmental initiatives and commitments, such as for combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, protecting Marine Conservation Areas in Canada and protecting threatened salmon species through the Pacific Salmon Strategic Initiative (and its Atlantic counterpart).</p> <p>Further, DFO has acquired a ship for the first Canadian-led high seas enforcement mission to combat IUU fishing in the Pacific. In July 2023, this joint Canada-US operation departed for the distant North-West Pacific. It had Canadian fishery officers and US Coast Guard officers onboard. This goal of the patrol is to promote compliance of fisheries requirements under the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, and will subject distant water fishing fleets to various inspections.</p>	<p>This work advances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIF Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. 	<p>In 2024-2025, the Department continued to combat IUU fishing globally by improving detection of illegal activity and supporting the development of effective international rules through regional fisheries management organizations, multilateral bodies, and bilateral relationships. This included increased engagement in the Pacific as part of Canada’s Indo-Pacific Strategy.</p> <p>For example, DFO fishery officers and CCG personnel carried out the second Canadian-led high seas mission to detect and deter IUU fishing in the North Pacific, Operation North Pacific Guard. This multi-national effort to coordinate fisheries enforcement to protect global fish stocks included high seas patrols, air surveillance, and satellite monitoring. Fishery officers found illegally harvested shark fins, evidence of fishing during a closed season and unreported catch, instances of marine pollution, and a number of vessels with their monitoring systems switched off (commonly referred to as “dark vessels”). This year’s mission included the first use of a blend of renewable diesel, biodiesel, and conventional diesel, marking a significant step toward a greener, low-carbon CCG fleet.</p>

Integrating Sustainable Development

DFO will continue to ensure that its decision-making process includes consideration of FSDS goals and targets through its Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment (SEEA) process. A SEEA for a policy, program or regulatory proposal includes an analysis of the climate, nature, environmental and economic effects of the given proposal.

Public statements on the results of DFO's assessments are issued when an initiative that was the subject of a detailed Strategic Environmental and Economic Assessment is implemented or announced (see [here](#)). The purpose of the public statement is to demonstrate that the environmental and economic effects, including contributions to the FSDS goals and targets, of an initiative have been considered during proposal development and decision making.

DFO issued 38 public statements for proposals that were subject to a detailed SEEA in 2024-2025.