

# Accountability Report

2015–2016



Fisheries and  
Aquaculture



**NOVA SCOTIA**

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## Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for the year ended March 31, 2016 is prepared pursuant to the Finance Act and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Statement of Mandate for the fiscal year just ended. The reporting of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by department management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the department's 2015-2016 Statement of Mandate.

Original signed by

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Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.  
Minister

Original signed by

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Kim MacNeil  
Deputy Minister

## Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture accountability report for 2015-16.

Nova Scotia is Canada's seafood leader and in 2015-16, with the hard work of harvesters, processors and exporters our province continued to show there is room to expand the potential of our fisheries and aquaculture industries. Our seafood exports grew 33 percent to \$1.68 billion, almost within reach of the ONE Nova Scotia report's goal of doubling those exports by 2024.

Growing the sector means we need to responsibly develop resources like our aquaculture industry. In October the province released new regulations for granting leases and licenses and managing the growth of aquaculture, including environmental and fish health monitoring. The regulations are among the best in the world and build on best practices in places like Maine and Norway and the advice received from an independent regulatory review that included extensive public consultation over an 18 month period.

This past year the department continued to work with its partners in industry and government to pursue targeted investments that will allow the private sector to take the lead in growing the importance of our sectors. This included marketing efforts focused on the growing South East Asian consumer market, beginning to develop a brand to highlight Nova Scotia's premium, high quality seafood and working with industry and provincial crown corporation Perennia to ensure that quality remains the highest priority for everyone in the industry.

Interest and participation in the Sportfishery remains strong despite a challenging winter and spring. This was evidenced by a record number of Learn to Fish workshops and trout derbies. The Sportfish Habitat Fund provided \$304,000 for angling associations who continued their work in restoring vital fresh water fish habitat. The provincial hatcheries produced over 2 million trout and salmon that to enhance rivers and lakes around the province.

I am encouraged by the progress we have made in unlocking the potential of these sectors this past year and look forward to more progress during 2016-17. We are working with our partners to ensure that our ocean advantage continues to shape a bright future for our communities.

Original signed by

Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.

Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

## Financial Results

### Fisheries and Aquaculture

	2015-16 Estimate (\$thousands)	2015-16 Actual (\$thousands)
Administration	758	330
Aquaculture	2,673	2,967
Inland Fisheries	2,349	2,452
Marine and Coastal Fisheries	4,103	4,122
Product Development	0	0
<b>Total Gross Departmental Expenses</b>	<b>9,833</b>	<b>9,871</b>
Additional Information		
Other Fees and Charges	(938)	(925)
Ordinary Recoveries	0	0
TCA Purchase Requirements	100	193
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	75.7	68.1

## Measuring our Performance

### *Focusing on Fiscal Sustainability*

#### Functioning Effectively Under the Allotted Budget for the Department

##### **BALANCING THE BUDGET**

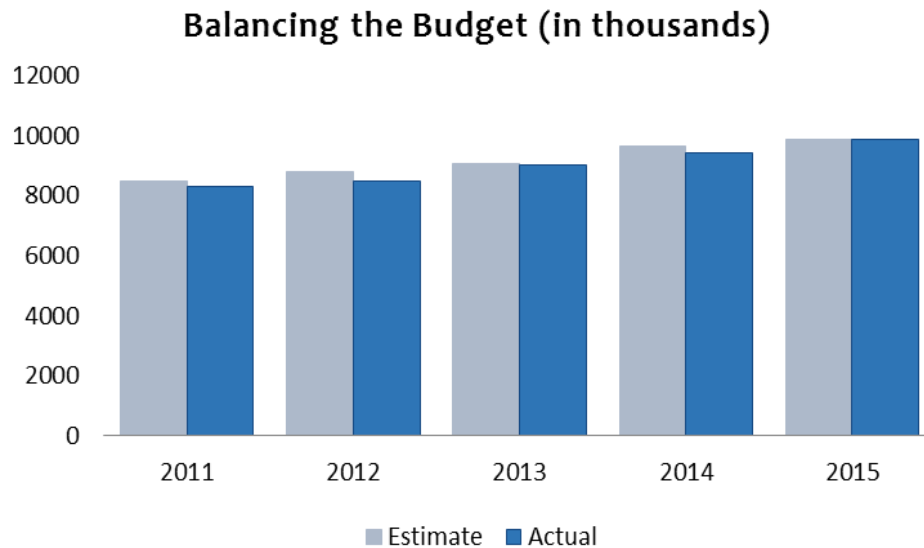
The department strives to achieve a balanced budget during the execution of its mandate. The goal is to maintain a balanced budget over the long-term.

##### **WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure shows the discrepancy between the estimated and actual values of total gross departmental expenses in the budget. With the long-term goal of the Department to have a balanced budget, this value would have to be reported as \$0 to show the Department has achieved a balance budget.

##### **WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The discrepancy between the estimated and actual values of total gross departmental expenses in the budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal period was \$12,053.



##### **WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The Department attempts to minimize the discrepancy between the estimated and actual values of total gross departmental expenses in the budget with a long-term goal of a balanced budget (a discrepancy of \$0). The department monitors the monthly budget forecasts and manages expenditures to meet budget allocations in order to operate within the allotted budget.

***Focusing on the Economy***

Capture the True Value of the Resources within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries

Innovative and Efficient Industries with an Attractive and Favourable Business Climate

**VALUE OF SEAFOOD PRODUCT PREPARATION AND PACKAGING**

The value of seafood product preparation and packaging is an estimate on the seafood processing sector’s gross sales.

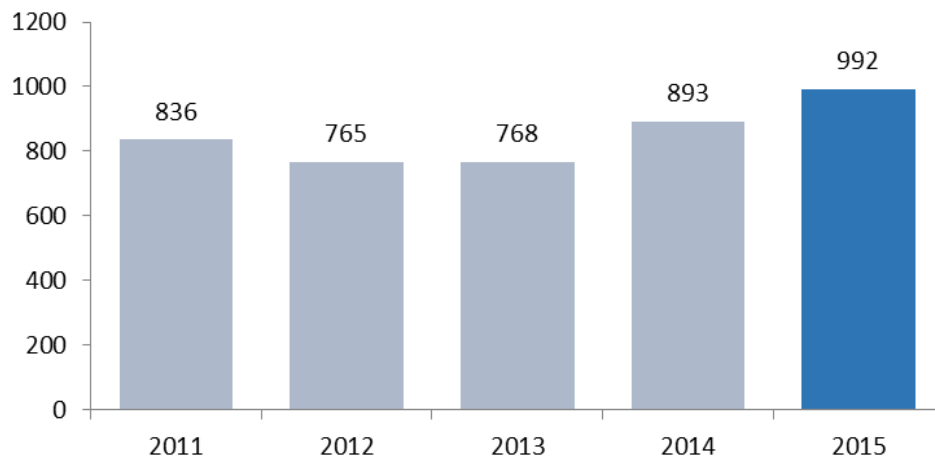
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure shows the combined output for all seafood processing operations in Nova Scotia. The seafood processing sector is major contributor to the rural economy, and growth in processing activities should impact the socioeconomic wellbeing of coastal communities.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was \$950 million. Processing sales vary from year to year due to several factors, including seafood landings and economic conditions such as the value of the Canadian dollar. The estimate for 2015 indicates that Nova Scotia’s seafood processors generated \$991.7 million in gross sales, up 11 percent from 2014.

**Value of Seafood Product Preparation and Packaging (\$ millions)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The long-term target is to achieve a sustained increase in the value of seafood processing over time.

**VALUE OF AQUACULTURE FISH AND SEAFOOD HARVESTED**

The aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia is very diverse in terms of species cultivated, location of the industry, and methods of operation. Aquaculture is most strongly associated with rural communities, and has been identified by both the Independent Aquaculture Panel and the Ivany Commission as a potential contributor to rural revitalization. Nova Scotia’s natural advantages in terms of coastline and marine industry expertise enables the province to be well-positioned to meet global food demands through sustainable aquaculture practices.

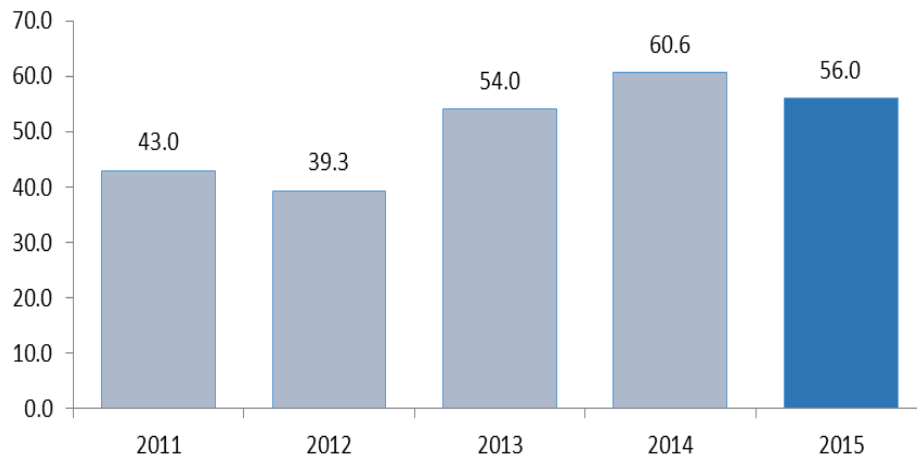
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure shows the dollar value of sales from Nova Scotia’s aquaculture farms.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was \$70 million. Preliminary reports indicate little change in the value of Nova Scotia’s aquaculture production, with approximately \$56 million generated in 2015, compared to \$60.6 million in 2014. Atlantic Salmon and Rainbow Trout continue to generate both the highest volume and value. Between 2010 and 2014, Nova Scotia’s share of national aquaculture production value has fluctuated between 4.6 percent and 8.2 percent, averaging at 5.9 percent.

**Value of Aquaculture Fish and Seafood Harvested (\$ millions)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The Department expects the value of aquaculture production to increase in a consistent and incremental manner as the new Regulatory Framework is put in place. Increased public confidence and interest from existing operators and new investors will enable the aquaculture industry to grow at a responsible pace, with a long-term target for production of \$125 million.



**TOTAL FISHING AND SEAFOOD EXPORTS**

Seafood products are Nova Scotia’s leading category of exports, and are an important industry in terms of the province’s long-term economic growth. The department continues to promote seafood exports through ongoing trade initiatives such as participation in major international trade shows and incoming and outgoing buyer missions.

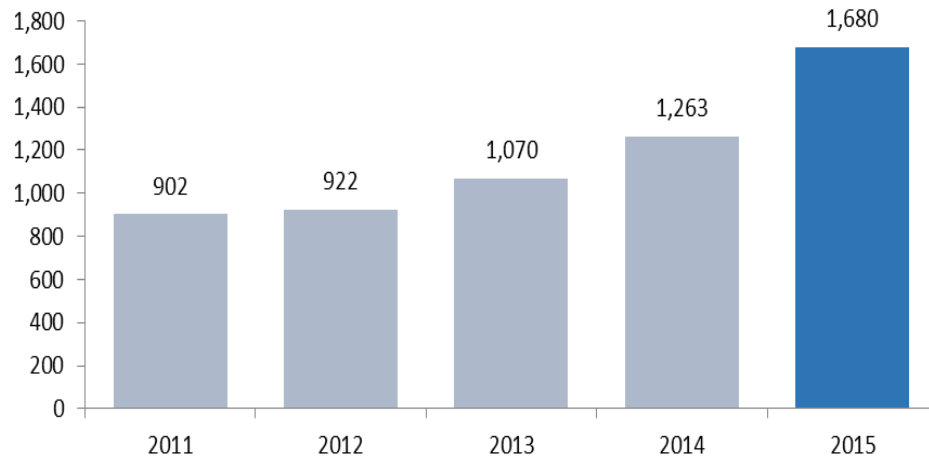
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

The measure shows the overall value of Nova Scotia’s seafood exports.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was \$1.4 billion. Nova Scotia exported \$1.68 billion worth of seafood in 2015, up 34 percent from the previous year (\$1.26 billion in 2014). Nova Scotia’s seafood market has grown steadily from a recent low in 2009, as the world economy recovered from the late 2000s recession. Nova Scotia’s share of the national level of fish and seafood exports has increased to 28 percent in 2015 from 25 percent in the previous year.

**Total Fishing and Seafood Exports  
(\$ millions)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The department aims to see an increase in seafood exports over the long-term. Ongoing support will include targeted development initiatives to increase product values, and market diversification. Exports have been increasing for the past several years from the low in 2010 experienced during the worldwide recession. The 10 year target, adopted from the ONE NS Commission, is to double exports by 2024 (Goal 15). Given the level of fisheries (including aquaculture) exports when the report was prepared for the Commission by Atlantic Province Economic Council (APEC), the 10 year target is \$1.72 billion.

**VALUE OF THE SPORTFISHING INDUSTRY**

Sportfishing is not only an important recreational and cultural pursuit but also a generator of significant economic activity. Every five years, an extensive survey of anglers is conducted. This survey provides data on a number of facets of the fishery including economic impact. The most recent data available comes from the 2010 Nova Scotia Sportfishing Survey. Data from the 2015 survey should be available by late 2016.

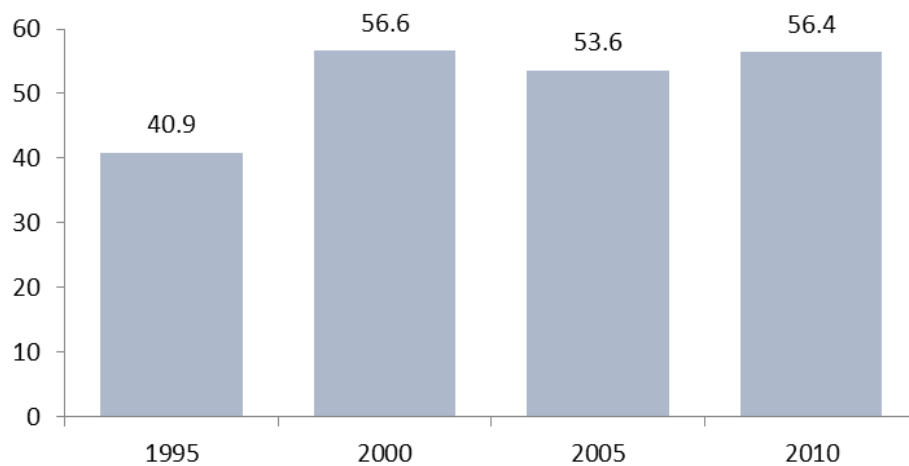
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

The measure is the total amount of money spent by licensed anglers in Nova Scotia in pursuit of sportfishing activities. This measure shows the relative importance of sportfishing to the provincial economy by showing the total value of the sport fishing industry. Comparisons with previous surveys, similar surveys conducted by other organizations, and current license sales give an indication as to the trend in this sector.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW**

In 2010, anglers in Nova Scotia spent \$85.6 million on sportfishing and related activities, of which \$56.4 million was directly attributed to sportfishing. The value of the sportfishery in 2010 represented an 8 percent increase from 2005. In recent years, license sales have increased to exceed the 25 year mean. It is believed that the severe and prolonged winter of 2015 played a role in reducing license sales. The 2015 survey results, available later this year will give a clearer picture of the current situation.

**Value of Sport Fishing Industry (\$ millions)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE**

The sportfishery offers economic potential for Nova Scotia by attracting more non-resident anglers. Management initiatives and promotional efforts will be directed to make

Nova Scotia a destination of choice. Work will continue to increase the participation rates of the population in general and more specifically, of women and youth, by promoting angling as a family friendly outdoor recreational activity.

**NUMBER OF SPORTFISHING LICENSES SOLD**

Sportfishing continues to be one of Nova Scotia’s most popular outdoor recreational activities. The department sells licenses to resident and non-resident anglers to sportfish in the province.

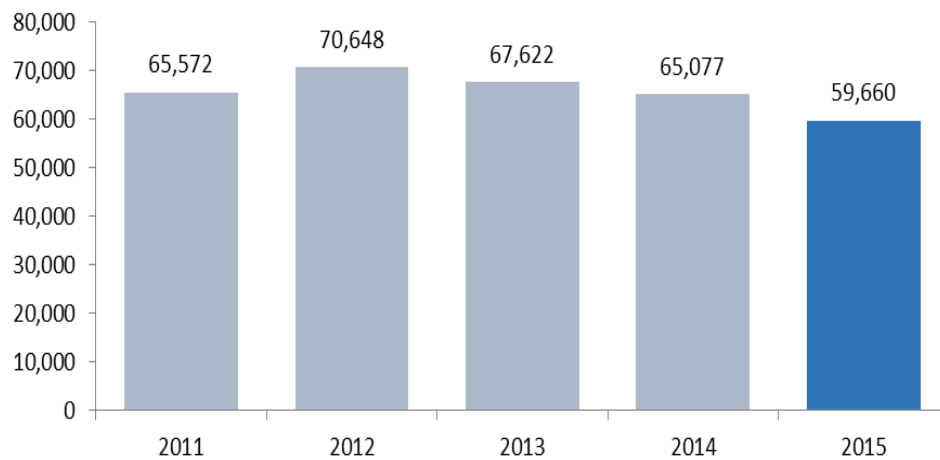
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure shows the number of anglers who are actively participating in Nova Scotia’s sportfishing sector represented by the number of sportfishing licenses sold.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The 5 year and 10 year mean number of adult sportfishing licenses sold is 66,234 and 65,546 respectfully. The target for this fiscal year was 70,000 sportfishing licenses sold. Results for Nova Scotia from the 2015 sales indicate that 59,660 adult anglers purchased a sportfishing license. This nearly 10 percent decrease from the previous year’s total of 66,193 sportfishing licenses sold is thought to be the result of the severe and prolonged winter, followed by poor spring weather conditions during the period of time where a high proportion of license sales usually occur. According to the most recent data available (2010), it is estimated that nearly 15,000 youth under age 16, who live in households with a license-holding adult, also fished. This brings the number of active anglers in the province to nearly 79,000.

**Number of Fish Licenses Sold**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The department aims to increase participation in Nova Scotia’s sportfishing sector over time with continued promotions and programs aimed at attracting new and non-resident

anglers, youth and women. An ageing angling population continues to present a challenge.

**Environmentally Responsible with Emphasis on Fish Health, Populations, and Habitats**

**INLAND FISH HABITAT RESTORED**

The department administers the Sportfish Habitat Fund as the primary revenue source for the Adopt-A-Stream program, which supports projects aimed at improving access to recreational fishing. Adopt-A-Stream supports community groups working to restore and rehabilitate fish habitat. Funding for this program comes from a \$5.71 levy on each angling licence sold. This investment is matched by cash and in-kind contributions from community groups on a 3 to 1 basis. The economic model for Adopt-A-Stream estimates that each square meter of restored habitat is valued at about \$13.

**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure shows the number of square meters of fish and riparian habitat restored along Nova Scotia’s inland waters and streams. As well, it acts as a gauge of public interest in the fishery and the local environment.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was 115,000 square meters of fish habitat restored. In 2015, the department helped 23 community groups restore approximately 191,000 square meters of fish habitat. This is an increase of 12 percent above what was restored in the previous fiscal year, which was 170,000 square meters. Through restored fish passage at 22 culvert crossings, an additional 72 km of aquatic habitat was made accessible to migrating fish. Across the province, 548 volunteers contributed 6,742 hours of their time and 82 seasonal jobs were created. More than 1.39 million square meters of aquatic habitat have been restored since the program's inception.

**Inland Fish Habitat Restored  
(square metres)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The department aims to restore 115,000 square meters annually through this program.

**NUMBER OF TROUT AND SALMON STOCKED IN RIVERS AND LAKES**

Stocking rivers and lakes in Nova Scotia with trout and salmon provides sportfishing opportunities throughout the province. Enhancing sport fish populations allows increased effort on these populations while conserving wild stocks. Stocked lakes also provide opportunities for directed activities such as fishing derbies, urban angling, winter sportfishing, and learn to fish events.

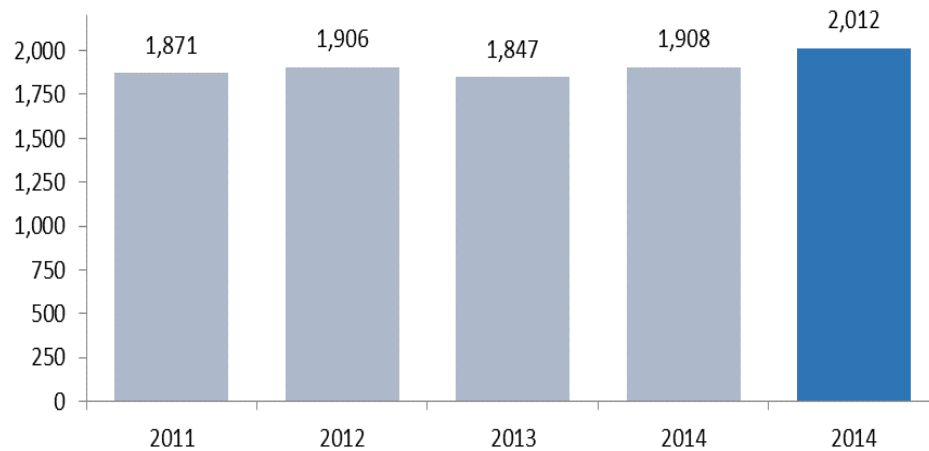
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure shows the number of sport fish stocked in Nova Scotia’s lakes and rivers on a yearly basis.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was 1,800,000 trout and salmon stocked. Results for Nova Scotia from the 2015 stocking program show that 2,012,000 trout and salmon were stocked. This is above that of the previous year’s total of 1,908,000 trout and salmon stocked, and above the 2015-2016 target of 1,800,000 sport fish stocked.

**Number of Trout and Salmon Stocked in Rivers and Lakes (in thousands)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The department aims to maintain existing stocking levels while looking at new opportunities to use hatchery produced fish to promote and develop Nova Scotia’s sportfishing sector.

## Collaborative Industries with Effective Communication among Stakeholders

### MEMBERSHIP IN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS UNDER FHOSA

Fish Harvester Organizations Support Act (FHOSA) is one measure used to indicate strong fish harvester organizations - encouraging a collective voice through the mandatory dues requirement of all core license holders in a region. The Lobster Panel Report of 2013 recommended Nova Scotia fish harvesters in all regions join and participate in fish harvester organizations.

#### WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

This measure tracks the number of members in each FHOSA accredited organization. It indicates the support of an organization by the choice of membership selected by fish harvesters in areas of the province who have enabled FHOSA legislation.

#### WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Regions 1 (Gulf Nova Scotia) and 3 (Eastern Shore) adopted the principles of FHOSA through the previous legislation and membership in the accredited organizations is virtually 100 percent. Region 2 (Inverness to Victoria county line) adopted FHOSA in 2014 and was in force for the first time in 2015. Four organizations were accredited and overall membership increased from 43 percent to 97 percent during 2015. In Regions 4 (South Shore), 5 (South West) and 6 (Fundy) some in the industry are of the position that there are mechanisms other than enabling legislation (FHOSA) and the accredited organizational structure, that will serve the objective of representing harvesters in fisheries-related issues. Efforts are underway to work with the organizations in these regions to support their capacity through the use of various tools and training. Capacity building support and training is also being offered to the accredited organizations.

#### WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The Province will promote the participation of core fish harvesters in strong organizations meeting a standard of best practices accepted in industry. Working with established organizations, we will collaborate with organizations to increase their capacity. Efforts will be made in the three regions that have chosen not to implement FHOSA to determine how best to work with these existing organizations and encourage participation of core fish harvester license holders. Supporting the capacity and sustainability of organizations in all regions will encourage the participation of core fish harvester license holders in processes that could greatly influence their future in the industry.

## *Focusing on Education and Training*

### Safe, Responsible, and Attractive Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries

#### LEARN TO FISH PARTICIPANTS

One of the department's most popular activities is the interactive Learn to Fish (L2F) program. Learn to Fish teaches children the basics of sportfishing, along with ethics and environmental

stewardship. It prepares the next generation of aquatic stewards by teaching participants safe and ethical angling skills. The program is geared towards youth in Grade 4 through high school. L2F programs are presented to schools, Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides, 4-H groups, and youth at recreation day camps. L2F is delivered by department staff and volunteers.

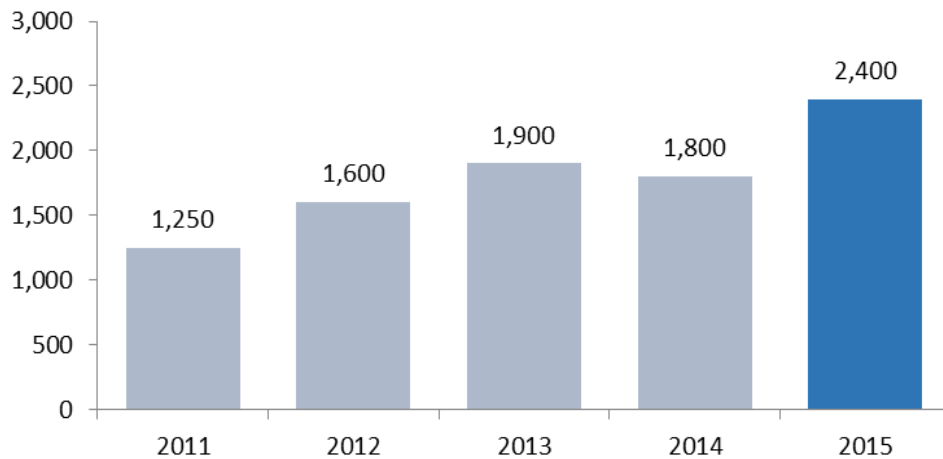
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure shows the number of youth who are participating in the L2F program.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was 1,800 participants. There were 2,400 youth who participated in the L2F program in 2015-2016. There was increasing trend in the number of youth participating in this program since 2011 with a slight decrease since 2013.

**Learn to Fish (participants)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The Department will continue the L2F program while focusing on other promotional efforts such as increasing the number of non-resident anglers visiting Nova Scotia.

**REGISTERED WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD (WCB) CLAIMS**

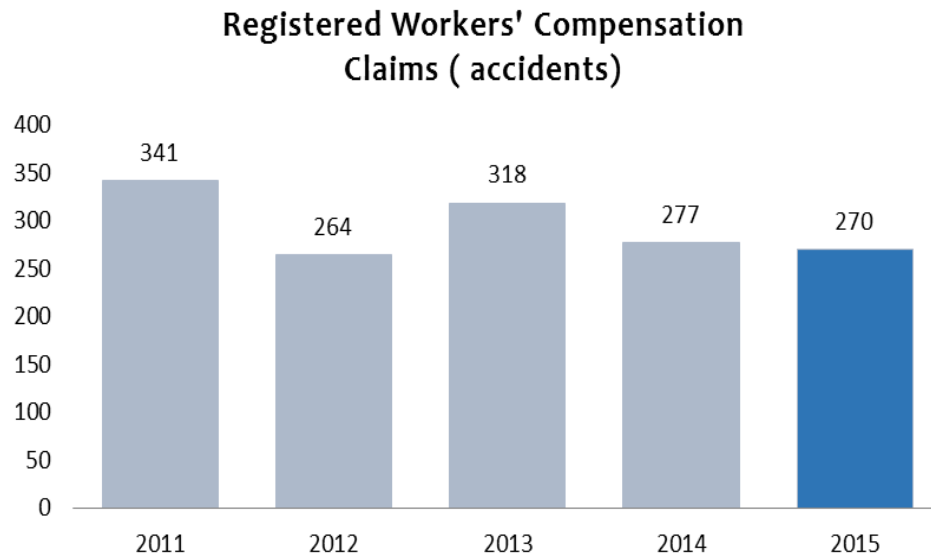
In 2015, working cooperatively with the fishing industry, families, and communities, the Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, Workers Compensation Board, and the Department of Labour & Advanced Education, developed and launched a strategy to make fishing safer. This strategy is called Fishing Safety Now. Fishing Safety Now provided 33 recommendations to improve safety, save lives, and help make the fishing industry an employer of first choice. This plan will represent a key part of the safety and training component within our Commercial Marine Fisheries Strategy.

**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

This measure will capture the number of registered accident claims with the Workers Compensation Board associated with fishing.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was 250 claims associated with fish harvesting. There were 277 claims in 2014. The actual claims for 2015 was 270 representing a modest decline.

**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

Fishing is a proud, vibrant industry at the core of our heritage, but it's also one of the most dangerous jobs in the province. The province would like to see this decreasing trend in accidents associated with fishing continue over the long-term. The department recognizes the value in both social and economic terms of improving fishing safety and is committed to work with provincial partners, the federal government and industry association partners to implement recommendations from the Fishing Safety Now strategy.

***Focusing on the Demographics and People*****Reliable and Highly Qualified Workforce****EMPLOYMENT IN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

The commercial fishing sector is a significant contributor to rural employment, and a growing commercial fish sector should positively impact the economic and social well-being of coastal communities through increased employment opportunities.



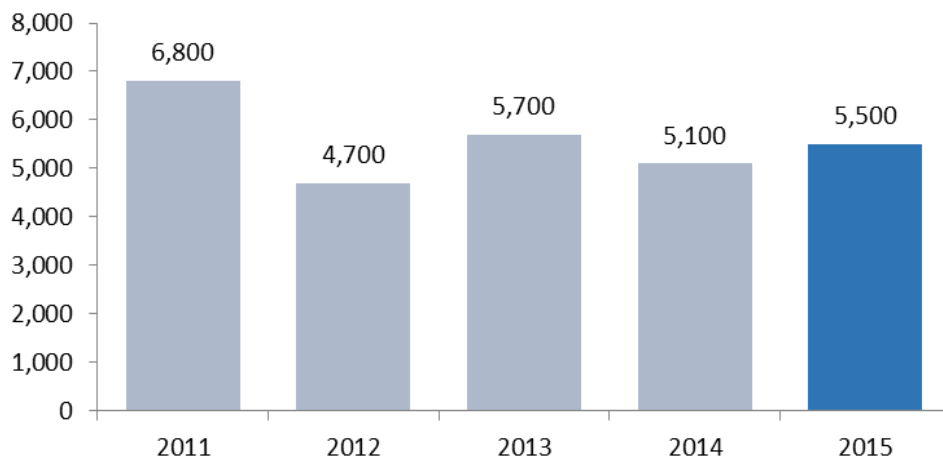
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

Commercial fishing employment numbers represent the total number of full and part-time employees, including self-employed owner-operators.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target of this fiscal year was 5,100 employees. The current 2015 estimate for total employment is 5,500 workers, up 7.8 percent from 2014. There was a notable 8.3 percent increase in the number of full-time employees, with the share of full-time employees increasing slightly, from 94.1 percent to 94.5 percent of total employment.

**Employment in Commercial Fisheries  
(persons)**



**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The long-term goal of the department is to promote high-valued jobs in the commercial fishery that meet the demands of a growing sector, through efforts that attract and maintain the required workforce.

**EMPLOYMENT IN SEAFOOD PROCESSING**

The seafood processing sector is a significant contributor to rural employment, and a growing seafood sector should positively impact the economic and social well-being of rural communities through increased employment opportunities.

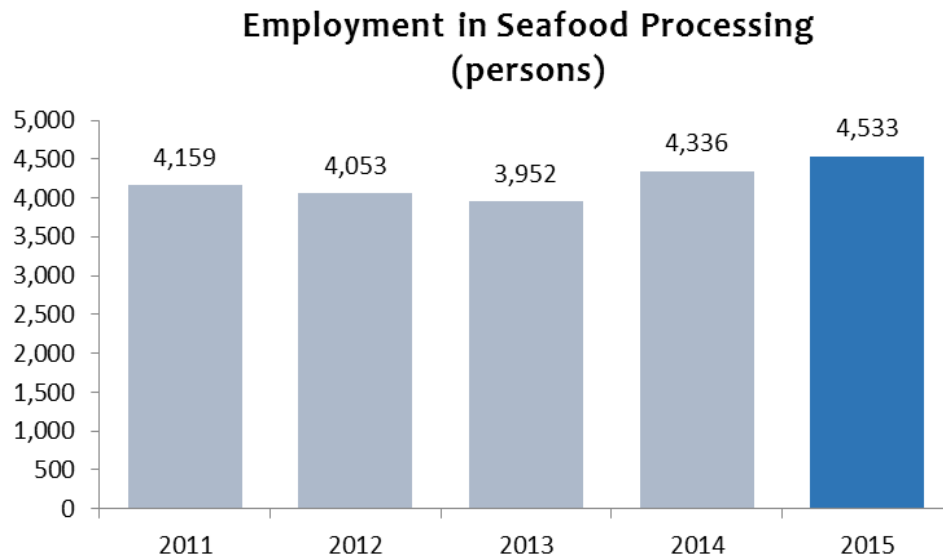
**WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?**

The seafood employment statistics provide estimates on the total number of salaried and hourly paid employees of seafood processing plants.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was 4,336 workers. The current 2015 estimate for employment is 4,533 workers, up 4.9 percent from 4,323 workers in 2014. Seafood

processing was the second highest employer in Nova Scotia's manufacturing sector in 2015, accounting for 15.1 percent of all manufacturing jobs.



#### WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The long-term goal of the department is to promote high-valued jobs in seafood processing that meet the demands of a growing sector, through efforts that attract and maintain the required workforce. Partnering with other government stakeholders, activities will include targeting the current provincial labour pool and educating youth that the seafood industry is an employer of choice. Innovation in automation will produce the climate to provide employment opportunities and attract those interested in working in a modern fishery.

#### AQUACULTURE EMPLOYMENT

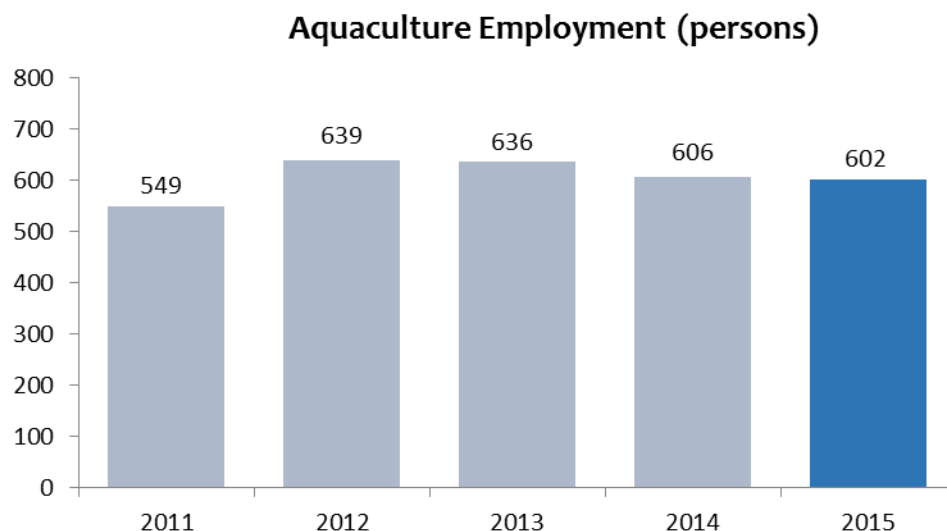
In 2012, the Department developed a strategy for the long-term sustainable development of Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry. A key component of this strategy was the creation of a world-class regulatory framework for Aquaculture in Nova Scotia. The Doelle-Lahey Independent Aquaculture Review Panel provided Government with a series of recommendations relating to reforming aquaculture governance in the Province. As these recommendations are implemented through Legislation and Policy, it is anticipated that industry growth will be enabled to allow employment numbers to increase.

#### WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

This measure will capture change in the number of full-time and part-time jobs related to Nova Scotia aquaculture.

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

The target for this fiscal year was 650 individuals employed in the aquaculture industry. Preliminary results indicate that the number of individuals employed in the aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia in 2015 was 602 people.

**WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?**

The province would like to see this increase in employment numbers continue as the industry is developed in a sustainable manner. Recent changes to the Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act, and forthcoming changes to regulation and policy, are intended to increase both public confidence and business confidence, which will allow responsible industry growth. An increased focus on site utilization will aim to ensure that Nova Scotians are receiving optimum benefit from the use of their public resources. Focus on encouraging existing sites to operate at capacity, and issuing new licences where appropriate, is intended to lead to increased employment in the industry and across the supply chain.

***Performance Measures Discontinued for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year***

We have realigned our performance measures in keeping with the five key strategic themes of the department: (1) Enabling responsible economic growth; (2) Supporting research and innovation; (3) Building public trust and market acceptance; (4) Increasing trade and market access; and (5) Encouraging value added opportunities.

The performance measures that have been selected to continue as key indicators for progress towards our strategic themes include (1) Value of Expenditures Related to Sportfishing; (2) Value of Aquaculture Production; (3) Registered Workers' Compensation Claims; (4) Learn to Fish Participants; (5) Value of Fish and Seafood Exports; and (6) Value of Seafood Product

Preparation and Packaging. Value of Seafood Exports, Number of Non-resident Licenses Sales, Commercial Fishing Labour Productivity, and Seafood Processing Labour Productivity will be added as new performance measures that will be reported on starting in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

## Appendix A

### Annual Report under Section 18 of the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Information Required under Section 18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2015-2016
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing	N/A