

# *Fish Harvester Organization Support Act* (FHOSA)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q** What is FHOSA?

**A** FHOSA is provincial legislation that supports and encourages core and independent core license holders to develop strong organizations to represent them in matters related to the fishing industry. The act requires a Registrar, appointed by the Minister, to collect annual mandatory dues directly from each of the core license holders and then transfer these funds to the accredited organization(s) as directed by the license holder.

### **Q** What are the advantages of joining an organization?

**A** Organizations create a unified collective voice of harvesters that is much stronger than a thousand individual voices. It enables effective consultation and communication between the industry and all levels of government and organizations in other provinces. Organizations are governed by their membership and membership benefits are unique to each organization. Organizations that are accredited under FHOSA are better recognized as representing their members on matters important to the fishing industry.

### **Q** Why do I have to pay?

**A** FHOSA requires that all core license holders, in a region where a successful vote has been held, pay annual mandatory dues to the Registrar. Accredited organizations establish their own rate for annual membership dues however, they must use these funds for the representation of their members' interests in matters related to the fishing industry. The members, as a group, direct the organization in how they wish to be represented.

### **Q** When I submit my payment to the Registrar, am I a member of the organization I selected?

**A** The Registrar receives your payment and transfers the payment and your information to the organization you selected. It is the right of the organization to grant or reject membership. Consult your organization for membership cards and receipt.

### **Q** Where is FHOSA in effect?

**A** FHOSA is in effect in:

**Region 1, Gulf Nova Scotia:** the coast from the New Brunswick border to the Inverness-Victoria county line;

**Region 2, Atlantic Cape Breton:** the coast from the Inverness-Victoria county line to the Canso Causeway;

**Region 3, Eastern Shore:** the coast from the Canso Causeway to the mouth of the Sackville River in Halifax Harbour;

### **Q** Do the fees include any applicable taxes?

**A** Not all organizations charge taxes such as HST and you should inquire whether your organization charges HST. If you require a receipt for HST, the it must be obtained from the organization.

### **Q** Do I get a receipt for my membership dues?

**A** Only the organization can grant membership and only the organization can give you a receipt for membership dues. The Registrar issues a receipt for your payment, but the receipt cannot be used for income tax purposes for dues or HST. Contact your organization for an official receipt.

### **Q** Why do I have to send my membership dues to a Registrar?

**A** FHOSA requires that a Registrar collects the mandatory dues. This ensures that all core and independent core license holders are contributing to the cost of representation of the fishing industry. It also ensures accountability of the accredited organizations to their membership and the reliability of their membership lists.

**Q** What are the accredited organizations in each region?

**A** FHOSA is in effect in:

**Region 1, Gulf Nova Scotia:**

- Gulf NS Bonafide Fishermen’s Association
- Gulf NS Fishermen’s Coalition
- Inverness South Fishermen’s Association
- Maritime Fishermen’s Union Local 4
- North of Smokey-Inverness South Fisherman's
- Northumberland Fisherman’s Association
- Area 18 Crab Fishermen’s Association
- Area 19 Snow Crab Fishermen’s Association
- Gulf NS Tuna Fisherman’s Association
- Tuna Charters NS Association

**Region 2, Atlantic Cape Breton:**

- Cape Breton Fish Harvesters Association
- Maritime Fishermen’s Union Local 6
- North of Smokey-Inverness South Fisherman's
- Area 19 Snow Crab Fishermen’s Association
- Richmond County Inshore Fishermen's Assoc.

**Region 3, Eastern Shore:**

- Eastern Shore Fishermen’s Protective Association
- Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen’s
- Gulf NS Tuna Fisherman’s Association
- Tuna Charters NS Association

**Q** What happens if I am late, forget or do not choose to pay annual membership dues?

**A** Payment of annual membership dues is required no later than September 1<sup>st</sup> each year. If you do not meet the deadline you may be liable for a fine of \$1000.00 plus applicable fees.

**Q** How does a region get a vote on FHOSA?

**A** A license holder or fish harvester organization may ask the Minister to conduct a vote, in their region, to determine if there are sufficient numbers that wish to be represented by an accredited organization that will represent their interests and concerns in the fishing industry.

The Minister will publish the results. Organizations apply for accreditation after an affirmative result from the vote.

**For more information:**

<https://novascotia.ca/fish/commercial-fisheries/laws-regs/>

Or contact:

**John Bueglas**

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