

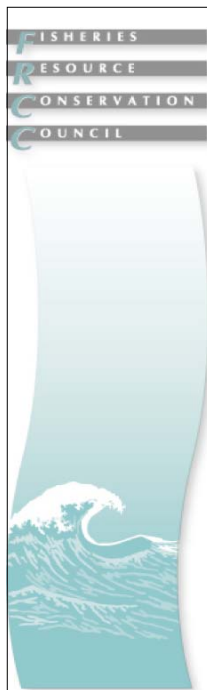


# Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

## An Independent and Integrated Approach to Fisheries Sustainability

Presented at the PIPS' Symposium on "Strengthening Science to Protect Canadians"

September 2007



## Fisheries Resource Conservation Council

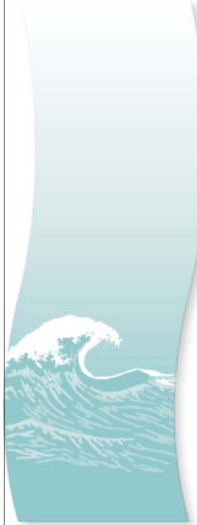
“Can there be any greater test of faith, than to believe what scientists are telling us?”

“It’s no good being absolutely certain unless you also happen to be right.”

Ashleigh Brilliant

## FRCC Background

- Created in 1993 by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans when Atlantic groundfish stocks were collapsing and concerns for conservation and sustainability were at the forefront.
- Lack of trust had developed between various stakeholders.
- Relationships between fishing industry, individual fishermen, scientists, and fisheries managers had deteriorated.



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## FRCC Background

Provides a comprehensive approach to fisheries conservation through:

- Long-term outlook on resource and ecosystems.
- better integration of scientific information with fishermen's practical knowledge and experience.

Functions at arm's-length in an open and transparent manner.

De-politicizes the advisory process.

Gives those knowledgeable about the fishery a more effective role in decision-making for fisheries conservation.



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## Council's Strengths

**Public Consultations** combined with the experience and knowledge of Council members have consistently resulted in sound conservation recommendations. Consultations conducted by the Council are viewed as credible and objective.

**Diverse and dedicated membership**  
The membership of the Council includes representation from academia, harvesters, processors and independent scientists.



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## A broader vision of sustainability:

•4 major components to sustainability :



Science needs to expand its views on sustainability.

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## Success stories

- Fisheries Resource Conservation Council
- Fishermen & Scientists Research Society
- Development of the NAFO Area 4X ITQ survey in SWNS
- Fisheries Science Collaborative Program
- 10 year Lobster Management Plans in Québec
- Etc...

**The common denominator:** close cooperation between fishermen and scientists.



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## Basic requirements:

- Transparency
- Credibility
- Basic rules
- Solid A-base funding
- Timely and continued involvement



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## Future consideration

- Recognise the importance of the health of our natural resources.
- Ecosystem and climate change considerations should be an integral part of resource management.
- Ensure fisheries science in Canada is properly supported (people, funds, time).
- Promote an expanded view of sustainability.
- Incorporate traditional/local knowledge and resources available from industry.
- Adopt an ecosystem approach to resource management.
- Work collaboratively with universities.
- Train/develop scientists as educators and partners.

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## Conclusion

- Focus on “applied” fisheries science to support sustainable resource management.
- All components of sustainability should be considered when developing a harvesting plan.
- Science should be open and transparent in its processes.
- Resources must be provided to maintain quality assessments of the ocean’s resources.

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