

Canada's Conservatives announce plan to support fisheries

THE ISSUE

Whether it's a coastal community that relies on the fishing and aquaculture industries, a family putting food on their table, or an angler enjoying the pleasure of recreational fishing, Canadians across the country have a strong connection to our fisheries and want to see their way of life protected.

Fish harvesters understand the importance of making sure our fish stocks are healthy, so all Canadians can share this abundance, both now and in the future. They also know it is vital to come together and share knowledge and expertise to protect this vital resource.

Unfortunately, Justin Trudeau has failed to appreciate the knowledge of those closest to our fisheries. He has failed to properly engage with anglers and fish harvesters, made it harder for them to take on important stewardship activities, and ignored their attempts to find solutions. The result has been a top-down, heavy-handed approach that has hurt the many Canadians who rely on our fisheries.

THE PLAN

Andrew Scheer has a plan to promote and support Canada's fishing industry by adopting new strategies and partnerships to strengthen relationships and build consensus on how to restore fish stocks.

- To rebuild critical stocks and ensure that everyone is working together, a new Conservative government will **create advisory panels** with fish harvesters and anglers, Indigenous groups, and other experts as appropriate.
- **Enhance and rebuild wild Atlantic and Pacific salmon stocks** by:
 - increasing support for the Salmonid Enhancement Program with a focus on partnerships with community groups;
 - restoring the community-led Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program (RFCPP), which was cancelled by the Liberals; and
 - doubling the price of the Salmon Conservation Stamp in B.C. for non-residents, with the proceeds going to the Pacific Salmon Foundation.
- **Complete new recovery plans for all of Canada's critical fisheries** to ensure that we can rebuild and maintain our important fish stocks and develop strategies for managing predators and invasive species where necessary.

- **Prioritize critical stock recovery as a focus for our DFO science.** Recovering our critical stocks would be a top priority for a new Conservative government, and federal fisheries science resources should be largely focused on supporting this important task until more progress is made.
- **Repeal measures that bypass community consultations for Marine Protected Areas.** We will ensure the process for creating Marine Protected Areas is robust and timely but does not ignore the voices of coastal communities.
- **Provide \$250 million in additional support for small craft harbours.** Canada's small craft harbours are critical infrastructure for coastal communities, and we are committed to supporting them.
- **Work with industry to develop a strategy for preventing seafood fraud.** We will make sure that our honest Canadian fish harvesters and vendors are not cheated by seafood fraud and mislabelling, which also creates food safety and health risks.
- **As part of our efforts to combat oceans plastic, work with international partners to reduce the prevalence of "ghost gear".** We will protect our oceans against one of the deadliest forms of marine litter. Abandoned and lost gear, known as "ghost gear", entangles marine wildlife and contributes to the world's oceans' plastic problem.
- **Create a modern aquaculture act.** A new regulatory regime will create the foundation for building a robust and well-managed aquaculture industry in Canada.
- **Increase pathogen testing for open pen aquaculture sites.** A more robust and responsive pathogen testing regime will help identify and control risks to wild stocks, while allowing the aquaculture industry to build confidence in its practices and products.
- **Support the advancement of technology and practices that reduce contact between wild and farmed salmon.** We will explore ways in which the federal government can encourage the development and adoption of technology and practices that can help to lower the risks associated with aquaculture in an environmentally sustainable way.

THE CHOICE

Canadians cannot trust Justin Trudeau to help you get ahead. He has raised taxes, racked up debt and deficits, and made life more expensive for people across the country.

We will make sure that local voices are included in the consultations for managing our fisheries.

A new Conservative government will live within its means. This money will be spent strategically and ensure the best value for taxpayer dollars.