

From: LICA Reception <lica2@lica.ca>

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 09:33

To:

Subject: Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program's Wave 3 Engagement Feedback

Hello LICA Members,

Please find attached below an email our office received from Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding feedback received from their engagement sessions. This information can be viewed by clicking on the link entitled "Wave 3 What We Heard Report".

Additionally, there are other links in the email regarding Fisheries and Ocean's policy, position statements as well as other interesting and insightful information.

Thank you.

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Good Day,

Thank you to those who participated in the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program's (FFHPP) Wave 3 engagement. We greatly appreciate the feedback provided during our engagement sessions and written feedback sent to the Program. We are excited to share that the [Wave 3 What We Heard Report](#) is now available on the [Talk Fish Habitat](#) platform. Some of the topics included in the report include: a summary of the Wave 3 engagement process; key themes highlighted in the feedback received; and a summary of how the feedback was considered for each engagement topic.

Additionally, as a result of the FFHPP Wave 3 engagement on the Offsetting Policy and Cumulative Effects Position Statement, we are pleased to announce that the [Policy for Applying Measures to Offset Harmful Impacts to Fish and Fish Habitat](#) and the [Position Statement on the Consideration of Cumulative Effects in Support of Decision Making on Fisheries Act Authorizations Concerning Fish and Fish Habitat Protection](#) are now available on [DFO's Projects Near Water](#) website. These documents contribute to FFHPP's efforts to conserve, protect and restore fish and fish habitat for future generations in a way that respects Indigenous rights and supports sustainable development. Both documents provide additional clarity for partners and project proponents.

The Offsetting Policy provides direction on undertaking effective measures to offset death of fish and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, consistent with the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the Fisheries Act. [FAQs](#) and a [summary](#) of key changes between the 2025 and the 2019 versions of the Offsetting Policy are also available, as well as our 3-page tip sheet [Project planning: What is offsetting and how to prepare an offsetting plan](#). We will be issuing further guidance to support the Offsetting Policy later in 2025, specifically the

guidelines for establishing and managing fish habitat banks, guidelines for the development of an offsetting plan, and policy guidance related to the program's [Risk Management Framework](#) and when avoidance, mitigation and offsetting measures are applied.

***The Cumulative Effects Position Statement** is designed to provide further clarity on the department's approach to the application of the relevant fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the Fisheries Act during the project authorization decision-making process. It supports decision makers as they consider the cumulative effects of a project, in combination with all other relevant stressors on fish and fish habitat. [FAQs](#) on the Position Statement are also available.*

These documents would not have been possible without your engagement and input. All comments received were considered in the finalization of the Offsetting Policy and Cumulative Effects Position Statement, and will continue to be considered as we develop guidance for implementation and other program tools.

As we continue to implement the Fisheries Act, we look forward to continued collaboration and coordination.

Best Regards,

**Partnerships Team
Aquatic Ecosystems - Ontario and Prairie Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada**