

# Abundant Oceans, Abundant Opportunities

Oceana Canada Science Symposium  
October 26, 2022 | Ottawa, ON

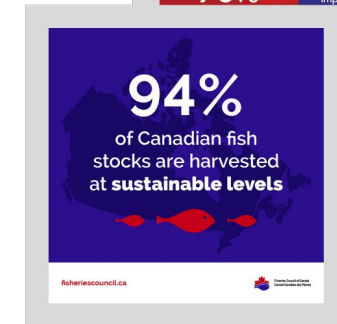
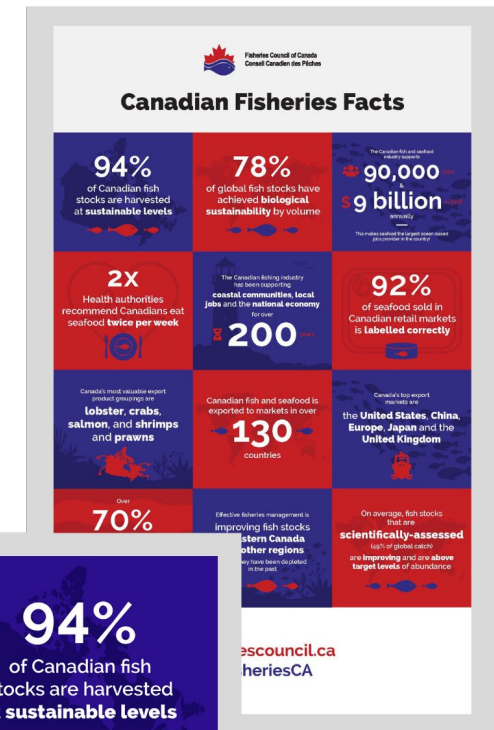


Fisheries Council of Canada  
Conseil Canadien des Pêches

# FCC



- National voice for the wild-capture fisheries sector
- ~55 members
  - processors, harvesters, indigenous groups, associations and more
- Government Relations
- Sector Promotion
- Future Leaders Canada career development program





# Ocean Opportunities

*The best choice for sustainable  
growth in food security and economic  
development*

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



HIGH LEVEL PANEL for  
A SUSTAINABLE  
OCEAN ECONOMY

**Increasing** the fraction of **ocean-based food** in the global diet, and reducing the share of animal-based foods, would contribute significantly to **climate change mitigation**



## Food from the sea: low carbon



Wild capture fish is one of the **lowest-carbon protein** sources:

- Wild fisheries: **1 to 5kg** carbon per kilogram of fish caught
- Red meat production: **50 to 750kg** carbon per kilogram of meat\*

\*Parker et al 2018






Food from the sea: 10X benefits/costs



HIGH LEVEL PANEL for  
A SUSTAINABLE  
OCEAN ECONOMY

Every **\$1 invested** in increasing production of sustainably sourced ocean-based protein is estimated to **yield \$10 in benefits**

-  Health benefits
-  Environment benefits
-  Economic benefits



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# Canada's Seafood Industry

*Going above and beyond*

# Importance of Well Managed Fisheries to Rural Coastal Communities

The Canadian seafood industry supports:

**90,000 jobs** in rural, coastal and Indigenous communities; and,

**\$9 billion in GDP** annually





# Leaders in Sustainability

- Canada is ranked **second overall** in rates of MSC certifications globally
- **61% of Canada's total catch** is MSC certified by volume
- By value, almost **80% of Canada's catch** is MSC certified
- DFO reports that **98% of Canada's fisheries** are harvested at sustainable levels





# Industry-Led Investments

- Millions invested in **stock assessment & migration research**
  - \$8.2M Northern Cod Acoustic Tracking Project
  - Over \$5M towards research on Atlantic Halibut
  - Industry-funded surveys conducted from coast to coast to coast
- Developed and implemented innovative and **effective gear modifications** to exclude non-target species
- Millions invested in fishery improvements related to MSC and FIP requirements





# Capturing Canada's Seafood Opportunity

*Harnessing the potential in our waters*

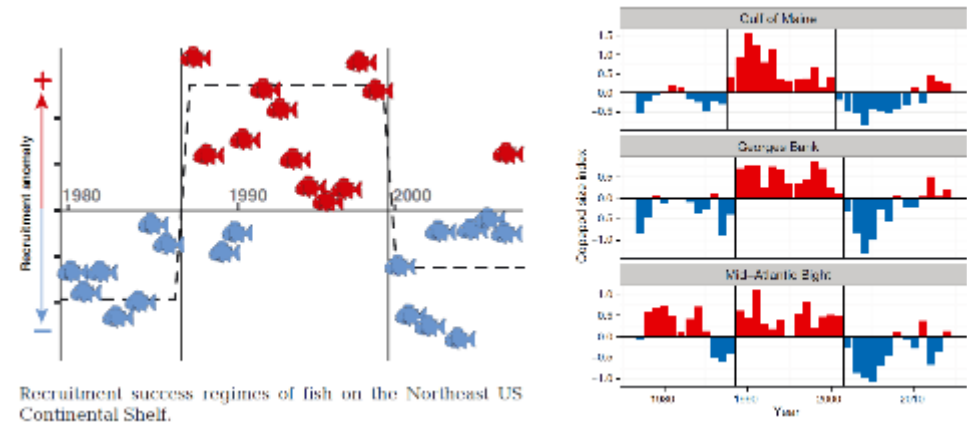
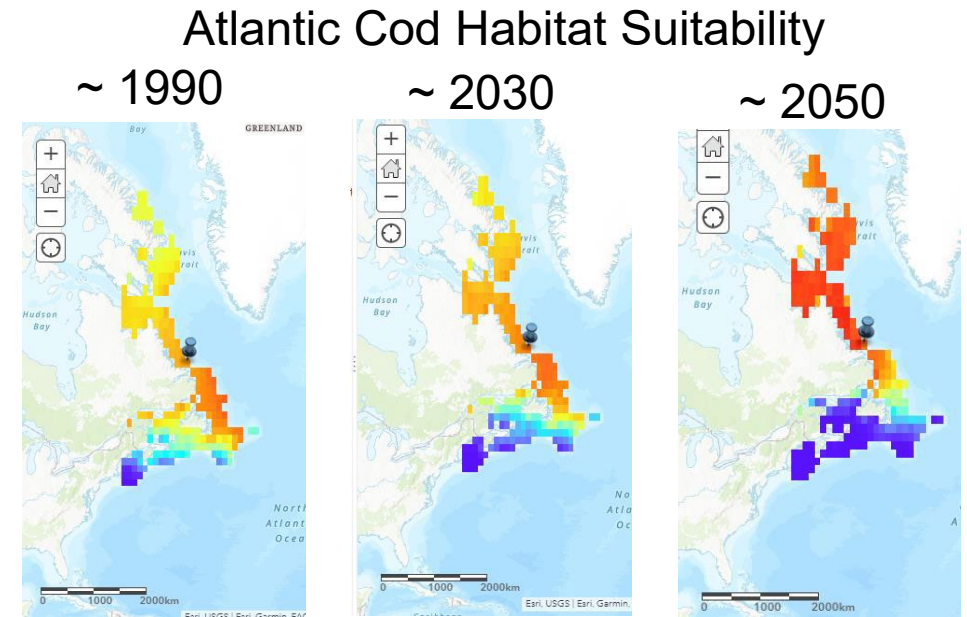
A Canadian flag is shown flying from a mast on the left side of the frame. The flag is partially obscured by a large white rounded rectangle containing text. The background is a sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water's surface. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

# Shared Perspectives

- Sustainability is **paramount**
- **Fisheries science is foundational** and DFO needs better prioritization of resources
- Fisheries management **decision-making must be informed by science**
- Rebuilding plans are **important planning tools**
  - Most Canadian fisheries are managed with **conservative harvest rates**

# But Rebuilding Plans Must be Rooted in Reality of Today

- The ocean is warming, and fish populations are adapting with winners (redfish, Atlantic halibut, etc.) and losers
- This means certain stocks are less productive and appear depleted
- But - Lower Productivity means historic levels are **very difficult** to achieve
- Rebuilding Targets **should** be based on current productivity
- These fisheries **are** sustainable, just at different and lower levels than before



Recruitment success regimes of fish on the Northeast US Continental Shelf.

From Peretti et al. 2017



# Differences of Opinion

CFIA reports that **91% of seafood** sold in Canadian retailers is labelled correctly. \*2020 and 2021 reports

**61% of Canada's total catch** by volume is MSC certified – making us second in the world.

Major mitigation measures by Canadian industry.

**No NARW mortality** from fishing gear since 2019.



# Achieving Our Vision



Fisheries science must be **robust and fundamental**



Need **predictability and stability** in SFM framework



**Public trust from Canadians** and the marketplace is essential



Fisheries Council of Canada  
Conseil Canadien des Pêches

 @FisheriesCA

 613-727-7450

 [info@fisheriescouncil.ca](mailto:info@fisheriescouncil.ca)

 [fisheriescouncil.ca](http://fisheriescouncil.ca)