Status and Strength of Rebuilding Plans in Canada

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Introduction

As part of the Sustainable Fisheries Framework (SFF), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) committed to implementing rebuilding plans for critically depleted stocks starting in 2009 (DFO, 2009). Yet, after nine years of Oceana Canada's annual Fishery Audit, only 34.5% of Canada's fisheries are considered healthy, with little improvement, underscoring that rebuilding has been long overdue for many key populations.

A legal shift occurred with the 2019 amendments to the *Fisheries Act*, which introduced binding Fish Stocks provisions (FSP) to (i) implement measures to maintain major fish stocks at levels necessary to promote sustainability; and (ii) develop and implement plans for stocks that have declined to or below their limit reference point (LRP). In 2022, amendments to the Fishery (General) Regulations listed the first 30 major stocks under these provisions, and set the requirements for rebuilding plan criteria, including a timeline to develop plans within 24–36 months (Government of Canada, 2022). In 2024, 11 of 12 rebuilding plans were approved and implemented, but not all published. By 2025, Canada reached a milestone by finalizing the publication of new rebuilding plans for 12 critically depleted stocks. The regulatory framework created the legal obligation that ultimately compelled this long-delayed action.

The newly published rebuilding plans[1] cover a wide range of species, including iconic forage fish like Atlantic mackerel and Pacific herring, groundfish such as cod, plaice, flounder and hake, and culturally and ecologically significant species like Chinook salmon. These plans were developed and approved within the regulatory timeline of 24 months, with limited extensions granted according to regulations in specific cases. Although the regulatory deadline for developing rebuilding plans was met, a closer examination of both the **quantity** and **quality** of the rebuilding plans reveals that substantial progress is still required.

1. Rebuilding Plan Evaluation

1.1. Quantity: A step forward in scope and compliance

As of 2025, 12 critical stocks prescribed under the amended *Fisheries Act* have rebuilding plans in place. This includes 10 stocks within the Fishery Audit index stock list and two additional salmon stocks that are not part of the index. When focusing only on the index stocks, this translates to 11 out of 32 critical stocks (34.4%) with rebuilding plans that meet legal requirements. This reflects a 16.2 percentage point increase since 2022, when just 6 out of 33 critical stocks (18.2%) had

[1] Rebuilding plans are accessible in DFO's website for Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs): https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/ifmp-gmp/index-eng.html or the Federal Science Libraries Network: https://science-libraries.canada.ca/eng/home/

rebuilding plans, none of which complied with the new regulatory standards (Schijns and Rangeley, 2022a).

Despite this progress, the fact remains that just over one-third of Canada's critically depleted stocks currently have a rebuilding plan in place, falling short of the policy requirement established in 2009. While this marks a substantial improvement from previous years, it also highlights the significant portion of Canada's depleted stocks that remain without a plan for recovery. Notably, all existing plans are considered compliant with the regulations, except for the 2018 plan for Atlantic cod in 4X5Yb, which is a stock that has not yet been prescribed. This plan predates the 2022 regulatory framework and is not yet subject to the regulations governing rebuilding plans. The stock proposed to be prescribed, meaning a compliant plan will be required and is expected to be developed upon listing.

Among the 21 critical stocks[2] that still lack a compliant rebuilding plan, several are in various stages of development. Northern Gulf shrimp in SFA 8, 9 and 10 stocks are currently prescribed and assessed as critical in 2023. Rebuilding plans are actively in development with approval due late October 2025. Seven additional critical stocks are included in a proposed second batch to be listed in the Fish Stocks provisions, which would trigger the legal obligation to develop plans in the near future (**Table 1**). Two other stocks, American plaice (3LNO) and cod (3NO), are managed under the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and have separate international recovery strategies in place. Of the remaining 16 critical stocks that are not prescribed or proposed, 12 have not had a recent assessment in the past five years. This lack of current scientific data continues to hinder the identification, prescription, and recovery of several likely-depleted stocks—leaving major gaps in Canada's rebuilding framework and allowing overfishing risks to persist unchecked.

1.2 Quality: Legal minimums are met, but best practices are not

While the quantity of plans has increased and most now meet the letter of the law, their **quality**—measured against both regulatory requirements and international best practices—remains mixed. Using a standardized evaluation rubric aligned with the *Fishery (General) Regulations*, each of the 12 rebuilding plans was assessed for compliance across nine regulatory criteria: describe stock status and causes of decline, set measurable objectives and timelines (or justify their absence), outline management measures, include methods to track progress and review schedules, be developed within 24 months (with possible 1-year extension), and be publicly posted along with review results (**Table 2**).

The results are encouraging. Most rebuilding plans received very high scores—between 8.5 and 9 out of a possible 9 points—demonstrating broad compliance with the legal requirements. Each plan clearly identifies the stock's status and trends, provides a science-based explanation of the causes of decline, and sets measurable objectives, including targets for rebuilding. The plans also outline management measures to achieve those objectives, describe methods for tracking progress, and include a schedule for periodic review and adjustment. This consistency lays the

[2] The total number of critical stocks is based on Oceana Canada's Fishery Audit index stock list, which differs slightly to DFO Sustainability Survey for Fisheries.

foundation for greater accountability, more predictable management, and ultimately, a more resilient future for fish populations, ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them.

Of the 12 rebuilding plans assessed, four include clear timelines for achieving rebuilding targets, demonstrating positive compliance with Subsection 70(1d) of the *Fishery (General) Regulations*. These include Atlantic mackerel, which has a projected recovery timeline of 18 years (Tmin=9 years); Atlantic cod in 3Ps, with a timeline of 25 years (Tmin=12 years); Atlantic cod in 3Pn4RS, with a 16-year timeline (Tmin=8 years); and WCVI Chinook salmon, which outlines a 12-year rebuilding period based on three generations. These plans provide transparent, time-bound objectives, helping to set expectations for recovery and enabling better tracking of progress.

The remaining 8 plans invoke the exception provided under Subsection 70(6), which allows for the omission of a timeline if it is not feasible to establish one, provided the reasons are documented. These include Pacific herring in Haida Gwaii, Atlantic herring (4T spring spawner), winter flounder (4T), white hake (4T), Atlantic cod (4TVn), American plaice (4T), Northern shrimp (SFA 6), and Okanagan Chinook salmon. In these cases, factors such as persistently high natural mortality, poor recruitment, lack of demographic data, or ecosystem-driven limitations made it scientifically unreasonable to determine a credible recovery timeline. While these exceptions are legally permissible, they highlight the challenges of rebuilding in degraded or data-poor systems and reinforce the need for enhanced monitoring, research, and ecosystem-based management to close information gaps and support future recovery planning.

One notable exception to the regulatory requirements is the rebuilding plan for Atlantic mackerel, which did not meet the mandated transparency around development timelines. While the *Fishery (General) Regulations* allows the Minister to extend the 24-month deadline by up to 12 months according to Subsection 70(3), the rationale must be publicly posted according to Subsection 70(4). In this case, the stock was prescribed on April 4, 2022, but the plan was not approved until April 12, 2024, exceeding the timeline without public notice, meaning the delay occurred without the required transparency, raising concerns about non-compliance. While this is relatively few days, any delay in the approval or publication of rebuilding plans risks undermining transparency, limiting meaningful stakeholder input, and contributing to confusion or conflict during key decision-making periods.

Using Oceana's comprehensive rubric (**Table 3**), which includes more ambitious criteria based on best practices (Garcia et al., 2018; OECD, 2012) such as a thorough review of rebuilding impediments, socioeconomic analyses, inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) (Moffat et al., 2025) and ecosystem approaches, the plans performed notably less well. On a 10-point scale reflecting best-practice elements, scores ranged from 3.5 to 7.5 out of 10. The average score was 5 out of 10, indicating that while some elements are present in most plans, they are often partial or underdeveloped. For example, timelines were frequently vague, lacking explicit probability estimates or detailed recovery pathways. In several cases, the management measures lacked clear links to stated objectives or failed to include explicit harvest control rules.

Integration of ecosystem considerations was limited, and few plans featured explicit roles for Indigenous governance or IKS beyond general references to consultation. Plans for Pacific herring

(Haida Gwaii) and WCVI Chinook salmon stood out as partial exceptions, proposing spatially explicit rebuilding targets, ecosystem-based frameworks, and formal collaboration with Indigenous partners. In additional analyses on the inclusion of IKS and ecosystem approaches for forage fish, the Pacific herring (Haida Gwaii) rebuilding plan demonstrated the strongest performance compared to other departmental advice documents for forage fish and stocks that hold cultural significance to Indigenous Peoples (Moffat et al., 2025). However, even these plans often fell short of fully meeting comprehensive standards for transparency, enforceability, and adaptive management.

Overall, the evaluation of 12 rebuilding plans demonstrates that while legal requirements under the *Fisheries Act* are largely being met, the quality and ambition of the plans vary significantly when measured against more comprehensive best-practice criteria (**Table 4**). Pacific herring (Haida Gwaii) stands out with the highest overall score, reflecting both regulatory completeness and a more robust plan design, while several groundfish and forage fish plans show room for improvement in meeting comprehensive standards. This highlights a gap between regulatory compliance and the broader standards needed to ensure effective, transparent, and precautionary rebuilding of depleted fish stocks, especially in areas such as inclusion of IKS, measurable objectives, socioeconomic analyses, and precautionary harvest control rules.

1.3 Process

1.3.1. Approval and publication: Timeliness and transparency Gaps

Figure 1 highlights substantial delays in the rebuilding of depleted Canadian fish stocks, showing that, on average, it takes 25 years from the time a stock is first identified as below LRP to when a rebuilding plan is published—ranging from as few as 3 years to as many as 86. Despite the introduction of the PA Policy in 2009, established a policy requirement for rebuilding plans for stocks below their LRP, such plans were in place for only an average of 15.8% of critical stocks between 2017 and 2021. Many of these rebuilding plans were criticized for lacking essential elements such recovery targets, timelines, and management measures to achieve objectives (Archibald and Rangeley 2018; 2019; Hutchings et al., 2021; Levesque et al., 2021; Schijns and Rangeley 2022b; 2023).

Progress followed the enactment of binding Fish Stocks Provisions (FSP) under the *Fisheries Act* in 2022, which required prescribed depleted stocks to move to plan approval within a 24-month period, with up to 12 additional months permitted under a formally posted Notice of Extension. Three rebuilding plans have received extensions: Chinook salmon (WC Vancouver Island) was granted a one-year extension, while Atlantic cod (3Pn4RS) and Northern shrimp (SFA 6) were each granted three months. These were posted publicly on the DFO website, in accordance with Subsection 70(4) of the Fishery (General) Regulations.

In addition, departmental guidance for rebuilding plans (DFO, 2022) states that approved rebuilding plans should be published within 120 days of plan approval. Despite Canada's commitment to accessibility through the *Accessible Canada Act* and the *Official Languages Act*, the delayed publication of approved rebuilding plans led to transparency gaps and unintended consequences. According to departmental correspondence, most plans were not initially developed with all Government of Canada accessibility standards in mind. This oversight required

substantial post-approval reformatting to ensure bilingual presentation and compliance with digital accessibility guidelines, resulting in none of the rebuilding plans being published within the 120-day period. On average, plans took approximately one year from approval to publication, double the recommended timeframe.

In the interim, key plans such as those for Atlantic mackerel, spring Gulf herring and Gulf groundfish, were implemented during active fishing seasons before stakeholders had access to the final documents. This lack of timely disclosure led to confusion, resistance, and conflict over management measures that could have been mitigated through earlier engagement.[3] Such delays undermine the spirit and purpose of the *Accessible Canada Act* and the *Official Languages Act*, both of which are intended to eliminate barriers to communication, not create them.

Moreover, these requirements are not being applied uniformly across DFO regions: for instance, the Pacific Region routinely publishes IFMPs as PDFs with accessibility disclaimers, offering alternative formats upon request, rather than withholding publication entirely. Current Treasury Board and departmental accessibility policies emphasize inclusive communication, but do not require that documents be held back until fully coded for websites or translated. In practice, this means that DFO could meet its obligations by releasing approved plans immediately, with appropriate disclaimers and follow-up formats as needed. Through correspondence, DFO has since acknowledged this challenge and is in the process of updating its Rebuilding Plan Guidelines to incorporate accessibility design upfront and streamline publication. In the meantime, DFO should commit to releasing final rebuilding plans to stakeholders as soon as they are approved, alongside clear notices for future translation or formatting, to uphold transparency, support timely stakeholder engagement, and improve fisheries governance.

Rebuilding overexploited fisheries is a long-term investment, often requiring several years to decades to reach sustainable catch levels. The pace of recovery depends on the stock's productivity, past and present fishing pressure, the extent of depletion, and changing environmental or biological conditions—all of which must be accounted for when setting realistic rebuilding timelines (Patrick and Cope, 2014). Looking ahead, **Figure 2** illustrates that among the four rebuilding plans with defined timelines, recovery targets are achievable in as few as 8 to 12 years based on Tmin, the estimated time for a stock to rebuild above the LRP under no fishing (F = 0) and current productivity conditions. With rebuilding targets set 12 to 24 years from 2025, these plans allow for some level of fishing and account for uncertainties in future environmental conditions. For Atlantic cod in 3Ps—critically depleted for 22 years and 2.5 years in plan development—the projected Tmin of 12 years and a 24-year recovery timeline demonstrate that intervention can reverse long-standing depletion. In the case of Atlantic mackerel, a Tmin of 8

[3] Approved rebuilding plans were not publicly available, even though they were referenced in IFMPs and advisory committee discussions. For instance, the plans for Atlantic mackerel, 4T spring herring, and 4 Gulf groundfish were formally approved before advisory meetings held in 2024–2025. Because the plans and the details of science-based measures were withheld, stakeholders were asked to provide input on annual fisheries decisions without access to the full suite of rebuilding measures—resulting in significant discrepancies between stakeholder advice and the measures ultimately adopted.

years under no fishing compared to 17 years with some level of continued fishing highlights the trade-offs made between ecological rebuilding and socioeconomic considerations.

1.3.2. Decisions during development

The planning process itself reflects a shift toward more precautionary and strategic fisheries management. For several stocks—including mackerel, spring Gulf herring, and multiple Atlantic groundfish—moratoriums were introduced or maintained during the development of rebuilding plans. This approach aligns with scientific recommendations and acknowledges that the effectiveness of a rebuilding plan depends not just on what is written, but the measures that are taken throughout development and implementation.

For stocks where fishing was allowed during the development phase, catch levels were generally kept at or below levels deemed consistent with rebuilding. These included 3Ps cod, Okanagan Chinook salmon, and Northern shrimp in SFA 6. Notably, fishing opportunities for mackerel were maintained in the form of a limited bait fishery across five provinces, reflecting attempts to balance rebuilding needs with socioeconomic realities. The commercial redfish fishery in Unit 1+2 was re-opened alongside newly implemented bycatch caps for four Gulf groundfish species. However, the approved TAC of 60,000 tonnes raises concerns, as it increases the likelihood of surpassing these bycatch limits and calls into question the consistency between rebuilding plans and related fisheries decisions (Rolland et al., 2022; Oceana Canada, 2025).

2. Critical stocks still awaiting action

Despite this progress, the rebuilding effort remains constrained by both narrow legal scope and uneven implementation. As of 2025, only 30 of nearly 200 Canadian fish stocks are legally prescribed under the *Fisheries Act*. Of these, 12 remain in the critical zone despite the new plans, and three new shrimp stocks were added to the critical list in 2023. Several other stocks—such as Yellowtail flounder (4T), Atlantic cod (4X5Y), and Atlantic herring (4X5Y)—are expected to be listed soon, with new rebuilding plans due in the coming years.

Importantly, the *Fisheries Act* still does not apply to dozens of likely-depleted stocks, including many of the 33.5% of Canadian fisheries currently classified as having "uncertain" status. An analysis suggests that several of these stocks are likely to be in the critical zone but remain unlisted due to data limitations (Schijns, 2022), effectively losing out on safeguards and legal oversight.

Conclusion

Canada has taken a major step forward in meeting its legal obligations to rebuild depleted fisheries. The publication of new plans for 12 critical stocks is a long-awaited and welcome achievement. These plans offer a foundation for recovery and demonstrate the feasibility of legal and scientific rebuilding frameworks. Yet the quality of these plans remains inconsistent. Too many are missing key components—clear timelines, robust probability modeling, enforceable harvest control rules, ecosystem approaches and meaningful inclusion of IKS. Without these elements, rebuilding plans risk becoming paper exercises rather than transformational tools.

To fully realize the potential of Canada's *Fisheries Act*, the federal government must ensure that future plans not just meet the minimum legal standard but set the higher bar of best practices. Expanding the list of prescribed stocks, strengthening the quality of plan content, and committing to full implementation and enforcement will be essential steps to restore ocean abundance, support resilient communities, and safeguard future generations.

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Table 1. Critical stocks in the second batch of stocks proposed to be added to the Act in 2025, thus triggering rebuilding plan requirements by 2027/28. Includes 7 key harvested stocks as recognized by DFO in proposed regulations, corresponding to 5 fishery audit index stocks, which excludes salmon.

Common Stock Name	Audit index stock	Stock Status Relative to LRP	Rebuilding Plan Update
Yellowtail flounder, NAFO 4T	Yes	Below	According to the ***Sustainable Fisheries Framework Work Plan for Fiscal 2024-2025***, "Will initiate development of rebuilding plan in 2024-2025". CSAS meeting on "Stock Assessment and Science Advice to Support the Rebuilding Plan" scheduled for March 2026.
Atlantic Cod, NAFO 4X5Y	Yes	Below	NA
Herring, NAFO 4X5Y	Yes	Below	According to the ***Sustainable Fisheries Framework Work Plan for Fiscal 2024-2025***, "Will initiate development of rebuilding plan in 2024-2025".
Sockeye Salmon – Fraser (Early Stuart)	No	Below	NA
Icelandic Scallop – 16E	Yes, "SCAL_NSHORE" includes all areas in the North shore (SFA 15-18)	Below	According to the ***Sustainable Fisheries Framework Work Plan for Fiscal 2024-2025***, "Continue preliminary work to develop a rebuilding plan".
Icelandic Scallop – 16F	Yes, "SCAL_NSHORE" includes all areas in the North shore (SFA 15-18)	Below	According to the ***Sustainable Fisheries Framework Work Plan for Fiscal 2024-2025***, "Continue preliminary work to develop a rebuilding plan".
Snow Crab – 12A	Yes	Below as of audit data cut-off, assigned as cautious in latest assessment.	According to the ***Sustainable Fisheries Framework Work Plan for Fiscal 2024-2025***, "Continue preliminary work to develop a rebuilding plan". Not required as of latest assessment. Next assessment scheduled for January 2026.

Table 2. Evaluation of the presence (Yes=1, Partial=0.5, No=0) of the elements that rebuilding plans for prescribed Fishery Audit index stocks must contain to meet the requirements of the Fish Stocks provisions s. 6.2 in the amended *Fisheries Act* (2019) and in the Fishery (General) Regulations (FGR), and quality of elements as set out in the Rebuilding Plan Guidelines. Detailed rationale for each score are available in a separate spreadsheet: Rebuilding Plan Rubric.xlsx tab "Regulatory".

To meet regulatory requirements, the plan *must at a minimum contain*:	Pacific herring – Haida Gwaii	Atlantic herring – 4T (spring)	Winter Flounder - 4T	White Hake - 4T	Atlantic Cod - 4TVn	American Plaice - 4T	Atlantic mackerel	Atlantic cod – 3Ps	Atlantic cod – 3Pn4RS	Northern shrimp - SFA 6	Chinook Salmon - Okanagan	Chinook Salmon - WCVI
The stock status and trends.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The probable causes for the stock's decline.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measurable objectives aimed at rebuilding the stock.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The timelines for achieving the objectives. Else, the reasons why it is not feasible to do so.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
The management measures aimed at achieving the objectives.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
A method to track progress towards achieving the objectives.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	1
A schedule for a periodic review of the plan to assess progress.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Be developed within 24 months of the stock declining to or below its LRP, else a publicly posted rationale if an extension (max. 12 months) is granted.	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Publish plan and the results of any periodic review on the Internet site of the Department.	0.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0.5

Table 3. Evaluation of the presence (Yes=1, Partial=0.5, No=0) and quality (see description) of Oceana Canada's ten recommended comprehensive requirements with draft rebuilding plans. Detailed rationale for each score are available in a separate spreadsheet: Rebuilding Plan Rubric.xlsx tab Oceana_Comprehensive.

To meet Oceana's comprehensive requirements, the plan *must at a minimum contain*:	Pacific herring - Haida Gwaii	Atlantic herring – 4T (spring)	Winter Flounder - 4T	White Hake - 4T	Atlantic Cod - 4TVn	American Plaice - 4T	Atlantic mackerel	Atlantic cod - 3Ps	Atlantic cod - 3Pn4RS	Northern shrimp - SFA 6	Chinook Salmon - Okanagan	Chinook Salmon - WCVI
An overview of all fisheries interacting with the stock, socioeconomic and cultural importance, history of management and assessment.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
A review of impediments to successfully rebuilding the stock.	1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1
Specific objectives that include: 1) Target abundance to ecologically restored levels. 2) Probability estimates of at least 75 per cent that the target abundance will be met within the timeframe. 3) Interim objectives. 4) Other stock-specific objectives.	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
The timeline for achieving the target and desired likelihood or probability of achieving the rebuilding target.	0.5	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0	0	0.5
Management measures that have a high probability of success of meeting the objectives, including harvest decision or control rules.	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.5
An analysis of socio-economic, cultural and ecological impacts of the rebuilding plan.	1	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0	0.5
Development of the plan is initiated sufficiently in advance to ensure that the plan is ready to be implemented if a stock declines to its LRP.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Developed in consultation with Indigenous peoples when there is a legal duty to consult, collaborate to ensure plan is compatible Indigenous Knowledge Systems.	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	1
Published and implemented within 120 days from the date of the plan's approval by the Minister. Data is made publicly available (i.e. in appendices).	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Remain in effect until the stock reaches its rebuilding target with 75% probability and the IFMP includes management measures to maintain stock growth above the USR or TRP.	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0	0.5

Table 4. Summary of overall regulatory and comprehensive scores for 12 rebuilding plans, based on the presence of required elements (Yes = 1, Partial = 0.5, No = 0) as evaluated against *Fisheries Act* regulations and Oceana's comprehensive criteria.

Scores	Pacific herring - Haida Gwaii	Atlantic herring – 4T (spring)	Winter Flounder - 4T	White Hake - 4T	Atlantic Cod - 4TVn	American Plaice - 4T	Atlantic mackerel	Atlantic cod - 3Ps	Atlantic cod - 3Pn4RS	Northern shrimp - SFA 6	Chinook Salmon - Okanagan	Chinook Salmon - WCVI
Regulatory Requirements	8.5/9	9/9	9/9	9/9	9/9	9/9	8/9	9/9	9/9	9/9	8.5/9	8.5/9
Oceana Comprehensive Requirements	7.5/10	4.5/10	3.5/10	4/10	4/10	4/10	5.5/10	6/10	4.5/10	4.5/10	3.5/10	6.5/10

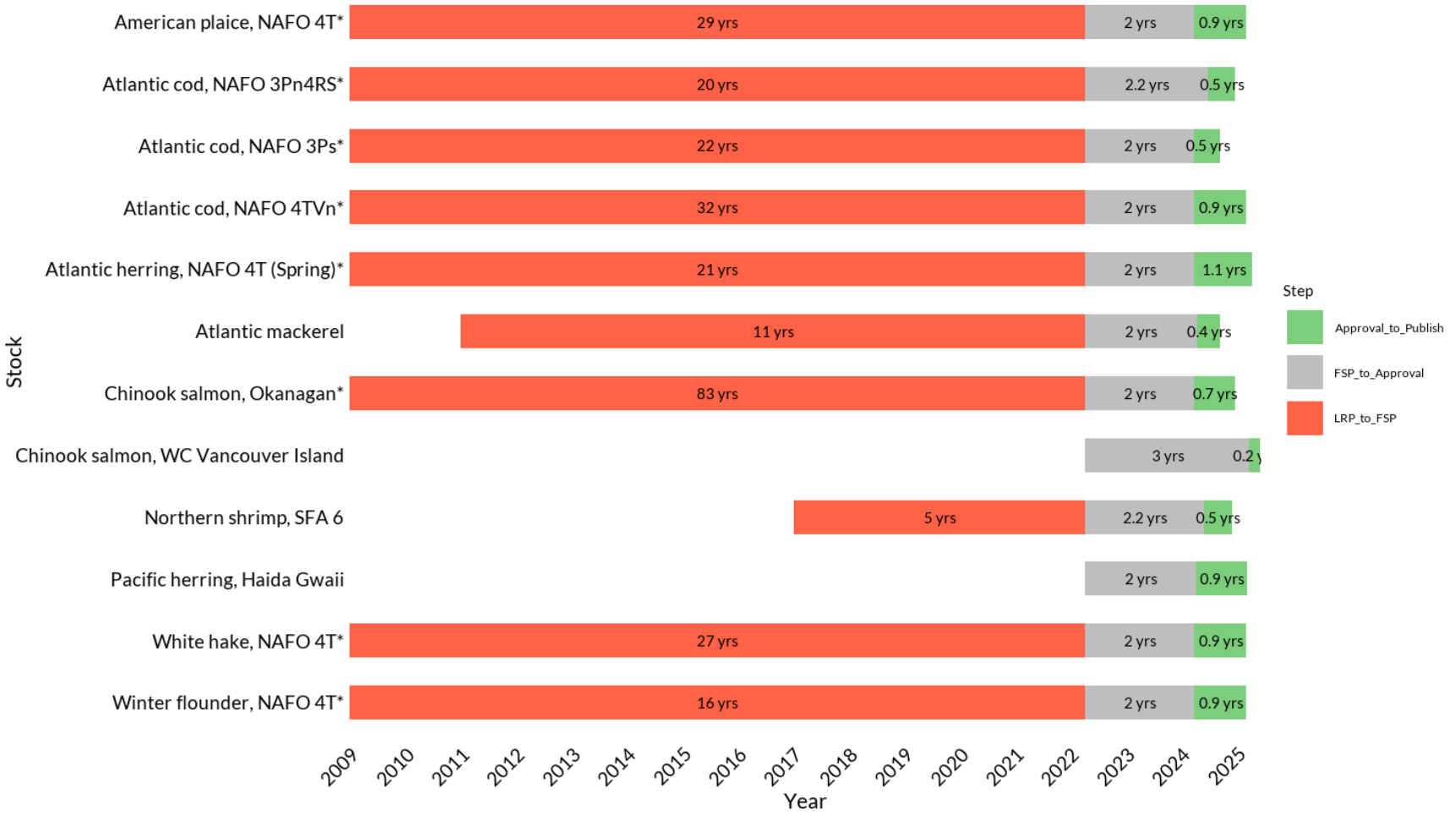

Figure 1. Timelines for the development and publication of rebuilding plans for 12 critical fish stocks prescribed under Canada's Fish Stock Provisions. The horizontal bars represent the cumulative time elapsed between key milestones: the date the stock was first determined to be at or below its limit reference point (LRP), the date it was prescribed to the Fish Stock Provisions (FSP), the date the rebuilding plan was approved, and the date it was published. The red segments (LRP_to_FSP) illustrate the number of years a stock remained below its LRP prior to prescription, with asterisks noting stocks that were determined below the LRP prior to 2009 . This bar begins as early as 2009, the year Canada's Precautionary Approach Framework

was implemented, to
emphasize the policy
requirement of timely action for rebuilding depleted stocks. Grey segments (FSP_to_Approval) and green segments (Approval_to_Publish) reflect subsequent administrative steps in the development of plans.

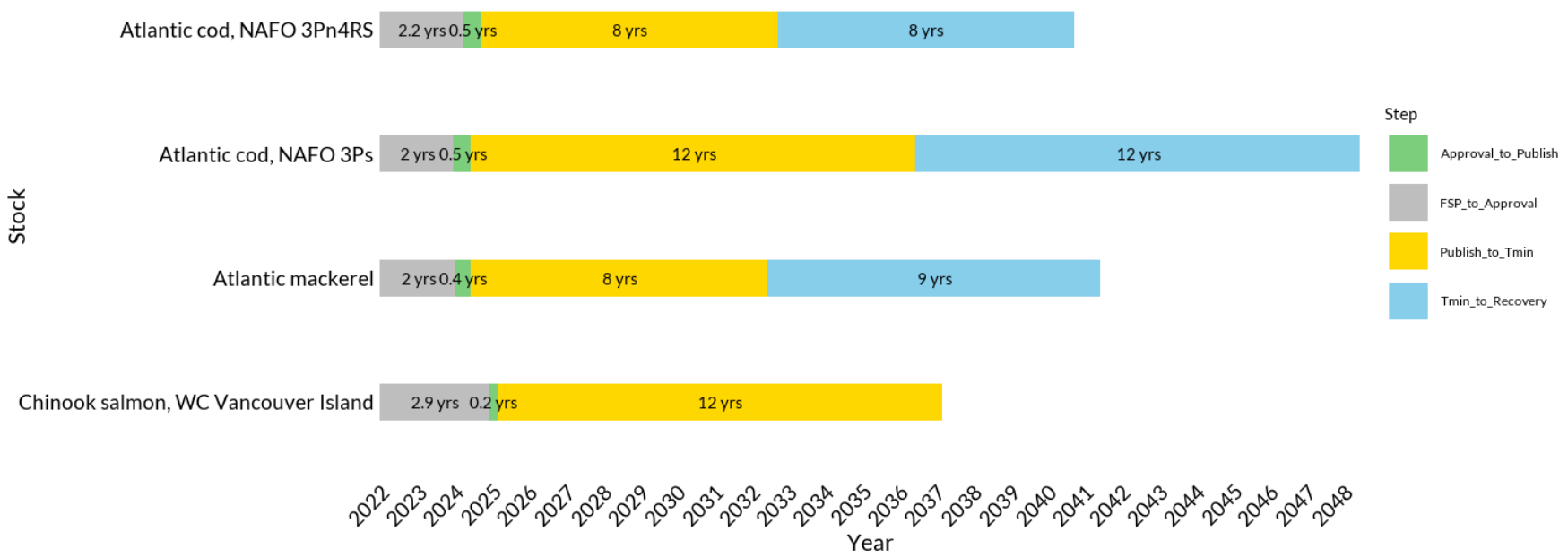

Figure 2. Timelines from rebuilding plan publication to recovery target for four prescribed stocks, showing the interval from the date of plan publication to the minimum time to recovery (Tmin), and from Tmin to the recovery target date. For Chinook salmon (WC Vancouver Island), no Tmin was provided in the plan, so only the full duration from publication to recovery is shown.