



INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENCE ELIGIBILITY AND QUOTA RELINQUISHMENT PROCESS December 2020

OVERVIEW

The Government of Canada is committed to expanding opportunities for Aboriginal peoples to participate in Pacific commercial fisheries. At this time, funding is anticipated to be available under Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Pacific Region Aboriginal programs for licence eligibility and quota relinquishments to be completed by **January 29, 2021**.

The licence eligibility and quota relinquishment process begins when a commercial vessel owner or licence eligibility holder completes an application offering licence eligibilities and/or quota and indicates the voluntary payment requested for each relinquishment. Although DFO will consider licence eligibilities and/or quota for most fisheries, the decision to recommend acceptance of an application will be strongly influenced by identified or anticipated First Nations' needs and by the amount of the voluntary payment requested.

Upon DFO's approval of an application, an agreement to relinquish the licence eligibilities and/or quota will be prepared by DFO and forwarded to the applicant for signature. The relinquishment agreement (the "agreement") identifies the licence eligibilities and/or quota in the application that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans ("the Minister") will consider for relinquishment.

Under the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI), funding will also be available to First Nations participating in the program to acquire licence eligibilities and quota directly. To assist First Nations in the success of this initiative, DFO may share information collected on applications received through this relinquishment opportunity with participating First Nations Commercial Fishing Enterprises (CFEs).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include:

- Owners of vessels with one or more limited entry full fee and/or reduced fee vessel-based licence eligibilities.
- Holders of record for limited entry full fee and/or reduced fee party-based licence eligibilities.

The opportunity to relinquish licence eligibilities and/or quota will be subject to the funds available.

At this time, DFO is not considering recommending for acceptance spawn on kelp, eulachon and intertidal clam licence eligibilities.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The process starts with the applicant completing and submitting the *Application for Relinquishment of Commercial Fishing Licence Eligibilities or Quota*.

The companion document *How to Complete an Application for Relinquishment* provides information to help you complete the application.

Please note that applications to relinquish vessel based eligibilities will include any Schedule II privileges, if applicable, in respect of the eligibility e.g. dogfish and/or lingcod quota.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to seek independent advice regarding payment requested, income tax, financial, legal and other implications of relinquishing licence eligibilities and/or quota.

DFO will provide written acknowledgement of each application received and contact the applicant if further information is required.

The applicant may amend the application at any time **up to January 29, 2021** by submitting a written request to DFO before the deadline.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Please be aware that DFO is only able to accept relinquishment offers that fall within current market value ranges, which vary over time. These ranges are determined through a combination of factors including third party collection of data on actual market transactions and surveys with various industry advisory board experts. No price negotiation will occur. All relinquishments will be in accordance with DFO licensing policy and rules.

Letters will be sent by DFO to the applicants or appointed representatives to indicate DFO's recommended approval or non approval of applications. Letters of non-approval will be mailed upon completion of the relinquishment process.

RELINQUISHMENT AND PAYMENT PROCESS

Upon DFO's recommendation of approval of an application for the Minister's consideration, an agreement will be sent to the applicant for signature. The agreement will specify the licence eligibility and/or quota relinquishment details, including payment. It will also specify other requirements that must be completed by the applicant prior to DFO making a payment, for example:

- (a) Ensuring all licence conditions have been met and returning all fishing licence documents to DFO; and
- (b) Advising DFO of any amounts owing by the applicant to the federal government.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to dispose of an unlicensed vessel to ensure there is no harm to the environment, public safety or other hazard.

If the vessel owner(s) or licence eligibility holder is a company, the agreement must be signed by the authorized signatories of the company. The persons signing the agreement should reflect the signing authorities of the company on record with DFO in compliance with the *Fisheries (General) Regulations*.

The applicant must return the agreement to DFO for review, signature and processing of payment. When all requirements under the agreement have been completed by the applicant, DFO will sign the agreement and provide a copy to the applicant. DFO will also process payment in accordance with the agreement and DFO's licensing policy and rules.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Review the *Application for Relinquishment of Commercial Fishing Licence Eligibilities or Quota* and the companion document *How to Complete an Application for Relinquishment*.
2. If, after reading the above material you need additional information, please contact **Guinevere Pauls at (250) 618-4877**. For assistance with quota, please contact the **Groundfish Management Unit at (604) 666-5865**.