

Government of  
Northwest Territories

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# Commercial Fishery Support Program (Pilot Program)

Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment





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# Program Description

The purpose of the Commercial Fishery Support Program (CFSP) pilot program is to support the expansion and modernization of commercial fisheries in the NWT, to increase fish production volume and to create jobs in the fisheries sector as part of a diversified and sustainable economy.

The CFSP has been developed to ensure equitable and consistent access to responsive financial incentives for new and established commercial fishers.

**The CFSP is designed to:**

- Increase the volume and variety of value-added fish products; and
- Improve food security in the NWT through provision of a stable, sustainable and healthy supply of fish harvested, processed, and brought to market.

As a pilot program, the performance of CFSP will be actively monitored, and reviewed annually.

## Who Can Apply?

Eligibility varies according to the CFSP priority stream and emergent initiatives.

The following recipient types have been identified as eligible for funding under the CFSP:

- Commercial Fishers
- NWT Industry Organizations
- NWT Research Bodies/Institutions
- NWT Indigenous Governments
- NWT Indigenous Organizations

# How Will Funding Be Allocated

Funding associated with the CFSP will be allocated to strategic objectives identified by the GNWT based on sector engagement and annual performance review.

The CFSP has three priority streams:

## Option 1 – Responsive Incentives and Supports

- a. **Fuel Rebate** – Commercial fishers will be paid 0.10/lb based on volumes delivered to an NWT fish processing plant or sold domestically. The rebate will be:
  - ii. Added to the fisher’s regular payments by the receiving plant; or
  - iii. Via application form for those selling domestically. ([link to application form](#))

- b. **Volume Incentive** – to encourage fishers to meet benchmark target volumes. This incentive would be paid at the end of the open water fishing season.

The amount of the volume incentive will be determined as follows:

- i. 50,000 lbs - \$2,500 at year end; or 0.05 cents/lb
- ii. 75,000 lbs - \$5,000 at year end; or 0.07 cents/lb
- iii. 100,000 lbs - \$10,000 at year end; or 0.1 cents/lb
- iv. 150,000 lbs - \$15,000 at year end; or 0.1 cents/lb

*The one-time volume incentive does not limit fishers from access other existing ITI funding programs or rebates.*

## Option 2 – Increasing Sector Participation

- a. **Out-of-Territory Recruitment Incentive** – to encourage and support experienced commercial fishers from outside the NWT to participate in the NWT sector. These experienced new participants in the NWT sector can receive up to \$30,000 in funding under the CFSP.
- b. **Emerging NWT Commercial Fishers** – to support new NWT-based fishers in order to improve their chances of establishing themselves as profitable and sustainable commercial fisheries businesses. These emerging NWT commercial fishers can receive up to \$30,000 in funding under the CFSP.

## Option 3 – Research and Sustainability

- a. **Research and Sustainability** – to introduce technology, equipment, processes, and techniques that will increase the sustainability, productivity, safety, and efficiency of commercial fisheries in the NWT.

*Projects can receive up to \$20,000 in funding under CFSP and must demonstrate the potential for broad based benefits across the sector.*

# Eligible Costs Under This Program

## **Option 1 – Responsive Incentives and Supports**

- a. Fuel rebate will be based on volume of fish delivered.
- b. Volume incentive will be based on proof of catch volume, either through the fish plant records, or through daily catch records/sales receipt combination.

## **Option 2 – Increasing Sector Participation**

- a. Out of Territory Recruitment Incentive.
  - i. Commercial fisheries operational expenses;
  - ii. Transportation; and
  - iii. Storage.
- b. Emerging NWT Commercial Fishers.
  - i. Skills development and training assistance;
  - ii. Transportation; and
  - iii. Storage.

## **Option 3 – Research and Sustainability**

All costs associated with a research and development project, including wages and salaries, equipment purchases and associated operational costs.

# Application Process

1. Complete the online application found on the [ITI website](#).
2. Send the application along with the required documents to your [regional ITI office](#) for consideration and approval.

Applicants will be informed in writing within 15 business days of the review of the application whether approval of the application has been granted and which eligible costs have been approved.

Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis throughout the fiscal year, but applications must be approved before beginning supported activities. Expenditures made prior to the date of application approval will not be considered.

Applicants who are just starting commercial activities should be able to demonstrate relevant experience and a capacity to engage in the sector, for example through access to equipment, licenses and permits.

Commercial fishers must also hold a valid commercial fishing license and vessel certificates if applicable.

## Completing the Application Form

The application form is available online on ITI's website at <https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en/commercial-fishery-support-program>.

The following information will be needed to complete the application form:

- Applicant or business information and licensing;
- Project details; and
- Estimated costs and sources of funding (requires a breakdown of all costs for the application).

# Timelines

Applications are accepted until March 31, 2024, or until the program budget has been allocated.

## What is the Appeals Process?

1. An applicant who is not satisfied with the decision of the approving authority may appeal to the Deputy Minister who will delegate authority for reviewing the appeal to the appropriate official.
2. Appeals must be in writing and received by the Deputy Minister no later than thirty (30) calendar days following the date that the applicant has received notification of the decision.
3. The delegated authority may vary or set aside the decision if, in his or her opinion:
  - i. The applicant has presented new information that materially affects the application and became known to the applicant between the date the completed and signed application was forwarded to ITI and the date the application was reviewed; or
  - ii. It is determined that the provisions of this policy were not fairly and adequately applied.

# Contact

For full program details and more information about how to apply, go to <https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en/commercial-fishery-support-program>

If you have any further questions about the CFSP, visit your [regional ITI office](#), or contact ITI's Economic Diversification Division by email at [commercialfish@gov.nt.ca](mailto:commercialfish@gov.nt.ca) or by phone at (867) 767-9219 ext. 63080.

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*\*ITI reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any point in time, including the list of eligible and ineligible applicants and costs.*

Commercial Fishery  
Support Program  
(Pilot Program)

<https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca>