

COMMERCIAL FISHERY SUPPORT PROGRAM

1. PROGRAM DETAILS

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) has a mandate to promote economic self-sufficiency and diversification through the responsible development of the Northwest Territories (NWT) food production and processing sectors, including the commercial fishing sector.

The Commercial Fishery Support Program (CFSP) aims to contribute to the diversification of the NWT economy, create new business opportunities and generate new jobs. The program will support the strategic expansion and modernization of commercial fisheries in the NWT, increasing participation in the sector and increase fish production volume.

The CFSP is aligned with the vision and goals of the Strategy for Revitalizing the Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery.

2. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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.

3. 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 Fisher
- NWT Industry Organization
- NWT Indigenous Government or Organization

NWT residency is a requirement for all CFSP funding streams, except for the Out of Territory Recruitment Incentive.

- Proof of six months Northwest Territories residency is required for all applications (valid forms of proof include Northwest Territories health care

card, NWT rental agreement, or utility bills). NWT drivers license is not a valid form of proof of residency.

4. HOW WILL THE 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.

Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis throughout the fiscal year, but applications must be approved before beginning the activity. Applications are assessed on a first come, first serve basis until the annual budget is exhausted.

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.

Expenditures made prior to the date of application approval will not be considered. An applicant who is not satisfied with the decision may submit a written appeal to the Deputy Minister who will delegate authority for reviewing the appeal to the appropriate official. All appeals must be filed within 30 days of the initial decision.

For the purposes of this program, the funding year runs from April 1 to March 31. All eligibility assessments, reporting requirements, and payment calculations will be based on activities occurring within this period.

5. CFSP FUNDING STREAMS

Eligible commercial fishers may apply for multiple streams of funding

1. Responsive Incentives and Supports

- a. **Fuel Rebate** will be based on volume of fish delivered domestically and to the Hay River fish processing plant. The scope of this sector support will be determined and announced seasonally. All commercial fishers will be paid 0.10/lb based on Hay River Plant deliveries, or receipts provided to the ITI regional office. For Hay River Fish Plant deliveries, the rebate is added to the fisher's regular payments by the plant.
- b. **Volume Incentive** will be based on delivery to the Hay River fish processing plant. Volume incentive - the scope of this sector support will be reviewed seasonally and may be revised. This production-

based financial bonus is used to encourage fishers to meet benchmark target volumes. This incentive would be paid at the end each commercial fishing season.

The summer incentive formula is:

- 50,000- 74,999 round lbs - \$2,500 at end of season
- 75,000 – 99,999 round lbs - \$5,000 at end of season
- 100,000 – 149,999 round lbs - \$10,000 at end of season
- 150,000+ round lbs - \$15,000 at end of season

The winter incentive formula is:

- 15,000 – 24,999 round lbs - \$1,500 at end of season
- 25,000 – 34,999 round lbs - \$2,500 at end of season
- 35,000 – 44,999 round lbs - \$3,500 at end of season
- 45,000+ round lbs - \$4,500 at end of season

Volumes are calculated for the two distinct fishing seasons. Applications will need to be made for the summer and winter incentives separately.

- c. **Equipment Support** will provide successful applicants funding of up to \$20,000 to offset costs of equipment and supplies such as:
- Boats, motors, nets, winter equipment, etc.
 - Water safety equipment
 - Equipment repair expenses

Fishers can receive 70% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$20,000 per applicant per year.

Applicants may be approved and advanced Equipment Support funding for the current season conditional on delivering a minimum of 5,000lbs of fish to the Hay River Fish Processing Plant within the same funding year (aggregated across summer and winter seasons). Proof of delivery is required from the plant.

If the 5,000-lb minimum is not met by the end of the funding year, the recipient will be invoiced for the full amount advanced under Equipment Support and will be ineligible for any CFSP funding until the outstanding balance is repaid in full.

2. Increasing Sector Participation

- a. Out of Territory Recruitment Incentive: to encourage and support commercial fishers from outside the NWT to participate in the NWT sector. These participants in the NWT sector can receive up to \$20,000 in funding under the CFSP to off-set costs associated with their engagement in the NWT commercial fishery. Commercial fishers will be paid at 0.20/lb based on volumes delivered to the Hay River fish processing plant.
- b. Emerging NWT Commercial Fishers: this funding is intended to support recently established NWT commercial fishers (within 2 years of starting their operation) to improve the profitability of their commercial fisheries businesses. These emerging NWT commercial fishers can receive up to \$20,000 in funding under the CFSP to off-set costs associated with building profitable and sustainable businesses. Emerging commercial fishers will be paid at 0.20/lb based on volumes delivered to the Hay River fish processing plant.

3. Capacity Building

- a. Specialized training including costs associated with workshops, online courses, and professional development
- b. Staff training, internship support or mentorship
 - Staff training and development:
 - 75% of project costs to a maximum of \$7,500 per worker (in-kind expenses are not eligible)
 - Internship:
 - Up to 75% of the intern wages to a maximum of \$7,500 per intern (can include in-kind wage expenses such as room and board for the intern- funding will only be provided for actual expenses paid)
 - Mentorship:
 - Up to 75% of expenses incurred for the mentorship to a maximum of \$7,500

6. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

Information related to accessing funding associated with CFSP can be found on the ITI website: <https://www.iti.gov.nt.ca/en/commercial-fishing>

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 NWT commercial fishing license and vessel certificates if applicable.

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

- Completed and signed CFSP application form.
- Proof of 6-month NWT residency
- Copy of commercial fishing license.
- Copy of vessel certificate (if applicable).
- Compliance with NWT Corporate Registries (if applicable).
- Copy of business license.
- Project details.
- Project cost quotations and sources of funding- requires a breakdown of all costs for the application.
- An applicant to the Emerging NWT Commercial Fisher program will need to demonstrate previous engagement in a minimum of two commercial fishing seasons.

7. TIMELINES

Applications are accepted throughout the year, until the programs annual budget is expended.

8. QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions about the CFSP, contact ITI's Economic Diversification Division by email at commercialfish@gov.nt.ca or by telephone at (867) 767-9219 ext 63080.