

# Marine Compensation in the Maritimes Region

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Habitat Management Program (HMP)  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada



Fisheries and Oceans Pêches et Océans  
Canada Canada

# Habitat Management Mandate

- Conserve and protect fish habitat thereby facilitating the sustainable development of fisheries resources in Canada
- *Fish Habitat* – any spawning grounds, nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which fish depend, directly or indirectly, in order to carry out their life processes.



# *Legal Context*

## *Fisheries Act - HADD*



- **Section 35(1)**

No one shall carry on any work that results in the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat (HADD)

- **Section 35(2)**

Permits Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to authorize HADD



# Policy Context

- 1986 *Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat.*
- Key elements of the Policy:
  - Framework for conservation, restoration and development of fish habitat.
  - Objective of “*NET GAIN*” of fish habitat.
  - Guiding principle of “*NO NET LOSS*” of fish habitat via a combination of protection, compliance and stewardship measures.



# Hierarchy of Compensation Options

1. Create or increase the productive capacity of **like-for-like** habitat in the same ecological unit.
2. Create or increase the productive capacity of **unlike** habitat in the same ecological unit
3. Create or increase productive capacity in a **different ecological unit**
4. Measures of last resort



Decreasing Preference



# Ratios

## How Much Compensation is Required?

Several factors must be taken into consideration when determining the amount of compensation required.

- Productive capacity of what is lost compared to the compensation
- Time required for the new habitat to become functional
- In many cases artificial habitat will not be as productive as natural habitats
- Where on the hierarchy the compensation fits

Therefore DFO will often aim for greater than a 1:1 compensation ratio.



# Compensation Projects

Salt Marsh Grass  
Restoration

Inner Bay of  
Fundy



# Compensation Projects

Eel Grass Bed  
Restoration

Various  
Locations



# Compensation Projects

Artificial Reefs

Halifax Harbour  
/Paddy's Head/  
Sambro, NS



# Compensation Projects

Tidal Barrier  
Removal

Cheverie, NS



# Compensation Projects

Abandoned  
Fishing Gear  
Removal

Saint John,  
NB



# Thank You

## *NO HABITAT, NO FISH*

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