

VISION 2021



Executive Summary



Vision 2021 sets out an action plan to maximize the social and economic potential of the recreational fishery on Canada's Pacific coast.

Canada's recreational fishery sector contributes at least \$8.3 billion annually to local economies. In British Columbia the tidal and freshwater recreational fisheries account for nearly half of all the fisheries revenues but harvest only 15% of halibut, 10% of salmon and even smaller proportions of other marine species.

Vision 2021 proposes a multipronged strategy, which if adequately resourced will anchor the Pacific coast recreational fishery sector as a critical element in the government's social, economic and environmental agenda while facilitating reconciliation with Indigenous communities that share with anglers a strong commitment to the sustainable management of marine resources.

- **2021 Vision** is a positive call to action by a sector that wants to strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and seek out joint opportunities to promote areas of common cause.
- **Vision 2021** is an appeal to government from a sector that needs significant investments, both capital oriented and otherwise.
- **Vision 2021** recognizes the urgent need to capture the foundational ecological and socio-economic data necessary to accurately describe the status, activity and impact of the sector.
- **Vision 2021** calls for a collaborate effort of shared objectives and mutually beneficial investments by the business community; provincial and federal governments; Indigenous governments; and other parties that could benefit from the strategic and ongoing development of the sector.

The Vision 2021 Pacific Recreational Fisheries Action Plan has ten elements:

1. Review federal consultation processes
2. Modernize the regulatory framework
3. Create a recreational sector data warehouse
4. Focus on research and innovation
5. Pilot new recreational fishery programs
6. Solicit whole-of government approaches
7. Develop partnerships with First Nations
8. Initiate a youth engagement strategy
9. Address climate change issues and implications affecting the fishery
10. Engage with new Canadian communities



The recreational fishing sector offers untapped social and economic potential. Vision 2021 is intended to start a strategic dialogue among political leaders, anglers, entrepreneurs, policy makers, social programmers, and Indigenous communities to explore and identify possibilities of partnership.

Implementing **Vision 2021** will require investments from both the public and the private sectors. These investments are estimated at \$15 million over five years. This implementation needs to be facilitated by the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, with dedicated federal budgetary support that reflects the social and economic importance of a fishery for which

more than 300,000 people annually purchase a tidal waters license. This support needs to be announced as part of the next federal budget.



The time has come to develop a detailed path forward, with precisely itemized programs and plans. Since the British Columbia Government was a signatory to the original Recreational Vision, and recently announced its intention to foster the sector fishing through its “Made-in-BC Wild Salmon Strategy,” it seems likely that **Vision 2021** can be a model for federal provincial collaboration.