

**Fisheries Policy (Last reviewed 2016)****PREAMBLE:**

The Green Party of Nova Scotia recognizes the complexity of the issues in the fisheries, the importance of the fisheries and marine resources to Nova Scotia's community life, food security, and prosperity, and the devastation of the fishery in many areas in recent years. The Green Party supports policies and actions toward genuinely sustainable fisheries and healthy marine environments in Nova Scotia.

The Green Party supports:

1. valuing experienced fishers' input into assessments of developments and competing uses of marine environments and respect for their rights
2. providing assistance to fishers to transition to new products and new markets including converting to gear for sustainable fishing
3. programs to encourage more young fishers and to address the inequity that fewer Nova Scotians are sharing in the monetary output from Nova Scotia's fisheries
4. increased promotion of the fisheries in buy-local initiatives
5. protection of the remaining salt marshes and accelerated establishment of Marine Protected Areas
6. an extended moratorium on oil and gas development on Georges Bank
7. in cooperation with the federal government,
  - 7.1. encouraging sustainable fishing practices and working to eliminate destructive fishing practices and activities of other industries which damage fish habitat
  - 7.2. encouraging sustainable local aquaculture and regulate against agricultural practices that damage the marine environment or threaten human health
  - 7.3. the protection of the fisheries from genetically modified organisms
8. the use of the Genuine Progress Index to assess the sustainability of marine resource utilization and to guide appropriate policies and actions
9. the cooperative development of a plan for sustainable management that will address among other issues:
  - 9.1. the size and condition of fish stocks
  - 9.2. the size, age, and species distribution in the catch
  - 9.3. the impact of the catch on the ecological resilience in the marine ecosystems
  - 9.4. marine species at risk
  - 9.5. deterioration in the quality of the marine environment
  - 9.6. the frequency and location of shellfish closures
  - 9.7. the inequity in the monetary return for the fisher