

## Communiqué

**To:** All DFO staff and NRIA member companies

**From:** DFO Deputy Minister, Larry Murray; Pierre Alvarez, CAPP; Tony Andrews, PDAC; Mike Cleland, CGA; David MacInnis, CEPA; Hans Konow, CEA; Gordon Peeling, MAC; Avrim Lazar, FPAC

**Date:** July 16, 2007

**RE: NRIA-DFO Communiqué**

This year marks the third anniversary of the signing of an agreement between the Presidents' of Canada's seven major National Resource Industry Associations (NRIA) and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

Since its inception, NRIA and DFO have worked to advance collaborative efforts to improve effectiveness of fish habitat management as well as create efficiencies in the regulatory processes under the federal *Fisheries Act* and related legislation administered by DFO. This cooperative relationship has further helped to better conserve and protect fish and fish habitat resources from the impacts of activities associated with resource development and use in Canada.

The NRIA-DFO initiative continues to provide an excellent mechanism for DFO to efficiently consult with and get industry input into its operational policies, including the Risk Management Framework, Operational Statements (OS), and Guidelines for Streamlining Best Management Practices.

To date eighteen (18) national OS have been developed and approved for activities considered to be low-risk to fish and fish habitat. Reflecting on this at its national workshop November 6 – 8, 2006 in Montreal, the NRIA-DFO Steering Committee recognized that the initiative had reached a strategic point. The national level work on developing policies and low risk streamlining has been completed and focus is now on implementing these tools at the regional level.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Regions have regionalized the eighteen OS which are now available on the internet at [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/habitat/index\\_e.asp](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/habitat/index_e.asp). A national approach and strategy is being developed to implement the regional OS, which includes communications, notification, tracking, monitoring/auditing and evaluation.

The first pilot regional workshop was organized in cooperation with the Pacific Region and held on February 20, 2007 in Vancouver. The workshop accomplished its goal to help demonstrate to local companies, to DFO staff and provincial staff how they can apply the policies and use the streamlining tools. In the upcoming year, the NRIA-DFO initiative will continue to focus on implementing these streamlining tools through a series of regional workshops across Canada as well as begin the process of identifying options for streamlining regulatory reviews of medium risk activities.

We look forward to providing you further updates on progress and invite you to regularly visit the NRIA-DFO website: (<http://www.nria-dfo.ca>).



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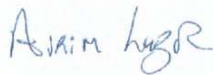
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**MAC**  
The Mining Association of Canada  
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