

Watershed and Fisheries Sustainability Questions

1. There has been an inadequate federal investment in BC's fish resources, as evidenced by a large number of species recommended for SARA listing. What actions will you take to ensure the conservation of populations and habitat take priority over commercial fishing and habitat degradation?

The Green Party will increase funding to federal departments to dramatically ramp up the development and implementation of endangered species recovery plans as required by SARA legislation, placing tight deadlines on completion and invoking emergency powers of the federal government to protect species when provincial governments fail to do so.

2. How is the federal government going to implement strategies to ensure the abundance and diversity of salmon and other fish stocks?

Greens will increase funding for research on fish stocks to improve management and protect endangered species in the face of rapidly changing ecosystems. We will remove Fisheries and Oceans Canada's mandate to promote salmon aquaculture and shift regulation of aquaculture to Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, thereby eliminating DFO's conflicting roles of aquaculture promotion and wild salmon protection. We will also initiate an emergency inquiry into the Pacific salmon crisis with special attention to ensuring long-term stability as an important food source for Indigenous peoples.

3. Bill C-68 Fisheries Act Amendments received Royal Assent on June 2019. Will you support the early implementation of the ecologically significant area provisions in the act?

Yes. Greens will work towards the early implementation of Bill C-68 Fisheries Act Amendments.

4. Do you support the rapid and orderly transition from open-net pen fisheries to land-based farm systems for the fin-fish aquaculture industry?

By 2025, Greens will ensure that all open-net pen finfish aquaculture facilities are moved into closed containment systems on land. Greens will provide financial and extension support to fish pen workers to make this transition.

5. What plans do you have for national watershed sustainability initiatives and what level of investment will you support?

The Green Party has a strong plan to protect Canada's waters:



- Turn off the pollution taps flowing into coastal waters including municipal sewage and industrial effluents. Climate protection policies to prohibit new offshore oil and gas development and phase out existing operations will reduce the threat of marine oil spills.
- Slash fossil fuel use (*Mission: Possible*) to protect the oceans from acidification.
- Expand marine protected areas from 10 to 30 per cent of Canada's territorial waters by 2030.
- Legislate cruise ship waste discharge standards that meet or exceed those of our coastal neighbours.
- To reduce and mitigate plastic waste from fishing gear that entangles and kills marine animals, by January 2021 implement an Extended Producer Responsibility program for all companies making or selling synthetic fishing gear which would fund the retrieval of lost or abandoned fishing gear, commonly known as ghost nets, and the collection and recycling of old, damaged, and recovered fishing gear.
- Increase funding for research on fish stocks to improve management and protect endangered species in the face of rapidly changing ecosystems.
- Protect a minimum of 30% of freshwaters, oceans and land by 2030.
- Commit \$100 million annually over the next four years to create Indigenous-led protected and conserved areas and fund stewardship of these lands and waters by Indigenous guardians.
- Increase funding to Parks Canada to ensure that the ecological integrity of our national parks is maintained, and where necessary restored, and that heritage sites are fully protected and maintained.

