

# ***A Fish Conservation Strategy for Alberta 2006-2010:***

## **Summary of Survey of Public Opinion Regarding Proposed Key Revisions**



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### **OVERVIEW**

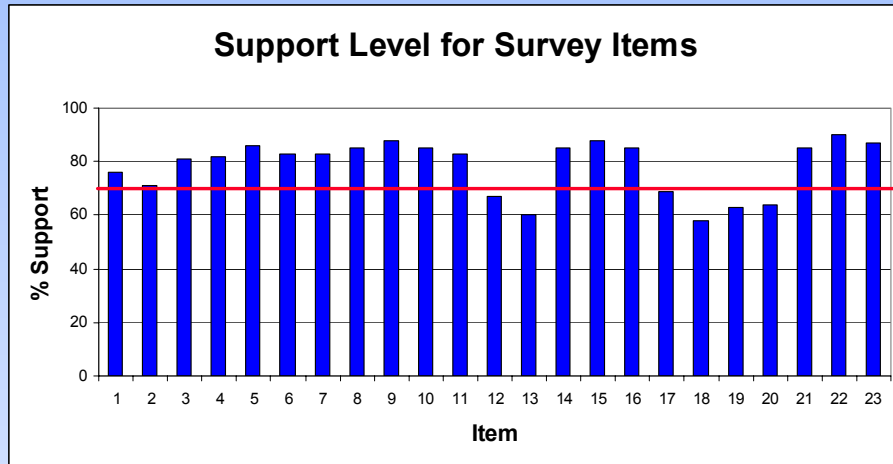
- *A Fish Conservation Strategy for Alberta 2006-2010* is in draft, to be completed in November 2006.
  - Round Table member opinion sought in the drafting process.
  - Online public survey of proposed revisions to the 2000-2005 document conducted during September.
  - Survey outlined proposed key revisions and asked people about their support level as well as any comments.
  - Results presentation and some discussion is planned for today.
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## Survey Activity & Overall Response

- Maximum responses to an item = 397
  - Completed surveys = 266
  
  - A few users had technical issues related to web-browser security devices (pop-up blockers). Nearly all issues were resolved over the phone.
  
  - Several positive comments were made regarding the survey (good opportunity; high quality).
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## Responses

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- Support levels from 58% to 90% for revisions
- High support (> 70%) for 17 of 23 key revisions
- Good support (70% or less) for 6 of 23

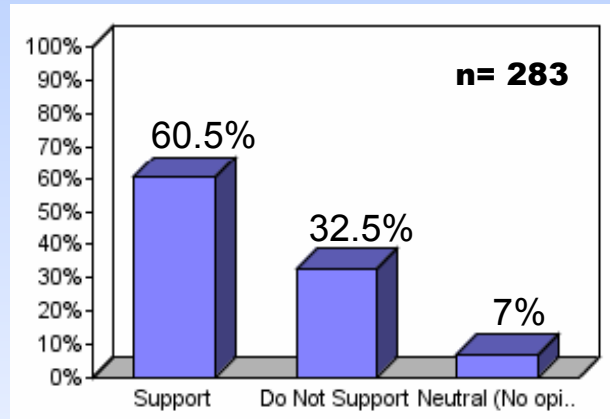
## 2 Proposed Revisions For Discussion

### Received Good Support

Written comments indicate some degree of misunderstanding of the intent

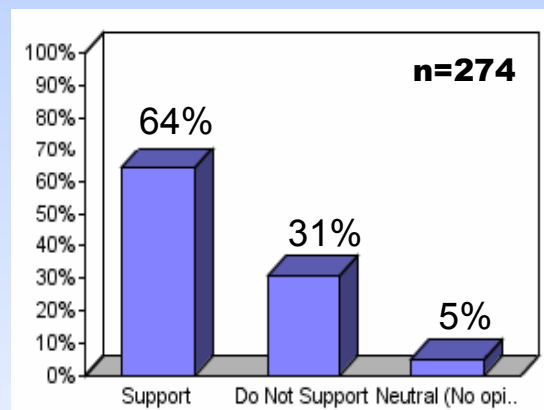
### 13. Special Licence

Proposed to include an explanation that for fish populations that are particularly susceptible to high harvest pressures, a new licensing approach similar to the hunting tag draw, is being tested for its ability to align angler harvest with the fish harvest capability of the waterbody.



### 20. Future evaluation of licensing all users

Explains that for management and reporting purposes it would be desirable for all users to hold a licence, and proposes including a statement that FMB will examine options for licensing all users in the future, while being mindful of the special status of certain groups.



## 4 Proposed Revisions of Factual Information

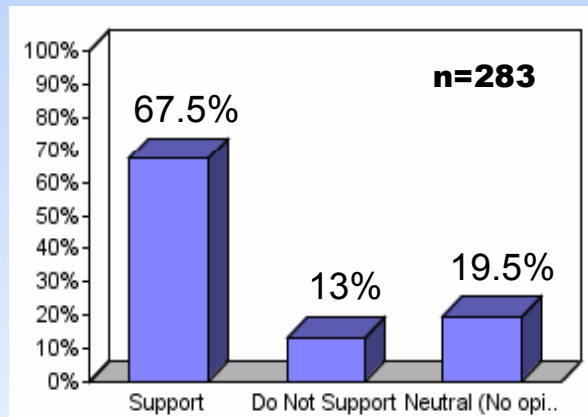
### Received Good Support

Written comments suggest some degree of misunderstanding or philosophical differences

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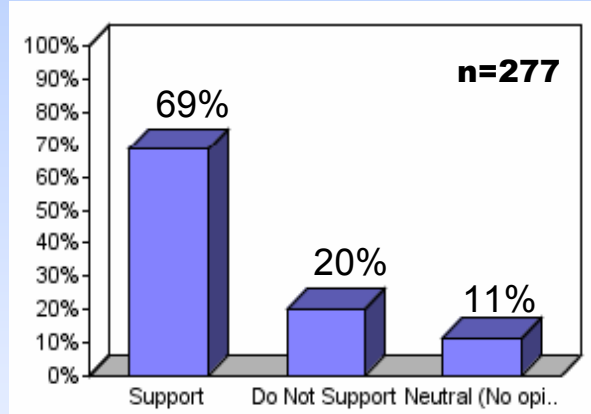
#### **12. Role of SRD (Fisheries Management, Public Lands, etc.) versus the role of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), relative to fish habitat management**

Include an explanation that DFO has taken over fish habitat and protection matters in Alberta, and provide information about DFO vs. SRD Fisheries roles and responsibilities.



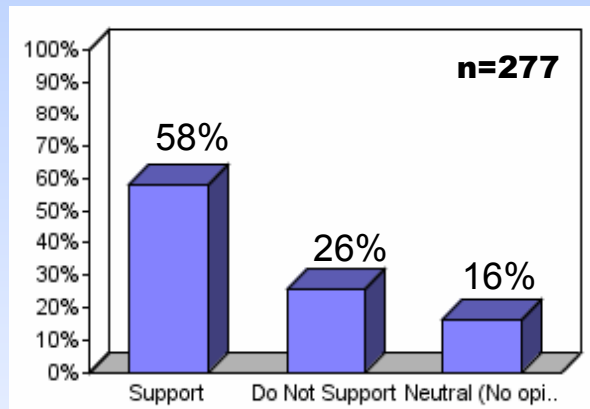
**17. Fish allocation priority assigned to Indians, and Métis fishing on Settlements, and the definitions of subsistence / food fishing and sport fishing.**

Include a better explanation and clarification of existing law and policy pertaining to Métis fishing on Settlements, and Indian fishing privileges.



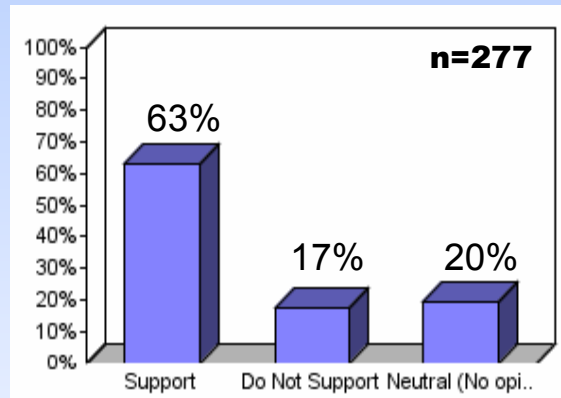
**18. Reference to Métis Interim Harvest Agreements and the ongoing renegotiation of these agreements with the Province**

Explains that Alberta is currently renegotiating the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreements with the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Settlements General Council.



## 19. FMB is updating its protocol for consultation with Alberta's aboriginal communities

Explains that an updated protocol for consultation with Indian and Métis communities is being developed, and that through the Alberta Fisheries Management Round Table, consultation at the provincial level will improve.



## Revisions Receiving High Support

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Topic of Revision</b>
1	Re-emphasize a commitment to following the “Precautionary Management Principle” of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.
2	Removal of “restrictive versus permissive code” for regulations.
3	Adding the roles of other agencies, industry, the public, First Nations and Métis in fisheries stewardship.
4	Acknowledgement of the significant challenges encountered in maintaining Alberta’s fish habitat in the face of intensive development pressures occurring in the province.
5	Placement of greater importance on management of fish communities, rather than focusing primarily on individual species, and the need to include all fish species in some fishery assessments.
6	Commitment to implementing a fish – quality/ contaminant monitoring protocol.
7	Including a Fish Management Cycle illustration.
8	Identification of targets for frequency of monitoring various types of fisheries.
9	Identification of the target of maintaining two or more year-classes of mature fish in populations to ensure sustainability.

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Topic of Revision</b>
10	Inclusion of a fishery classification illustration as basis for regulation setting.
11	Identification of management priority being placed on native fish.
14	Re-emphasize the intent to control and remove where appropriate, invasive exotic fish species, and/ or fish predators.
15	Include Fisheries Management involvement in Species at Risk Programs and recovery planning for fish species.
16	Enhanced commitment to modify fish stocking programs to protect native fish species where necessary.
21	Add Competitive Fishing Event Licensing.
22	Enhanced focus on public involvement.
23	Enhanced commitment to revitalization of a Public Education & Outreach program.

## Summary

- All proposed changes were well supported by survey respondents.
  - Comments received are being reviewed and will be considered in the strategy revision.
  - Comments made for items with <70% support indicate some degree of misunderstanding or philosophical disagreement.
  - Online survey was helpful and will be further developed and improved for future use, in conjunction with other survey tools.
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END