



BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (SRIF) Announcement

In continued efforts to see the 2009–2013 Recreational Vision implemented, the SFAB has been working towards defining an approach and gathering support for review and modernization of the existing SFAB process. Under the leadership of immediate Past SFAB Chair, Gerry Kristianson, the SFAB developed [Vision 2021](#), an update to the 2009 Recreational Vision. Vision 2021 details a plan to review the SFAB process, and includes a proposal to transform the SFAB allowing the organization to provide services to the Public Fishery and Fisheries & Oceans Canada.

While the SFAB is not currently in a position to take on projects or funding, the recently announced BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (SRIF) provided an opportunity for the Sport Fishing Institute of BC (SFI) to apply on behalf of the SFAB. The SFI team had a 10-day window to develop the proposal to initiate and manage implementation of Vision 2021.

We are pleased to announce that the SFI proposal to the SRIF was approved. A commitment of \$700,879.00 was awarded to the SFI to manage the implementation process. Under the SRIF contribution agreement, the SFI Team will deliver 4 key projects designed to help implement the first phases of Vision 2021.

The projects are:

1. Public Fishery Advisory Process Review
2. First Nations Consultation and Enhanced Participation in Public Fishery
3. Increase Participation in Public Fishery – Special Focus on Youth and New Canadians
4. Establish Public Fishery Socioeconomic Data Warehouse

This marks an exciting new journey that will engage the SFAB family and key stakeholders in a series of workshops that will help us define a new modernized service delivery model that better serves the interests of our Public Fishery. We will explore potential improvements to the organizational model, funding, service delivery and enhanced participation. Project 4 will allow us to contract the services of economists to gather and analyze socioeconomic data at a finer scale than is currently provided. These data sets will provide a greater understanding of the benefits of the public fishery to BC. This new information has the potential to lead to improved management of the Public Fishery and to deliver greater opportunities and benefits to all stakeholders.

Coming soon, we plan to host a webinar for all SFAC Chairs to assist them in sharing the Vision 2021 objectives, and to gather input from SFAB membership on ways we can collaboratively improve the SFAB process for the benefit of all Canadians.