| Category(s): | ABORIGINAL - General Information  
|             | COMMERCIAL - General Information  
|             | RECREATIONAL - General Information  


Today, April 13, 2011, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) launched a new fishery notice information voice system in its Pacific Region (British Columbia and the Yukon).

The fishery notice phone number will remain the same: 1-866-431-3474 and 604-666-2828, and will continue to provide information service 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will be updated during regular business hours.

The new and enhanced system allows First Nations, commercial and recreational fish harvesters to search by species and fishery management area, or by commercial licence number, to quickly obtain fishing-related data directly from the Department's fishery notice database.

When harvesters call the new fishery notice voice-information system, they will be voice-prompted to provide specific search criteria information to find the detailed information they want to hear.

For example, a caller could request notices related to "crab" opportunities in "Area 1" or "the North Coast." Commercial callers could also use their licence number as a search criteria; for example, crab licence number "R 999 2011". The system would then return any active notices meeting those search criteria. Callers will be able to repeat notices as desired, or skip listening to notices which are not of interest.

The new fishery notice system uses interactive voice response technology to recognize the spoken word and read information from DFO's database back to the caller. In the event that the caller has difficulty with the voice system, the system will present touch tone number pad options.

Callers can leave questions or comments with DFO's operations centre at 604-666-0583 or opscentre@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca. All fishery notices will continue to be available online at http://www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/fns/index.cfm.

Fisheries & Oceans Operations Center - FN0331  
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