

Invitation

Fisheries for Communities Gathering

Purpose: To bring together individuals, communities, organizations and governments whose livelihoods, economies, food access, cultures, and wellbeing are tied to local fisheries, and who want to work together to ensure fisheries can continue to support them and their communities now, and for future generations.

The issue: The challenges are many and complex. One of the greatest threats to healthy fisheries and coastal and fishing communities is the increasing privatization of the resource. This is the result of policies that enable shareholders and multinational companies to purchase, own and lease our local fishing rights. As a result, the many tangible and broader intangible benefits of local fisheries are increasingly being taken from the coastal communities adjacent to them. Influence over decision-making has shifted away from the people and communities connected to fisheries, and fish harvesters are losing their ability to earn a living from fishing. The statistics are staggering - the earnings of fishermen are decreasing, the numbers of fishermen left in communities are dropping dramatically, local fish vendors can't access local fish to sell, community-based processors have no local fish running through their plant, and the backbone of the culture and economies of coastal communities is crumbling. Coastal communities and Canadians are paying the price of bad policy.

The opportunity: There is an opportunity right now to make change! The Federal Minister of Fisheries is in support of instilling socio-economic objectives in support of fishermen, coastal communities and First Nations into the Fisheries Act, and creating policy reform that can enact it. There is now, for the first time in decades, the possibility of making changes to bad policy. It is not yet too late to stop privatization that disallows access by coastal communities and fishermen to Canada's Pacific fish stocks. Now there is a chance for change that can bring back the many benefits from this bounty of our oceans and revive or create new local fisheries, reinvigorate communities, food access and jobs, and rebuild our longstanding connections to the sea.

This gathering provides an opportunity for individuals affected by the generations of bad policy to combine their voices, and describe for the Minister the issue and the change needed to revitalize our coast and all that its ocean bounty has to offer Canada.

Support: Ecotrust Canada has a limited budget for this event but we do not want costs to be a barrier to attendance. If you need assistance, please contact Abra Brynne (see over).

Participants: Registration is required BEFORE FEB 12TH. Register via Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fisheries-for-communities-gathering-tickets-42368630715>)

Or by contacting Abra Brynne abra@ecotrust.ca | 250.777.2480

Where: Croatian Cultural Centre, Room A, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver B.C. V5N 4E4

When: February 23rd 2018

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More Info: Abra Brynne, abra@ecotrust.ca | 250.777.2480

Ecotrust Canada is facilitating this meeting on behalf of those working to find a common focus and voice on the barriers to thriving, sustainable coastal fisheries and more equitable access to the wealth of the oceans.