

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for managing the fish stocks of Canada's west coast along its 27,000 km of coastline and into the open ocean, extending 200 nautical miles (about 370 km) into the Pacific. Fisheries are managed under the authority of the *Fisheries Act* and associated regulations.

For the purposes of managing fishing of the Pacific coast's various stocks, the Pacific coast has been divided into segments known as Pacific Fishery Management Areas (PFMAs).<sup>1,2</sup> These management areas, also called DFO Statistical Areas, provide the boundaries within which DFO manages the Pacific coast's commercial, recreational and Aboriginal communal fishing activities.<sup>3</sup> Some fisheries are managed with their own specific management areas that may or may not align with PFMAs.<sup>1</sup> DFO manages catch and catch effort on given stocks or species by implementing openings and closures in these areas.

**DFO manages commercial, recreational and Aboriginal communal fisheries in PFMAs**

Thirty of DFO's 48 PFMAs are included within PNCIMA boundaries. These are PFMAs 3-15, 25-27, 101, 103-111, 126, 127, 130, and 142.

PFMAs are further divided into Subareas (as described in the *Pacific Fishery Management Area Regulations*). Subarea segments are usually delineated by sight lines from known geographic points resulting in various sized polygons. As a result, Subarea boundaries are based on geographical and management-based criteria, rather than ecological criteria.<sup>1</sup>

1 PFMA Area and Sub-area boundaries are defined by geographical coordinates referenced in latitude and longitude according to the North American Datum 83 (NAD 83) geodetic system. Full legal text descriptions of each PFMA and subareas can be found online at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/ShowTdm/ct/SOR-2007-77/>  
 2 Map data are viewable online through DFO Mapster at [www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/maps/maps-data\\_e.htm](http://www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/maps/maps-data_e.htm)  
 3 For those fisheries managed by PFMA, catch statistics by PFMA can be found online at [http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/data\\_e.htm](http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pages/data_e.htm)



Prince Rupert Harbour.  
Photo: Coral Cargill



Fish boat. Photo: DFO/PBS/Nanaimo

