



Liberal



**Islanders First...
For The Fishery**

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www.IslandersFirst.ca

Policy Background

Fisheries: Securing the Future of Our Resource

Liberals believe that a vibrant fishery helps promote the financial strength not only of our rural communities but of our towns and cities as well. Over the last decade, our fishery has been set adrift without policy direction or senior level government support.

The Liberal Plan recognizes the importance of the fishery and proposes initiatives that will help secure its future.

A Liberal Government will put Islanders first by:

- 1. Establishing a separate Department of Fisheries with a dedicated Minister to advance the interest of the fishery. The first task of the new Minister will be to conduct a review of concentration in the processing sector resulting from the Polar Foods-Ocean Choice deal and the impact this has on the lobster fishery.*
- 2. Assessing the impact that the current restrictions on buyer licenses have on lobster prices and the well-being of the Island fishery.*
- 3. Establishing a Low Interest Loan Program whereby lobster fishers with catches below a defined threshold are able to secure low interest financing through the P.E.I Lending Agency.*
- 4. Negotiating with the federal government to operate a pilot project to have provincially-employed fisheries officers to patrol our waters.*
- 5. Working with the federal government and the industry to establish an appropriate lobster License Buy-back Program.*



**Islanders First...
For a Change**

6. *Seeking out increased quota for other fish species to help diversify our fishery and stabilize incomes.*
7. *Pressing for federal standing committee hearings on the federal Fisheries Act to provide Island fishers with input.*
8. *Expanding the provincial focus on aquaculture, including \$100,000 to support that P.E.I Salmon Federation's operation of the Cardigan Fish Hatchery.*
9. *Supporting our oyster industry, including the provision of \$100,000 to upgrade the sewer/water facilities to allow fishery to operate out of North River Causeway.*

