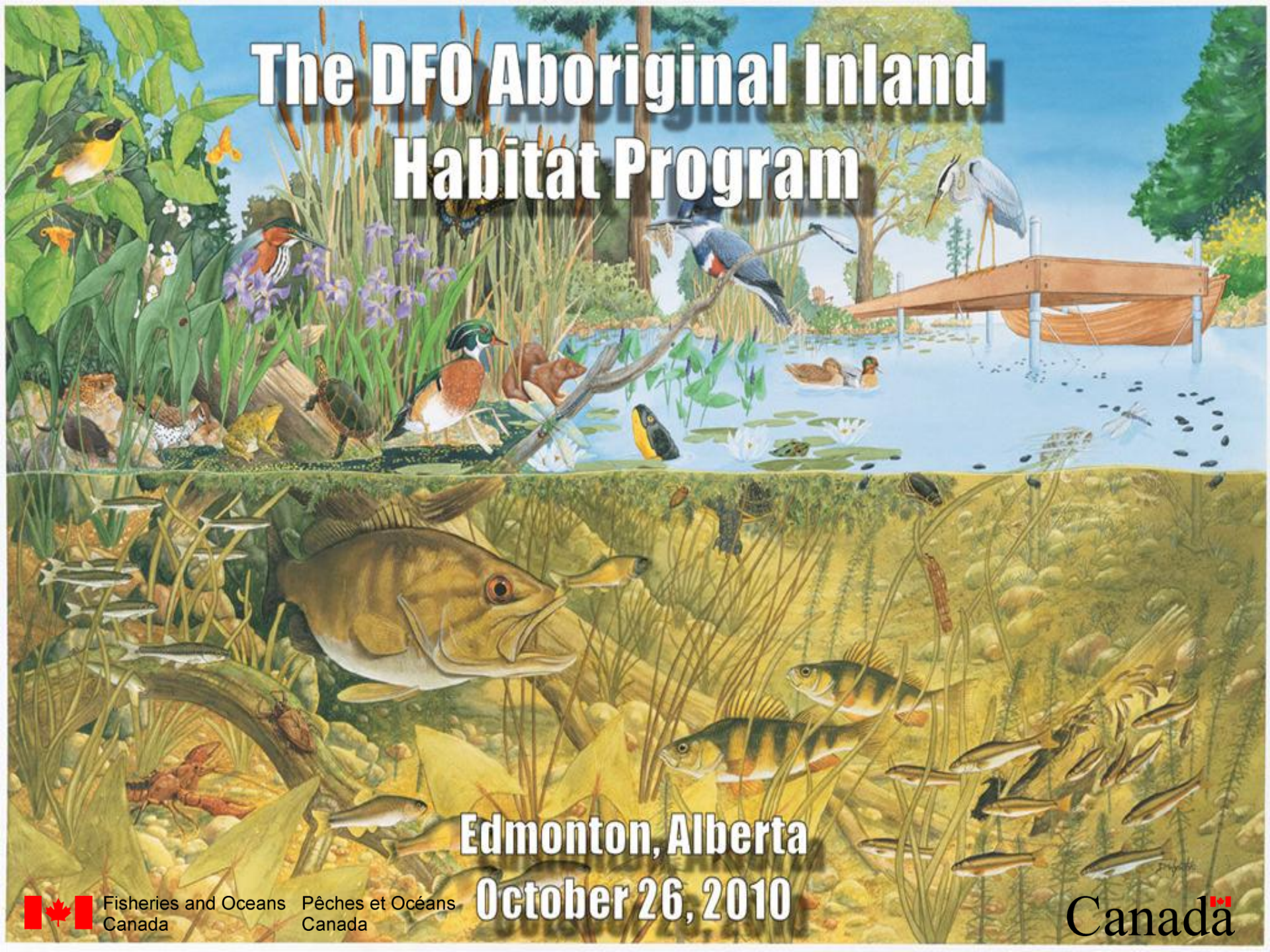


# The DFO Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program



Edmonton, Alberta  
October 26, 2010



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Canada



# We all were many hats

- A Student
- At the University of Alberta
- A Political Science Major



# We all were many hats

- I am a father
- A brother, a son, a cousin
- The neighbour in the white house
- The soccer coach
- The extra large, cream and sweetner
- A rabid Toronto Maple Leaf fan



# Professionally

- Work for the federal government
- With the Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- As the Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program Manager



# The Federal Government

## The Department of Fisheries and Oceans

### The Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program



# The Federal Government

- Elected officials in Ottawa who work on behalf of all Canadians
- They deal with issues that are important to Canadians and if the issue is big enough and important enough, the government created departments to deal with these issues



# Department of Fisheries & Oceans

- Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and its Special Operating Agency, the Canadian Coast Guard, deliver programs and services that support sustainable use and development of Canada's waterways and aquatic resources.



# DFO's Vision

Excellence in service to  
Canadians to ensure the  
sustainable development and  
safe use of Canadian waters





# DFO Mission Statement

To deliver

- Safe and Accessible Waterways;
- Healthy and Productive Aquatic Ecosystems; and
- Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.



## What We Do

- ✓ Save lives.
- ✓ Work with security forces to ensure the safe and secure use of Canada's waterways.
- ✓ Help with ship-to-shore communication, navigation, and clear passageways for safe water travel.



# What We Do

- ✓ Study, conserve and protect aquatic ecosystems.
- ✓ Conduct scientific research and related activities, which are vital to the understanding and sustainable management of Canada's oceans and aquatic resources.



## What We Do

- ✓ Work in collaboration to manage the commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries.
- ✓ Provide services to fishermen such as issuing licenses.
- ✓ Create the conditions to support a vibrant and sustainable aquaculture industry.



# What We Do

- ✓ Maintain a network of harbours.
- ✓ Ensure compliance with environmental standards and regulations in support of economic development and other activities.
- ✓ Provide high-quality hydrographic data, products and services.



# What We Do

- ✓ Respond to ship-sourced oil spills
- ✓ Develop and promote the wise use of technology to ensure the long-term health of Canada's waters.





# Why We Do It

- ✓ world's longest coastline
- ✓ most fresh water of any country
- ✓ more lakes than the rest of the world combined





# Why We Do It

- ✓ Safe and Accessible Waterways;
- ✓ Healthy and Productive Aquatic Ecosystems; and
- ✓ Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.







# Fisheries and Oceans in Alberta?



In the fall of 1997 the Department of Fisheries and Oceans took back the Fish Habitat Provisions of the *Fisheries Act* from the provincial government in Ontario.





The Inland Habitat Strengthening Program was then introduced by the government of Canada to address the same requirement within the other inland provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba & Quebec).



DFO Offices were established in:

Calgary  
Edmonton  
Lethbridge  
Peace River



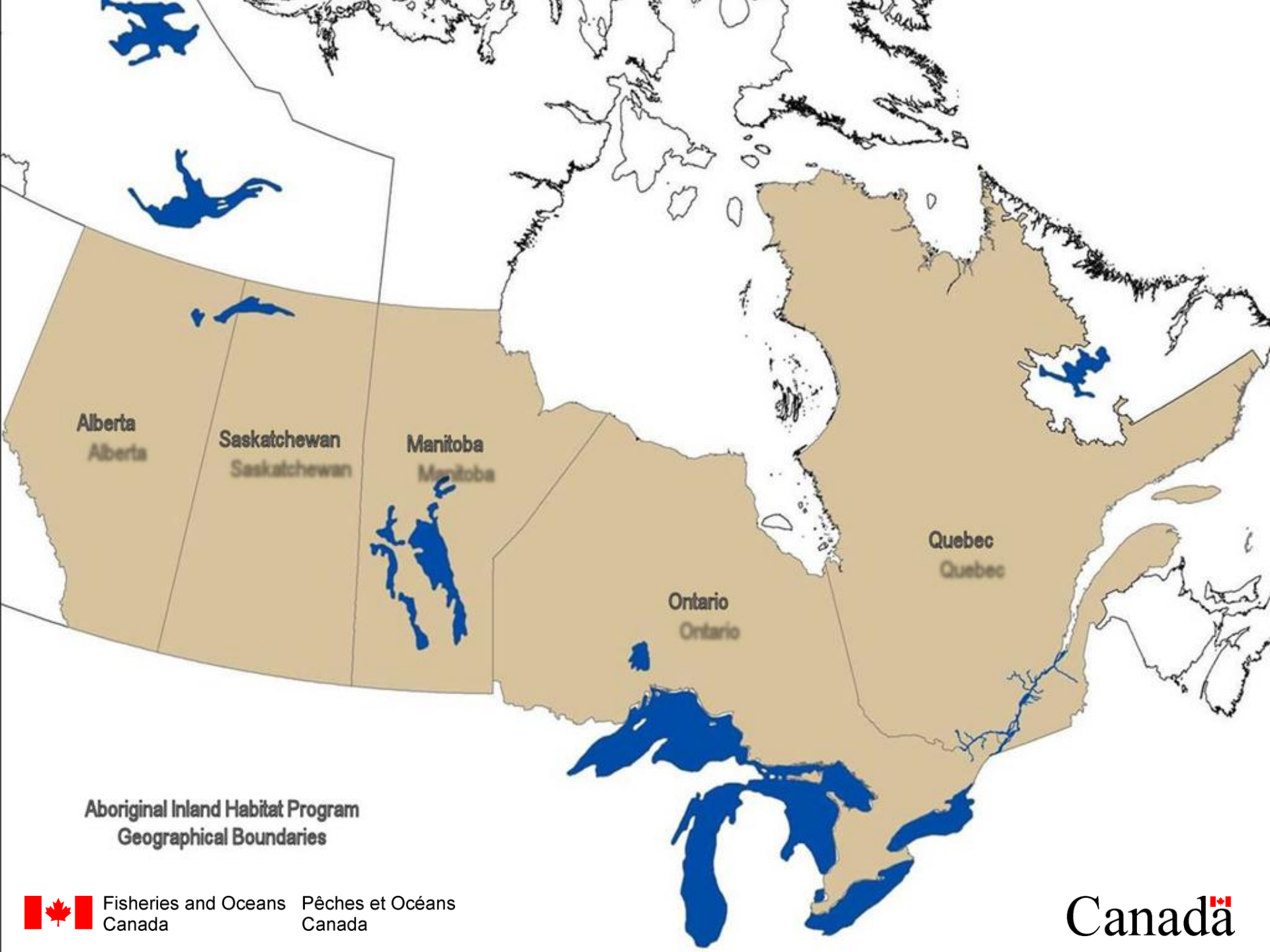


## Fast Forward to 2004-05

✓ The Assembly of First Nations lobbied the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to initiate a program that would allow Aboriginal groups to participate in fish habitat management in the inland provinces.



✓ The Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program was developed as a grants and contributions program that provides funding to Aboriginal groups to build capacity within their communities to deal with fish habitat issues and to manage the fish habitat resource collaboratively with other Aboriginal groups, federal and provincial agencies and other stakeholders.



**Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program  
Geographical Boundaries**



AIHP has successfully engaged Aboriginal Groups across the five inland provinces providing funding for fish habitat initiatives and programs that are consistent with the desired outcome of Sustainable Aquatic Ecosystems.





Greater coordination with Aboriginal groups in inland areas on fish habitat matters allows for more effective delivery of DFO's habitat management responsibilities.



The Aboriginal Inland Habitat  
Program currently has 15  
contribution agreements in place  
across the 5 inland provinces



## In Quebec, DFO has AIHP agreements with

- ✓ Algonquin Anishinabeg National Tribal Council
- ✓ Algonquin National Secretariat
- ✓ Le conseil de la Nation Huronne –Wendat
- ✓ Agence mamu innu kaikusseht (AMIK)
- ✓ Makivik Corporation



## In Ontario, DFO has AIHP agreements with

- ✓ Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- ✓ Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre
- ✓ Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resource Centre
- ✓ Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre
- ✓ Métis Nation of Ontario



## In Manitoba, DFO has AIHP agreements with

- ✓ Western Region Tribal Council
- ✓ Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources



## In Saskatchewan, DFO has an AIHP agreement with

- ✓ The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations



## Nationally, DFO has an AIHP Agreement with

- ✓ The Assembly of First Nations, who provide both administrative support to DFO, the AIHP Aboriginal Organizations, and fish habitat management policy analysis at the national level.



## And in Alberta, DFO has an AIHP agreement with

- ✓ First Nations (Alberta) Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG)





## AIHP Objectives

- ✓ To enhance the ability of Aboriginal communities, working together, to participate in the decision making processes related to Habitat Management's regulatory and non-regulatory activities



## Why is Fish Habitat Important?

- ✓ Fish Habitat is defined as: "Spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes."



## Why is Fish Habitat Important?

- ✓ Healthy Fish Habitat = Healthy Fish
- ✓ Healthy Fish = Healthy Watercourse
- ✓ Healthy Watercourse = Healthy Ecosystem



## AIHP Eligible Activities

Include:

- ✓ Capacity Development
- ✓ Training and Professional Development
- ✓ Operational Programming (habitat management and stewardship)
- ✓ Science: stock assessment, research and traditional ecological knowledge.
- ✓ Collaborative planning, consultation and engagement



## AIHP Eligible Activities

Include:

- ✓ Business planning and feasibility studies
- ✓ Public and Community Outreach and Education
- ✓ Project monitoring and evaluation activities
- ✓ Policy analysis, development and input
- ✓ Stream enhancement and restoration (training)



## AIHP in Alberta

Work is currently being done by TSAG's  
Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program in Alberta  
under the supervision of Amy Cairns.