

## Water Quality Management for Healthy Waterbodies Policy

**Policy No:** 10-01

**Policy Title:** Water Quality Management for Healthy Waterbodies

**Policy Statement:** Conserve and Restore Clean, Freshwater

### Principles Applied:

- Organisms require a supply of clean water to maintain healthy life cycles and to thrive.
- Water temperature is fundamental component of water quality.
- Aquatic organisms require specific temperature ranges to thrive within their native watersheds.

### Policy Rationale and Considerations:

The quality of Canada's aquatic ecosystems must be maintained or restored to a level that ensures the health of all aquatic species and communities. This provides the longest term, lowest costs for society and ecosystem management. Native aquatic organisms are good indicators of the relative quality of water and reflect changes when water quality deteriorates. Water quality is a reflection of the overall health of watersheds both for aquatic organisms, and for people that reside adjacent or near these systems.

### Objectives of Policy Statement:

Water quality of Canada's freshwater ecosystems must be maintained or restored to a level that ensures the health and life cycle requirements of aquatic species.

### Implications to Organization:

Freshwater Conservation Canada is responsible for developing national policies related to specific aspects of water quality that are of concern to the organization.

## Delivery:

This policy can be delivered through development of national educational programs. New science and technology can be promoted through advocating and supporting development of national water research programs as well as involvement with centers of excellence and research initiatives. Chapters can assist with the implementation of national programs through involvement in point source and non-point source water quality initiatives through source water protection plans, watershed plans, nutrient management, stormwater management plans and wastewater management plans.

Chapter involvement in water quality programs can occur through initiatives including, but not limited to, local clean-up days, Yellow Fish Road™ events and by working with agricultural associations, municipalities, professional organizations and government agencies.

**Effective Date:** December 13, 2010

**Last Board Approval Date:** August 14, 2017