



**ONTARIO
RIVERS
ALLIANCE**

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Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch
300 Water Street, 5th Floor N
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5
By email: FishPolicy@Ontario.ca

Re: Feedback on Recreational and Commercial fishery offences

Dear Sirs:

The Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) is a not-for-profit grassroots organization with a mission to protect, conserve, and restore riverine ecosystems.

We are responding to your request for comments on the proposal to increase set fines for certain recreational and commercial fishery offences and establish new ticketable offences.

The ORA favours conservation of Ontario's natural resources, and most especially as it relates to fish and their habitat. ORA agrees that the Ministry should apply existing federal government guidance for fines and increase the use of contravention tickets for more types of offences. It makes sense to issue tickets rather than using the federal court process.

We agree that the fines set in 1996 are not an adequate deterrent today; therefore, ORA recommends that current fines should be increased by the rate of inflation (approximately 50%). However, offences that pose a conservation threat or for more destructive or egregious offences, the fines should be doubled or even tripled.

These measures would help to deter illegal fishing activities, reflect modern fisheries management priorities, align with current valuations, and free the courts up to deal with more serious offences.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments!

Respectfully,

Linda Heron
Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance
(705) 866-1677