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## NEWS RELEASE

### Chamber Welcomes Increased Certainty for Canada's Fisheries

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ottawa, April 25, 2012** – The BC Chamber of Commerce welcomes the changes to protect the productivity of recreational and commercial fisheries announced yesterday by Minister Ashfield.

“Greater focus and more clarity in the rules governing the protection of fish habitats will mean more certainty for businesses in the commercial, tourism and recreation sectors,” said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

The Federal Government will introduce new changes to focus protection rules on real and significant threats to fisheries, and the habitat that supports them, while setting clear standards and guidelines for other routine projects. Currently under the Fisheries Act, there is no distinction between vital waterways such as the lakes and rivers that support Canada's fisheries, and other bodies of water that may not support fish.

Recreational fishing generates approximately \$8.3 billion of economic activity in local economies across Canada. The industry brings over 2 million tourists into the country every year, and the commercial fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors employ about 80,000 Canadians.

“We recently saw a similar announcement from Minister Oliver on the review process for major projects,” continued Winter. “The Federal Government is clearly placing an emphasis on giving businesses and investors greater certainty around these processes.”

*The BC Chamber is the largest and most broadly based business organization in the province. Representing over 120 Chambers of Commerce and 32,000 businesses of every size, sector and region of the province the BC Chamber of Commerce is “The Voice of Business in BC.”*

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For further details contact;

John Winter  
President & CEO  
BC Chamber of Commerce

T 604.638.8110  
C 604.376.3577  
E [jjwinter@bcchamber.org](mailto:jjwinter@bcchamber.org)