

Sent to AVICC Members: January 24, 2012

Re: **Follow-up: November 22, 2011 AVICC Consultation on Aquaculture Regulation**

*Please distribute to AVICC elected officials, the Chief Administrative Officer and any staff who may be interested or involved in Aquaculture issues. A copy of this information will also be sent by separate email to the participants of the November 22, 2011 meeting.*

Attached are the draft Meeting Minutes prepared by Department of Fisheries and Oceans of the November 22, 2011 Consultation on Aquaculture Regulation held in Courtenay. 20 local government representatives took the opportunity to attend this meeting.

In follow-up, two workshops have been incorporated into the AVICC AGM & Convention program for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> afternoon in Ucluelet:

#### **BC AQUACULTURE REGULATORY PROGRAM**

This workshop will provide an update on the British Columbia Aquaculture Regulatory Program's (BCARP) implementation, as well as engage participants in a forward-looking discussion regarding DFO's Aquaculture Management Framework and the role of local government. Key elements of the Aquaculture Management Framework will be presented to provide participants with the opportunity to explore how regional districts can effectively engage with DFO and other partners in the management of the aquaculture industry.

#### **SHARED JURISDICTIONAL ROLES FOR MANAGING AQUACULTURE**

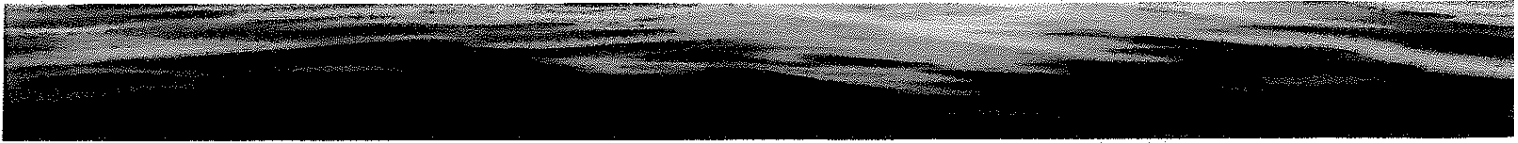
A short summary of the changes to Provincial authority for managing aquaculture post the Supreme Court Decision of 2009 (Hinkson) and an open dialogue with delegates to explore the potential to collaborate on a pilot project to harmonize local government and Provincial approval processes related to the aquaculture industry.

Also attached is a questionnaire with 6 strategic questions on the key elements of the Aquaculture Management Framework, primarily on the Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans should you wish to provide additional comment at this time. The completed document should be submitted to:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
c/o Gabrielle Kosmider  
1965 Island Diesel Way  
Nanaimo, BC V9S 5W8  
Fax: 250-949-6755  
Email: IMAPS2dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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**Iris Hesketh-Boles**

AVICC Executive Coordinator  
Union of BC Municipalities  
Local Government House  
525 Government St, Victoria, BC V8V 0A8  
Tel: 250-356-5122 Fax: 250-356-5119



## Meeting Record

November 22, 2011 (1:00 – 3:30)  
Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC)  
Courtenay, BC

### Meeting Objectives:

To engage with AVICC on the BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program, provide updates on program activities including consultation and engagement on the development of Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans, existing Conditions of Licence and management approaches.

#### Attendees:

Executive and Members of the AVICC

#### DFO:

Andrew Thomson, Director AMD

Corey Jackson, Manager, Aquaculture Programs

Kamaljeet Guram, Sr. Engagement Officer, Aquaculture Programs

#### Province of BC:

Sean Herbert, Associate Director for Tenure Operations, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

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### Materials Distributed (list):

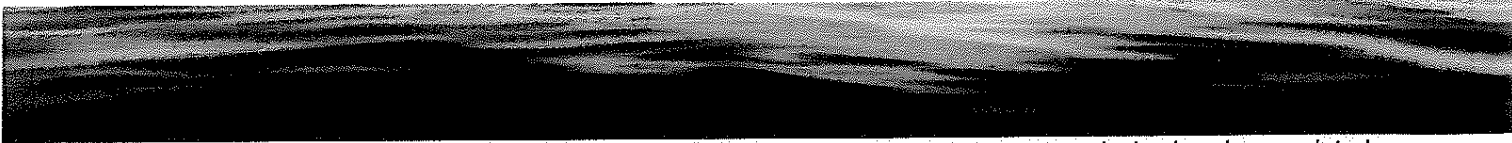

BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program presentation  
Marine Finfish IMAP Discussion Document  
Shellfish IMAP Discussion Document  
Marine Finfish Conditions of Licence  
Shellfish Conditions of Licence

### Key Issues Discussed:

- Summary:
  - The meeting was chaired by Mr. Stanhope, AVICC Executive and had two parts: the presentation and a question and answer period. Overall, the discussion revolved around the topics presented in the BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program Update. The presentation provided an overview of the transfer in jurisdiction from the Province of BC to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in 2010, the structure of the aquaculture directorate including office locations and staff, and the key elements of the BC aquaculture framework: Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans, existing Conditions of Licence and Management approaches (policies).
  
- Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans



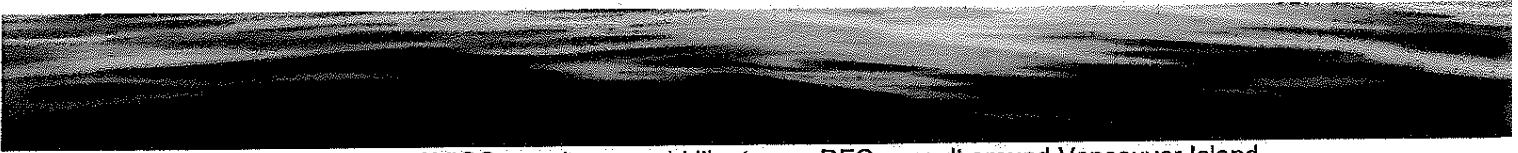


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- DFO is urged to consider aquaculture economic impact analysis already completed in Mount Waddington
  - AVICC members sought clarity on the scope, application, content and duration of the IMAP, specifically:
    - how the IMAP would address cumulative impacts on nearby ecosystems, how overuse of an area, or productions levels beyond an ecosystems carrying capacity would influence ongoing approval of aquaculture operations;
    - how the IMAP could be adopted by municipalities' economic development strategies;
    - how would IMAP be responsive to regional district decisions on zoning, land use planning, and the enforcement of new by-laws.
  - **Action Item:** C.Jackson to follow up the report for Mt.Waddington
- Conditions of Licences
    - Significant discussion took place on the licence application process. In particular:
      - how it has changed from the process that the Province of BC managed;
      - greater clarity was sought around what the new process entailed, what portions of the application were approved by the Province and what portions were approved by DFO;
      - AVICC members also indicated that they would like to provide input into the licence application decision process in the granting of an aquaculture tenure and operation licence. This level of engagement should also be reflected in the IMAP.
    - AVICC also requested clarity on the different roles and responsibilities of the Province and DFO in the harmonized licence application process. There is a potential for conflict on the tenure approval process between the province and the regional districts.
    - Further clarity is also required on the regional district's level of authority with respect to aquaculture operations abiding by existing municipality by-laws.
    - Members also voiced concern that the licence application process should consider the zoning by-laws of a municipality and that the conditions of licence should reflect that need for a proponent to abide by these by-laws.
    - A regional district's environmental assessments on these sites should be considered as well.
    - **Action Item:** S.Herbert encouraged AVICC members to follow up with him to discuss how local governments could provide input into the tenure approval process when assess a proponents' application for an aquaculture site.
  - Management Approaches
  - Other:
    - Consultation and engagement processes for the development of the IMAP and licence application process should include regional districts, as well as other federal and provincial departments, such as Transport Canada.
    - Lease transfers require local government input, particularly when transfers occur between the provincial and federal government
    - These was discussion on the extent and application of various zoning decisions
  - Moving forward
  - AVICC would like to continue consulting with DFO and the Province on the issues raised at this meeting. In particular,
    - AVICC would like DFO to attend the UBCM convention in Ucluelet
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Canada



- AVICC members would like to see DFO consult around Vancouver Island, particular in the Northern area of VI.
- Continue meeting with AVICC
- DFO should invite AVICC reps to provide input into the development of the BCARP program

**Action Items:**

Rod Vissor to provide agenda and suggested dates for the next meeting  
Amber requested feedback on AIUS concern tracking table Draft 2



## BC Aquaculture Management Framework

### IMAP, Conditions of Licence and Management Framework Strategic Questions for First Nations, Industry, & Stakeholders

Fall Consultations 2011

**Please assist us by identifying your affiliation:**

First Nations  
 Industry  
 Stakeholder  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide your contact information (optional):**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

The department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) plans to initiate the development of Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans (IMAPs) to assist in structuring the management framework for aquaculture in British Columbia. These will include IMAPs for marine finfish and shellfish in 2012, followed by freshwater. IMAPs are intended to outline the framework and objectives for management related to each type of aquaculture. DFO intends to take a phased approach to development and implementation of the IMAPs, with initial discussions about the governance, structure and content of IMAPs taking place in 2011 and 2012 and the marine finfish and shellfish plans being completed in 2012.

There are many items in the draft IMAPs which will require discussion and consultation among governments, First Nations, industry, and stakeholders. Some may be things that can be completed within the next year, but likely other issues will need to be tackled over a longer period of time.

This document is intended to help facilitate dialogue and to solicit input into the process for developing IMAPs, and to seek input on the proposed outline of the IMAP documents themselves (including backgrounders). Additional opportunities for review and consultation of the draft IMAPs will be provided over the course of the next year.

As a part of the development of IMAPs, DFO's goal is to design advisory processes which will support groups working together toward continuous adaptive management and ongoing improvements in aquaculture management.

**Question #1:**

- a) How do you think DFO should bring together the key groups with interests related to aquaculture in order to develop effective advisory processes?*


**Question #2:**

- a) How do you see yourself engaging most effectively in advisory processes for aquaculture?*
- b) How should advisory processes could be structured in the most effective, efficient and cost-efficient manner?*



**Question #3:**

- a) *How should discussions about IMAP development take place over the next year?*
- b) *Do you prefer the opportunity to read and respond to materials, public meetings, meetings with associations/ councils, or technical discussions?*
- c) *Do you prefer to have DFO discuss these items with your interest group one-on-one or in multi-stakeholder meetings?*


To be consistent with other Integrated Fisheries Management Plans, DFO is considering building the core IMAPs to be ‘evergreen’ documents (to provide information that will stay current for a number of years). The evergreen IMAPs would structure a way to identify management issues and associated objectives/actions and evaluative criteria. These may be focussed on both a coast-wide and smaller area scale.

**Question #4:**

- a) *Do you feel that there are any gaps in the management framework at present that should be addressed through the IMAP (and backgrounders), which are not included in the draft materials?*


DFO is committed to implementing an ecosystem approach to management and acknowledges the importance of engaging people and developing plans at a scale smaller than that of the Pacific coast. Within the Pacific Region, DFO anticipates working in cooperation with First Nations, industry, and other stakeholders to develop *Area-Based Operational Plans*. These plans may relate to local issues and would involve engagement at a more local scale. For example, Area-Based Operational Plans could bring together objectives related to an ecosystem approach, adaptive management, and First Nations/ community engagement in siting, management, science/local knowledge and enforcement. Determination of what an appropriate scale would be for these efforts would be a part of work to take place as the IMAP is developed.

**Question #5:**

- a) *How can development of areas play a role in the effective management of aquaculture in B.C.?*
- b) *What criteria could be used to develop the area management scale?*
- c) *What scale (how large or small) should areas be?*
- d) *What management functions are best undertaken at the area scale?*





**Question#6:**

*a) Do you have any initial thoughts about the type of Management Issues that should be a priority for discussion under the IMAP framework?*


**Thank you for your participation.**

Please submit your completed response in order for us to include your comments in the Conditions of Licence for next year. We are always interested in your input – any comments on the IMAPs, Conditions of Licence and Management Approaches can be forwarded to us at any time. We will review and consider any information that you

provide to us as a part of the overall planning process. Your response can be submitted by:

**e-mail:** [IMAPS@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:IMAPS@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**mail:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
c/o Gabrielle Kosmider  
1965 Island Diesel Way  
Nanaimo, BC V9S 5W8

**fax:** (250) 949-6755

For more information on **marine finfish** IMAPs please contact Brenda McCorquodale at (250) 949-6434 in Port Hardy. For more information on **shellfish** IMAPs please contact Gabrielle Kosmider at (250) 754-0404 in Nanaimo.