

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

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

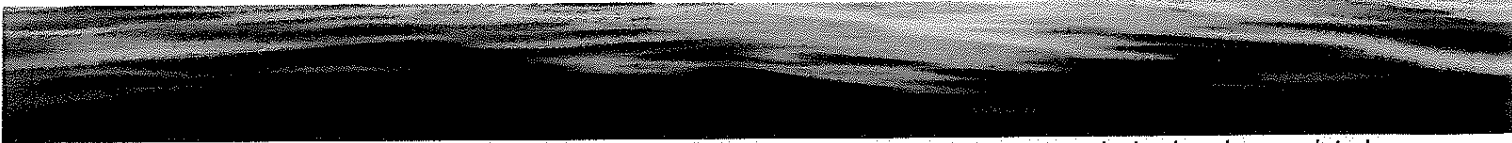

Key Issues Discussed:

- 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



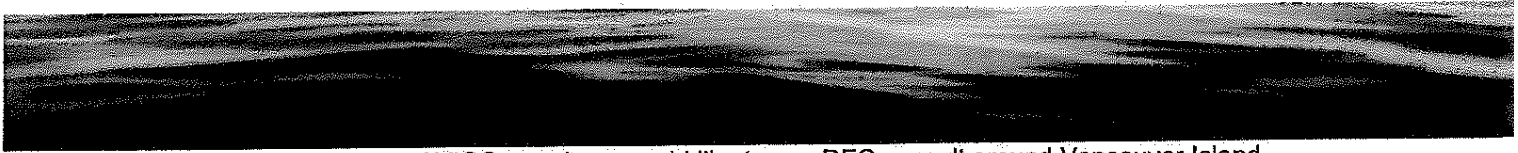


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- DFO is urged to consider aquaculture economic impact analysis already completed in Mount Waddington
 - AVICC members sought clarity on the scope, application, content and duration of the IMAP, specifically:
 - how the IMAP would address cumulative 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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- 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

