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Update and Next Steps re: Development of the BC Aquaculture Management Framework


Meeting with the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC)
November 23, 2011
Courtney, BC

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Overview

- Background
- DFO Aquaculture Management Framework
 - Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans
 - Conditions of Licence
 - National Management Approaches & Policies
- Areas for discussion in 2012

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Background

- **February 2009:** BC Supreme Court decision rules that only the federal government has the authority to regulate the fisheries aspects of aquaculture.
- **November 2009 - March 2010:** DFO & BC begin negotiations on MOU; DFO granted extension to December 18, 2010 to implement new regime.
- **April-July 2010:** Pacific Aquaculture Regulation (PAR) drafted and published July 9th; DFO receives Cabinet direction for new Program following functions of BC with enhanced focus on: Enforcement, Information Management and Public Reporting.
- **September-November 2010:** 4 classes of licence developed and posted: shellfish, marine finfish, freshwater and enhancement with applications sent to all previous provincial licence holders.
- **December 2010:** Canada Gazette Part II: Publication of Aquaculture Regulation; DFO – BC MOU signed; applications reviewed and licences issued.

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DFO Aquaculture Organization

- Aquaculture Management elements in 3 DFO Branches
 - Fisheries Management
 - Aquaculture Management Division
 - Aquaculture Programs
 - » AIMAP, Governance, Aboriginal Engagement, Ecosystem Approach
 - Aquaculture Resource Management
 - » Finfish, Shellfish & Freshwater industry engagement and management
 - » First Nations Consultations
 - Aquaculture Environmental Operations
 - » Fish Health, Finfish, Shellfish and Freshwater assessments
 - Conservation and Protection
 - Communications

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DFO Aquaculture Management Pacific Region Offices

- Vancouver
 - Regional DFO Headquarters
- Nanaimo - Island Diesel Way
 - Resource Management and C&P
- Courtenay
 - Fish Health Lab and Shellfish / FW assessment
- Campbell River
 - Finfish Assessment, Licensing and C&P
- Port Hardy
 - Resource Management & Finfish Assessment.




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The new DFO regulatory regime for aquaculture has provided:


Marine Finfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlined regulatory requirements • Enhanced oversight & enforcement • Enhanced benthic assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved transparency • Increased reporting requirements
Shellfish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of requirements • Increased reporting requirements • Enhanced field presence of DFO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of "Introductions and Transfer" requirements into licence.
Freshwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved transparency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced field presence of DFO
Enhancement facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing of federal and provincial salmonid enhancement operations 	

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Aquaculture Management Framework


- Pacific Region is supporting development of a new Management Framework for Aquaculture in BC
- The Framework has three key components:
 - Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans (IMAPs);
 - Conditions of Licence; and
 - National Management Approaches / Policies.
- Consultation and engagement will inform the development of all three elements

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IMAP - Overview


- IMAP = Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan.
- Modelled after Integrated Fisheries Management Plans for fisheries.
- IMAPs will be both a process and a document; multiple "scales"
- Will set out the plans for conservation and sustainable use of resources related to aquaculture (e.g. goals, management approaches)
- Tool to enhance First Nations, industry, and stakeholder engagement in planning and management (e.g. priorities, reporting, adaptive management approaches).
- Plan to prepare a core IMAP and more detailed Background document
- Proposed timeline: Marine finfish (2012), shellfish (2012) and freshwater (2013).

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IMAP - Potential Outline / Format

- Potential IMAP outline includes:
 - Sector overview and context (species, methods, governance, advisory processes);
 - Policy framework;
 - Science;
 - Social, culture, and economic importance of aquaculture;
 - Management issues;
 - General objectives;
 - Ecosystem-based management measures;
 - Industry and stakeholder commitments;
 - Inspection, compliance, and enforcement plans; and
 - Performance review.

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IMAP Timelines & Engagement

Fall 2011

- Initial discussions with First Nations, industry, other levels of government and stakeholders regarding general approach, potential IMAP format and content, governance options and approaches, timelines

Spring 2012

- Engage in more detailed discussions regarding
 - Governance and advisory processes
 - Area-Based Management
 - Ecosystem Approaches
 - Priority Management Issues

Summer / Fall 2012


- Draft IMAPs which would include these elements

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Conditions of Licence (CoL)

- Conditions of Licence are:
 - Explicit and enforceable 'rules' for conducting aquaculture;
 - Normally are valid for the period of the licence;
 - Attached to licence issued and form part of the licence;
- Conditions can be:
 - For the proper management and control of the fishery;
 - Fishery-wide and apply to all sites;
 - Specific to species or species groups under culture;
 - Site specific.

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Conditions of Licence – Status & Next Steps


- Initial marine finfish licences were issued for one year period and expire on December 18, 2011.
- Shellfish licences were issued for 14 – 16 months and expire Feb 28, March 31 and April 30, 2012.
- Freshwater licences expire June 18, 2012.
- DFO limited the duration of current licences in order to allow for evolution of licences in alignment with development of the aquaculture Management Framework.

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Conditions of Licence – cont'd

- Generic Conditions of Licence for Marine Finfish, Shellfish, and Freshwater are available on the Internet.
- Some technical and administrative changes to conditions of licence are expected to be made this year.
- Future management changes recommended by First Nations, industry, and stakeholders, will be vetted through the IMAP advisory processes (currently under development).
- Much of the information generated through increased reporting requirements is already being posted to the internet on the DFO Pacific aquaculture website:
- <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/index-eng.htm>

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Transparency



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Management Approaches / Policies


- The Pacific Aquaculture Regulations are broad, and require management guidance to implement.
- In 2010 the CoLs reflected implicit policy choices.
- CoLs are the legally enforceable expression of policies.
- The broad DFO policy approach is being set out in a Sustainable Aquaculture Fisheries Framework.

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Management Approaches – cont'd


- Policies/ Management Approaches are being developed in the following 4 broad categories:
 - Conservation, Ecosystem and Sustainable Use Policies;
 - Economic and Governance Policies;
 - Planning and Monitoring; and
 - Operational Implementation.
- The IMAP process will provide a mechanism for input and further development of the national policies/ management approaches.

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Discussion Questions

- How do Vancouver Island municipalities see being engaged in aquaculture management moving forward?
- What are the best mechanisms for DFO to engage BC municipalities? UBCM? AVICC? Broader multi-interest meetings?
- What are some of the key issues or perspectives that have been identified by AVICC and/or individual municipalities around aquaculture management?

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Questions?

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