Meeting Objectives

Today’s session is intended to:

- Provide an update and background information regarding DFO’s BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program
- Support an interactive discussion with AVICC representatives regarding:
  - Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans; and
  - Advisory and planning processes related to aquaculture.

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Background: Aquaculture Regulations

- In February 2009 the B.C. Supreme Court decision ruled that only the federal government has the authority to regulate the fisheries aspects of aquaculture
- Pacific Aquaculture Regulations (PAR) drafted and published on July 9th 2010 in Canada Gazette I
- Approved in Canada Gazette II in December 2010
- Four classes of licence were developed:
  - shellfish, marine finfish, freshwater and enhancement
- Applications sent to all existing provincial licence holders
- Applications were reviewed and federal licences were issued in December 2010
- DFO and BC signed MOU in 2010

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Background: Licensing

- Total number of licences issued in 2011 were:
  - Marine finfish 125
  - Shellfish 517
  - Freshwater 111
  - SEP 15 major, 110 CEDP, 17 classroom
- Licences issued initially for periods from 1 – 2 years.
- All aquaculture operations should now hold a valid federal licence.
- DFO is working with B.C. on a "harmonized" aquaculture licence application approach through Front Counter BC.

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Background: Licensing cont’d

- Conditions of Licence (CoLs) are the ‘rules’ all licensees must follow when conducting aquaculture
- CoLs for marine finfish, shellfish, freshwater, and enhancement are available on the internet (see link on final page)
- Pending the outcome of the Cohen Commission, DFO is not making major changes or amendments to the marine finfish aquaculture licences
- New applications restricted to those focussed on replacement sites or improving environmental performance

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Background: Aquaculture Management Policies

- The Pacific Aquaculture Regulations are broad and require management guidance to implement
- In 2010 and 2011, Conditions of Licence issued under the new regulations reflected implicit policy choices
- Policies to guide aquaculture management are being set out in the Sustainable Aquaculture Fisheries Framework
- Policies are being developed in 4 categories:
  - Conservation, ecosystem and sustainable use
  - Economic and governance policies
  - Planning and monitoring, and
  - Operational implementation
Background: Consultations & Engagement

Since 2009, DFO has been consulting and engaging with First Nations, industry, other levels of government and stakeholders regarding aquaculture regulations, program structure and the management framework.

Wide range of views and perspectives provided to-date

Input has helped shape and inform DFO’s approach

Primary focus for 2012 will be on establishing the governance, advisory and planning process for IMAPs.

Background: AVICC and Local Government

In Fall 2011, DFO and BC met with AVICC representative to discuss the BC Aquaculture Regulatory Program (BCARP).

Initial feedback and perspectives included:

- Interest in participating in the IMAP process
- Linkages between harmonized process, IMAPs and decision-making relevant to land use planning and economic development opportunities
- Interest in greater clarity regarding new DFO process relative to previous Provincial regime
- Greater input by regional districts into the licence application process

Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans & Aquaculture Advisory Processes

Overview of Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans

Governance/Advisory Process for aquaculture

Discussion Questions

Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans (IMAPs)

IMAP = Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan

Similar to DFO integrated planning processes for fisheries

Would set out the plan for the conservation and sustainable use of resources related to aquaculture, including:

- sector overview and context (species, methods, governance), management issues, policies, ecosystem based management, compliance, monitoring, performance
- Last fall a template for the Marine Finfish and Shellfish IMAP were posted on the internet
- DFO is seeking input on both the format and content for IMAPs.

Advisory Processes Overview

DFO is looking at managing aquaculture in a manner consistent with management of other fisheries.

DFO is engaging in dialogue with First Nations, industry, regional districts and other stakeholders on possible advisory process scenarios

At this point DFO is considering an advisory process for each of marine finfish, shellfish, and freshwater.
The purpose of governance / advisory process could include:

• Support a governance structure for collaborative dialogue and work aimed at improving Canada’s management of aquaculture and performance of the industry from an environmental and economic standpoint;
• Set out key management issues and associated plans (objectives, implementation, progress measures, evaluation);
• Provide input into aquaculture policies, the development of area-based planning processes, and general Conditions of Licence;
• Provide input into ongoing development of an ecosystem-based management approach for aquaculture; and
• Provide advice to DFO on the overall management of aquaculture.

In conjunction with the IMAP advisory process, DFO is committed to the development of an area/ecosystem-based management approach—Multi-stakeholder process with industry, First Nations, local governments, and other key stakeholders

This approach could focus on addressing area specific issues—Siting, audit, enforcement, local reporting, local research and science priorities

Potential outcomes of this approach could include:
— Local area siting and management plans, and/or area-specific conditions of licence
• This approach could be piloted as early as next year

What are the key issues or perspectives that have been identified by AVICC and/or coastal communities around aquaculture management?

What advice would AVICC provide to DFO with respect to advisory processes for aquaculture and IMAPs?

How would AVICC and coastal communities see themselves engaging in this process?

Apart from a multi-interest advisory process, is there a need for other mechanisms through which AVICC / coastal communities can engage with DFO?

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Additional information / Links:
— Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans:
  http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/consultation/aquaculture/index-eng.htm
— Conditions of Licence:
— Public Reporting:
  http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/reporting-rapports/index-eng.htm
— Disease Monitoring & Control:
— Communications:
  http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/index-eng.htm

Thank You!