




AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT

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.

2




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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

3




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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.

4




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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

5



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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

6



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DFO Aquaculture Management (3 Branches)

- Fisheries Management (Aquaculture Management Division)
 - Aquaculture Programs: Consultation & Engagement, AIMAP, Governance, 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 (C&P)
- Communications Branch



7




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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

8




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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

9




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Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans & Aquaculture Advisory Processes

- Overview of Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plans
- Governance/Advisory Process for aquaculture
- Discussion Questions

10




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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.

11



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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.

12



Aquaculture Governance / Advisory Process: Purpose

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.

13



Area-Based / Ecosystem-Based Management

- 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

14



Discussion questions

- 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?

15



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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: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/index-eng.htm>
 - Public Reporting: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/reporting-rapports/index-eng.htm>
 - Disease Monitoring & Control: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/back-fiche/2011/20111202-eng.htm>
 - Communications: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/index-eng.htm>

16



Thank You!

17