The Role of the Province for Licencing Aquaculture in British Columbia

The desire to have a healthy aquaculture sector hasn’t changed even though the name of the agencies has.

In 2009, the BC Supreme Court ruled that finfish aquaculture is a fishery and must be managed by Canada.

BC and Canada entered into a MOU to clarify the roles for both parties.

BC initiated a transfer of authority to Canada to also manage shellfish and fresh water aquaculture.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada granted aquaculture licences beginning December 2010.
MFLNRO is in the preliminary stages of an aquaculture policy review.

The effort is best described as house-keeping.

The goal is to make the policy consistent with the 2009 decision.

Major changes are not anticipated.

BC and Canada developed a harmonized application process.

– FCBC is the one-window application submission point
– Proponents submit a single application covering all aspects of Provincial and Federal licensing requirements
– Wherever possible, the agencies communicate jointly and share access to all communications
– Wherever possible, agencies will consult jointly with First Nations

Each agency must make its own independent decision.