



AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (AMAC)
Meeting notes

Meeting Date:	October 4, 2018, 9:00am – 4:00 pm
Location:	Crown Isle, Courtenay
MEETING OBJECTIVES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Action Items • Discuss and seek advice from committee members on initiatives and issues

Participants:

Facilitator Saul Milne

AMAC members:

Industry Licence-Holders

Keith Reid, Odyssey Shellfish Ltd.

Gordon McLellan, Mac's Oysters

Barry Seeley, Clayoquot Sound Oyster Growers Association

Daniel Rabu, Haida Seafood Products Ltd.

Ed Bereziak, Aphrodite's Garden Oyster Company

J.P. Hastey, Nova Harvest Ltd

Industry Associations

Richard Harry, Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

Darlene Winterburn, BC Shellfish Growers Association (BCSGA)

First Nations

None

Conservation and Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS)

Dan Lisch, Friends of Baynes Sound

Kim Dunn, World Wildlife Fund – Canada

Local Government

None

Ex-officio:

DFO Allison Webb, Director, Aquaculture Management Division (AMD)

Brenda McCorquodale, A/Regional Manager, AMD

Gabrielle Kosmider, Senior Coordinator, AMD

Jennifer Mollins, Senior Coordinator, AMD

Shelley Jepps, Senior Biologist, AMD

Neil Jensen, Senior Compliance Officer, Conservation and Protection (C&P)

Andre Youssef, Senior Program Officer, AMD

Monica Walker, Coordinator, AMD (notes)

Government of British Columbia

Myron Roth



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Canada

Facilitator: Saul Milne
Observers: Alex Munro, Taylor Shellfish

Regrets:

Industry
Larry Hesketh, Summer Breeze Aquaculture
ENGOS
Scott Wallace, David Suzuki Foundation
Local Government
William (Bill) Veenhof, Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) South Coast Delegate
Gord Klassen, UBCM North Coast delegate (City of Fort St John)

Materials distributed:

1. Shellfish AMAC Meeting Agenda
2. April 26, 2018 Shellfish AMAC Meeting Summary
3. Shellfish AMAC recommendation and response log
4. Norovirus Action Plan
5. Baynes Sound-Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum Report
6. SF AMAC Working Group on Environmental Performance Terms of Reference (draft)
7. Shellfish Aquaculture Debris Strategy and Action Plan

Meeting proceedings:

Introductions and Overview of Agenda (Saul Milne)

Saul called the meeting to order. Noted that local government representatives are not present as local government elections are ongoing.

Review notes and outstanding action items from last meeting (Jennifer Mollins)

Jennifer reviewed last meetings notes and the Recommendation and Response Log. Daniel asked to ensure that the request for a response from DFO on the request to culture sea cucumber be included, and it was noted that it is covered under the first action item.

Sector Check-Ins

- INDUSTRY UPDATE:
 - Barry reported that west coast of Vancouver Island production is back up this year.
 - JP and Keith reported heavy oyster mortality. In Baynes Sound, loss 60% of production. Keith reports sales down by 40%.
 - Darlene reported that the BCSGA is working to address the norovirus outbreak in Baynes Sound, looking at the cause and prevention of future outbreaks with science groups. BCSGA also supporting reseach efforts focused on oyster resiliency, water conditions impacts. BC Seafood Festival in Comox doubled in size, included an oyster mortality workshop. Turn It In Week was a success. Priorities for the BCSGA are norovirus, the assignment process for tenures, and research.
- ABORIGINAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION UPDATE:
 - Richard noted that the [2018 Report from Canada's Economic Strategy Tables](#) recommends flexible license arrangements for aquaculture to provide more opportunity.
- PROVINCE OF BC UPDATE:
 - Myron noted that the BC Seafood Expo happened again this year and highlighted that it included a First Nations Aquaculture Resources for Commercialization (ARC) Workshop and an Exploring International Markets for Indigenous Seafood Workshop.

- ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION NGO UPDATE: None
- FIRST NATIONS UPDATE: None.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: None

DFO update (Allison Webb)

- New Minister for DFO – Jonathon Wilkinson, from BC.
- Allison noted over the last six months there have been many internal discussions on shellfish aquaculture and much briefing of senior management, with respect to food safety, compliance and policy issues, raising the profile of the sector in the Department.
- Allison provided an update on implementation of the Integrated Geoduck Management Framework.
- An industry representative asked for more information on the process for evaluating a licence and counting service standard days.

ACTION: DFO offered to hold a workshop for industry to explain the licence review process.

- Allison provided an update on the Big Beach Cleanup on the Vancouver Island September 14-22nd, co-organized with the BCSGA.
- An update was provided on DFO shellfish science initiatives.

ACTION: AMAC members requested that DFO science provide a standing update on science work at AMAC.

ACTION: If material is available in advance, members requested that host a DFO webinar or teleconference update on science with scientists prior to the next AMAC meeting.

ACTION: DFO to link the WWF-Canada into the CSAS process for Baynes Sound carrying capacity study.

Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP) update (Gabrielle Kosmider)

Gabrielle updated on the CSSP.

- Monica Ficker is now the National Integrated Shellfish Committee (NISC) DFO lead.
- Amendments to the [CSSP manual Chapter 13 Outbreaks of shellfish-related illness](#) that incorporate the [Safe Food for Canadians Regulations](#) come into force later this year.
- Consultations on Alternate Service Delivery to accommodate program expansion were held in Prince Rupert in September. Alternate Service Delivery involves non-government sampling and analysis of water quality and shellfish.
- Foreign audits of CSSP
 1. Chile (completed in March 2018) – draft report completed and submitted for CFIA approval. This report will eventually be published on the CFIA website, probably by Spring 2019.
 2. 2016 US Audit of Canada – Final report contained no recommendations for Pacific region

ACTION: DFO to provide the 2016 US Audit of Canada’s CSSP, when available.

- National CSSP [shellfish harvesting map](#) is online.
- DFO distributed onboard waste containment buckets and sample.
- The next Pacific Region Integrated Shellfish Committee (PRISC) meeting is October 17.
- Discussion about the Chilean, European, American and Canadian shellfish protocols being different, but achieving the same outcomes of managing pathogen risks.
- Gabrielle provided an update on the PRISC Working Group.
 - Industry representative requested that return-to-ground policy development take into account practical considerations of growers.

Conservation and Protection (C&P) Update (Neil Jensen)

Neil updated on DFO’s C&P operations related to shellfish aquaculture

- Illegal shellfish harvesting in prohibited areas and shellfish traceability is top priority. DFO's National Marine Fisheries Intelligence Service is assisting.
- Industry representative indicated that this is a long-term problem.
- DFO C&P is working with the CFIA to implement the regulatory process around the authorization of wet storage of shellfish at aquaculture facilities. While movements of wild Pacific oysters are authorized under the Shellfish Aquaculture Licence, movements for other shellfish including manila clams are not.
- DFO encourages the public to report Fisheries violation through the ORR: Observe, Record, Report phone line at: 1-800-465-4336.
- Neil Jensen's contact information: phone (250) 754-0386, email neil.jensen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Norovirus Action Plan update (Gabrielle Kosmider)

Gabrielle gave an update on the Norovirus Action Plan and related follow up items.

- Pump-out information – Transport Canada (TC) developed a List of Pump Out Stations in BC with pump out locations, phone numbers, hours, cost, type and maximum size.
- Marine Safety Inspectors have been informed by their managers to pay special attention to ensure vessels have proper sewage management arrangements, applicable to their sizes. Inspectors also conducted outreach and shared publications with vessels during inspections.
 - Spot checks are on-going: 70 vessels were spot checked from April 1 to Sep 15, 2018 in addition to the 205 vessels on regular cycles.
 - Targeted checks and outreach are planned for start of roe herring season in Bayne Sound, in 2019. TC will work with DFO Fishery Management to finalize dates and action plan closer to Feb, 2019.
- Canada and USA Joint Risk Assessment on Bivalves
 - Canada is collaborating with the United States on a joint quantitative risk assessment, investigating the health risks from norovirus in bivalves.
 - This work evaluates the preventive practices and controls on the potential risks of human norovirus illness following consumption of these types of shellfish, and will produce a risk assessment report.
 - Each respective government is working to continually enhance management practices on both sides of the border and ultimately strengthen food safety measures designed to protect consumers.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/public-involvement-partnerships/canada-usa-joint-risk-assessment-norovirus-bivalve-molluscan-shellfish.html>
- Transport Canada will attend the Herring Industry Advisory Board (HIAB) meeting in November to communicate marine sewage disposal requirements.
- DFO – AMD and the PRISC wet storage working group are actively working on amended processes and procedures around approval of wet storage prior to emergency closures.
- ECCC is reviewing potential closure boundaries based on herring staging areas, and will present at the PRISC meeting on October 16.
- Herring fleet vessel inspections from 2014 to 2016 resulted in TC issuing 5 deficiency notices.
- Under the American National Shellfish Sanitation Program, 10 live-aboard boats in an area is equivalent to a marina, and the CSSP is looking at a similar approach.
- Industry representatives asked for more science work on Norovirus.
- Industry representatives communicated concern over vessels mooring near shellfish aquaculture sites, and the linkage to shellfish aquaculture areas being closed due to norovirus.
- Myron indicated that he would like to be invited to PRISC.

ACTION: DFO to provide written update on the Norovirus Action Plan for spring AMAC meeting.

Baynes Sound-Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum 2018 & Advisory Committee (Kim Dunn)

- The forum on May 22 and 23 produced a report, shared here. A key outcome was recognition from the diverse group present that Baynes Sound/Lambert Channel is vitally important, and that maintaining the status quo will result in its degradation and decreased benefits for all.
- A follow up to the forum was a tour of Denman Island aquaculture with Alex.
- Next step for Forum is seeking secretariat support for further meetings, to create a shared vision to guide an integrated approach for improved management.
- The upcoming AMAC Working Group on Environmental Performance could be complementary.
- DFO indicated that they are considering an area based management approach which could link to these efforts.

Shellfish AMAC Working Group on Environmental Performance (WG) (Shelley Jepps)

Shelley reviewed the terms of reference for this WG.

ACTION: Add Alex Munro as participant to the AMAC WG on Environmental Performance.

- General discussion on compiling work of other Working Groups to inform this WG.
- DFO added that the Shellfish Aquaculture Industry Advisory Panel (SAIAP) has two working groups with related work
 - Debris WG – Meeting on October 23, looking at alternatives to styrofoam
 - Underutilized sites WG – which can be a source of debris
- DFO is planning an open house on Denman Island with BC and the BCSGA for March 2019.
- An industry representative asked for BC protocols on decommissioning sites upon a tenure ending.
- BCSGA [Environmental Management Code of Practice](#) could inform this work.

The Working group will look at and recommend priorities to AMAC .

ACTION: DFO to compile information on other related initiatives to the SF AMAC WG on Environmental Performance.

Province of BC Update (Myron Roth)

- Myron provided an update on the [Oyster Recovery Fund](#) which reimburses oyster seed purchases up to \$10K per licence holder. First attempt at an emergency farm business risk management program for aquaculture. Of the \$1M available, \$500K has been used by 56 applicants. Program ends March 31, 2019.
- BC funding \$250K of oyster disease research through Genome BC, [call for proposals](#) due December 10, with work to begin on July 1, 2019.

ACTION: BC to provide update on Oyster Recovery Fund at next AMAC.

- The [OASISS](#) (Ocean Acidification Shellfish Industry Seed Supply) which included the BaSEIC project (Baynes Sound Environmental Intelligence Collaboration) was supported with \$125K from the province with cash and in-kind contributions from the BCSGA, VIU and the Hakai Institute.

Roundtable, topics for next meeting

- Question about First Nations consultations on aquaculture licences.
- Request for sea cucumber approach from DFO for next meeting.
- Request that DFO look at ways to focus efforts on aquaculture licenses that are productive, instead of speculative investors.
- Industry representative reported that 3 smaller derelict vessels are being reviewed for disposal by Coast Guard, on top of the 2 large ones removed last year.
- BCSGA updated that they are working on additional grants for research.

- Industry representative suggested a review of the conditions of licence for shellfish aquaculture at the AMAC.
- BC updated that the Aquaculture Association of Canada's conference is May 5 to 8, 2019 in Victoria, and to advise Myron if you have ideas for a session. The BC Seafood Festival had a session in 2018 on oyster mortality, and considering a session in 2019 on science findings.
- DFO committed to producing minutes in 2 weeks, and will share schematic on First Nations consultation & engagement.
- April 30, 2019 is tentative date for next meeting.

Summary of action items:

1. DFO offered to hold a workshop for industry to explain the licence review process.
2. AMAC members requested that DFO science provide a standing update on science work at AMAC.
3. If material is available in advance, members requested that host a DFO webinar or teleconference update on science with scientists prior to the next AMAC meeting.
4. DFO to link the WWF-Canada into the CSAS process for Baynes Sound carrying capacity study.
5. DFO to provide the 2016 US Audit report of Canada's CSSP, when available.
6. DFO to provide written update on the Norovirus Action Plan for spring AMAC meeting.
7. Add Alex Munro as participant to the AMAC WG on Environmental Performance.
8. DFO to compile information on other related initiatives to the SF AMAC WG on Environmental Performance.
9. BC to provide update on [Oyster Recovery Fund](#) and the [Oyster disease research call for proposals](#) at next AMAC.
10. DFO to provide update on the sea cucumber approach from DFO for next meeting.