



AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	
Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (AMAC) Summary Notes (Draft)	
Meeting Date:	January 25, 2017, 10:00am – 3:30 pm
Location:	Best Western Westerly Hotel and Convention Centre, Courtenay

AMAC members:

Aquaculture Industry:

- Barry Seeley, Clayoquot Sound Oyster Growers Assoc.
- Gordy McLellan, Mac’s Oysters
- Keith Reid, Odyssey Shellfish Ltd.
- Daniel Rabu, Haida Seafood Products Ltd.

Industry Associations:

- Darlene Winterburn, BC Shellfish Growers Assoc.
- Richard Harry, Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

First Nations: Jennifer Woodland, First Nations Fisheries Council (NTC Fisheries - alternate)

Local Government: Sabrina Frazier, Local Government

Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations:

- Dan Lisch, Friends of Baynes Sound
- Edina Johnston, formerly of the Association for Responsible Shellfish Aquaculture

Facilitator: Craig Darling, Accord Canada

British Columbia: Myron Roth, Government of BC

Fisheries and Oceans Canada:

- Karen Calla, March Klaver, Nathan Taylor, Gabrielle Kosmider, Brenda McCorquodale, Tricia Spearing (note taker)

Observers:

Regrets: Ed Bereziak, Aphrodite’s Garden Oyster Company

- Bill Veenhoff, AVICC, UBCIC
- Richard Sparrow, First Nations Fisheries Council
- Alex Etchell, First Nations Fisheries Council
- Scott Wallace, David Suzuki Foundation
- Lesley Fettes, Section Head, Aquaculture, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Alistair Struthers, DFO

Introductions:

Craig Darling called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Karen welcomed participants to the meeting and introduced herself as the new Director of Aquaculture.

Review of Meeting Notes and Action Log:

Brenda McCorquodale provided a review of last meeting notes and Recommendation and Response log.



Sector check-ins:

Darlene stated that industry has been working on the norovirus outbreak since December - trying to find causes and working with vibrio working group trying to find ways to move forward; continuing sewage disposal issues with local governments; SAIAP working groups identified and starting to form.

Edina stated marine guardians are out keeping an eye on beaches; still concerns regarding plastics in the marine environment; driving on beaches still a big issue on Denman island.

Director of Aquaculture Report and Q & A:

Karen provided an update on staffing changes at DFO. She introduced Lauren Lavigne as the Manager of Aquaculture Programs. J.F. LaRue is acting Director General of Aquaculture Management.

Karen stated that there is no announcement yet regarding the Integrated Geoduck Framework, and that DFO expects to providing more information on this very soon.

DFO is making improvements to the website, increasing transparency in decision making by making more information on applications and data available on the web, including new information regarding applications for new sites and amendments.

Jennifer asked if there is an update on the Sea Cucumber Framework. Karen responded not at this time.

National Forward Aquaculture Agenda:

Karen provided a review of the Ministerial mandate letter.

Barry Seeley commented that science research and innovation should be driven from the ground up. Some studies are out of touch with what's happening in industry. He suggested projects should be vetted by relevant industry partners before it goes ahead.

Richard Harry asked if there is a draft of an Aquaculture Act. Karen stated that all options are being considered, including a stand alone Act or amendments to other acts such as Fisheries Act.

Daniel Rabu asked is there a commitment to an Aquaculture Act. Karen responded all options are being considered. Consultations will inform decisions and will include industry and First Nations. **Action: DFO to provide information on when Aquaculture Act consultations commence.**

Management of Contaminated Fishery Regulations - Gabrielle Kosmider provided update.

Keith Reid asked if the process for the importation of seed will change, noting that 2 applications are required. Karen stated she expects there will still be 2 as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have different mandates.

Gordy McLellan asked why the CFIA licence changed from a year licence to 3 month. **Action: DFO to provide clarification related to CFIA's seed importation permits and issues related to renewal of permits and changes in the application process.** Reid also noted that you can't apply for a new licence until the old one has expired and there is a lag time, so there is a period when facilities by necessity are unlicensed.

Karen updated on the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative.

Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program Update:

Gabrielle Kosmider provided update.

Daniel Rabu asked about new maps as opposed to the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) mapping application? Gabrielle explained concerns with timeliness of information on the BCCDC system.

Gordy McLellan asked who contracts the PSP sampling – noting issues with collection in some areas. Gabrielle noted that the CFIA contracts this out. If there are concerns CFIA should be informed.

Myron Roth noted that CFIA has now launched public consultation on the Safe Food for Canadians Act.

Daniel Rabu asked if there are options for the aquaculture industry to contract out sampling. Gabrielle stated that the government is looking a new ideas, including an alternate service delivery model. Rabu asked if the new

mapping software will allow historical closure information so we can look for trends and anticipate. **Action: DFO to contact CFIA about their new CFIA mapping software will have the functionality to pull out historic data.** Consultations will be taking place on the review of important harvest areas. If you know there is demand on resources in an area, this is the time to provide comment. Gabrielle noted that there are national meetings happening in February where this will be discussed.

Daniel Rabu noted there have been issues in Haida Gwaii. Sabrina concurred and noted that North Beach is coded red but is an important local harvest area. Gabrielle noted this is exactly what needs to be brought forward from the consultations as there are still gaps in the information.

Barry Seeley stated that there is also an issue of labs and logistical problems which need to be addressed.

Edina Johnston asked if there is a list of biotoxins that are tested for. Gabrielle stated she should refer to the CFIA website for this info.

Keith Reid asked if this process is downloading the cost of water quality monitoring onto industry. Gabrielle stated that the initiative is looking at changes to program delivery to focus on areas where there is demand/production. Keith noted that it takes 3-5 years to collect water quality data required by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to open an area, but growers can't invest three years only to find out an area can't be opened. Can this time period be shortened? Gabrielle stated that this is a good question for ECCC.

Richard Harry asked if there have been changes in enforcement. Karen stated not in terms of their authority, but their approach is more intelligence based. Keith Reid expressed concern about theft. March Klaver stated that theft of a privately owned product is an RCMP issue, not a 'fishing' issue. There was a question about how BC deals with this issue and Myron Roth offered to be a contact for follow-up.

Oyster Closure Update:

Gabrielle Kosmider provided an update. Following the Oyster Festival in November in Tofino approximately 120 people became ill; an outbreak protocol was initiated. Two facilities were implicated, oyster samples tested positive for norovirus. There is no clear explanation as to why the oysters had norovirus. Concerns have now expanded to other sites and additional closures are happening.

Gabrielle noted that there is an international working group on norovirus and Health Canada is looking for the possible source of the update.

DFO Science Update:

Nathan Taylor updated on DFO Science.

Nathan explained 'forensic science,' noting that this situation usually comes from C&P when enforcement requires specific scientific information/analysis.

Keith Reid asked how does DFO science help improve the industry. Nathan stated through collaborations such as via the Aquaculture Collaborative Research and Development Program.

There was an overall discussion about the process for prioritizing Science work. There was a discussion about how DFO interacts with stakeholders to set priorities and the group discussed options for providing input to AMAC or other processes.

MaPP Funding Opportunity:

Myron Roth updated on the Marine Planning Partnership funding.

Evaluation and Terms of Reference:

Brenda provided an overview of the AMAC evaluation and related proposed changes to the Terms of Reference.

Daniel Rabu asked if First Nations are funded to travel to AMAC meetings. McCorquodale noted funding is provided through an Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management agreement that DFO has with the First Nations Fisheries Council.

The group had a discussion about the mandate and objectives of the AMAC. Members generally expressed support for the evolution of the committee and supported making sure the Terms of Reference reflect these roles.

There was a discussion about a Code of Conduct, and members felt it was not needed.

There was a discussion related to committee appointments, which according to the Terms of Reference for the AMAC are expiring soon. Members supported informing sectors that appointments are expiring, and accepting any resignations. If others are interested in participating they should identify themselves.

Committee members expressed strong support for the AMAC process and stated that it fills a gap in terms of bringing together a variety of stakeholders to engage with government. There was interest in having higher level civil servants or elected officials attend meetings.

Karen Calla noted that government workers relay information up the chain of command in government.

Shellfish Aquaculture Industry Advisory Committee Working Group Update:

Darlene provided an update on the Shellfish Aquaculture Industry Advisory Panel (SAIAP) working groups:

1. Debris technical working group
2. Non producing/abandoned sites working group
3. Tagging and logbook working group
4. Application status working group

Barry Seeley asked if there are there traceability issues currently. Darlene noted that there are issues such as illegible tags or no tags at retail, product bypassing process. There are problems, and working on them.

Regarding debris clean-up, Darlene noted a group did a beach clean-up in Pendrell Sound and another Lund location, and in Baynes Sound clean up/Denman Island.

What people should do if they locate debris? Darlene advised to call the grower or the BCSGA.

IMAP renewal update:

Brenda McCorquodale provided a summary of changes proposed in the draft of the updated (2017) version, reviewing the management priorities in the current draft: new and emerging species, engagement and outreach on science and research, CSSP modernization, improvements in public reporting, and regulatory reform.

Daniel Rabu asked why high value species like sea urchin, sea cucumber and geoduck clams generally seem to fall under exceptions in the IMAP that require special review and approval. **Action: DFO to provide a response explaining why high value species like urchin and geoduck are given different requirements under the conditions of licence.**

Future meeting agendas:

Daniel Rabu stated that he felt the meeting was positive and respectful. He would like to see additional senior DFO staff attend. He has an interest in seeing future discussions related to: sea urchin roe enhancement and First Nations abalone culture.

Darlene Winterburn stated she felt this was an informative meeting, interested in seeing additional discussion related to developing science and research priorities.

Myron Roth felt it was a great meeting, informative.

Keith Reid felt it was a good meeting, but suggested the committee should identify a couple of key issues, set some benchmarks, so we can say we did accomplish something. More frequent meetings would also be helpful. Keith noted over the past few years, derelict vessels in Deep Bay were on the verge of sinking, and there were not tools to deal with them - kudos to DFO for getting them removed.



Gordy McLellan stated it was a good meeting, agreed 3 x/year would be better.

Barry Seeley felt it was a good meeting, but hopes that what the committee puts forward is heard. There is opportunity if DFO, industry, and First Nations work together.

Sabrina Frazier stated that she felt the tone has changed; feels like the committee is moving into the realm of bringing issues to the table and work out solutions.

Richard Harry felt there was good discussion. Would like more FN reps participating. We can support each other.

Dan Lisch stated that he listens and takes information back to his group. He enjoyed the SAIAP update and 3 meetings/year may go better.

Edina Johnston felt the meeting was good, respectful. Still frustrated that nothing is happening to change what is going on with plastics in marine environment. Would like to see at next meeting, a topic on the Carrying Capacity Study in Baynes Sound.

Summary of action items:

Daniel Rabu & Barry Seeley	DFO to provide information on when Aquaculture Act consultations will commence.
Keith Reid and Gordy McLennan	DFO to seek clarification related to CFIA's seed importation permits and issues related to renewal of permits and changes in the application process.
Daniel Rabu	DFO to contact CFIA about their new CFIA mapping software will have the functionality to pull out historic data.
Daniel Rabu	DFO to provide a response explaining why high value species like urchin and geoduck are given different requirements under the conditions of licence.

