



<b>Norovirus Follow-up Action Plan</b>	
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
<b>Location:</b>	Vancouver Island Conference Centre
<b>Meeting Objectives:</b>	To have various participants with regulatory roles or interests in vessel discharge within Baynes Sound share information and explore options for and develop an action plan for moving forward.

This meeting was held in response to the norovirus outbreak attributed to oysters harvested from Baynes Sound in early 2018. Regulatory partners and interested parties came together to share interests and jurisdictional authorities, as they relate to vessel discharge, with the hope of identifying an agreed upon action plan for minimizing the risk of an outbreak occurring in future. Regulatory partners included Transport Canada (TC), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI). Industry representatives of the Herring Industry Advisory Board (HIAB) and BC Shellfish Growers Association (BCSGA) were represented. The following is the action plan arrived upon at this meeting. Tracking of progress will be maintained by the Pacific Region Interdepartmental Shellfish Committee (PRISC) Vessel Discharge working group.

While the scope of this meeting was narrowly defined to the co-location of the herring and shellfish aquaculture fisheries in Baynes Sound, the hope is that the discussions and action plan will contribute to larger coordination, discussion and action around overall water quality in support of healthy ecosystems. This work will also support economic opportunities for commercial fisheries and aquaculture and aim to facilitate market access with particular attention to the upcoming audit of the CSSP program by the US.

**Improve Communications**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Post at docks, waste discharge infographic	TC to provide pamphlets	All (opportunistic) Vessel Discharge working group to track progress DFO AMD to provide electronic copies to fishing sectoral meetings and small craft harbours	Summer/Fall 2018	Pending
Fishery Notice to remind Herring Industry of vessel discharge requirements	DFO AMD	in conjunction with DFO RM	Just prior to fishery (planning meetings Nov or prior to staging Feb)	Pending

Update Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP's with updated vessel discharge wording information)	DFO RM	DFO AMD to provide wording	As IFMP's are updated or renewed	In progress
In season radio (VHF) announcements	DFO RM		Daily during fishery (Feb-March)	Pending
Explore media/proactive communications. (i.e. CBC podcast)	TC to provide contact information to industries	All contribute	January 2019	Pending

### Direct Outreach

Action	Lead	Support	Timeline	Status
Compile pump-out information, location, hours, fees, contact information etc.	TC		Prior to pre-fishery meetings (Sept 2018 – Jan 2019)	Pending
Explore options and incentives for pump-out users (focus group?)	Industry	DFO All contribute	October 2018 for communication at pre-fishery meetings	Pending

### Research

Action	Lead	Support	Timeline	Status
Use opportunities to educate during 4 year cycle inspection (seine) and spot checks on the grounds	TC		Spot checks planned for 2019 season to supplement 4 year cycle inspections	Pending
Delivery the BC Oyster Recovery Fund	AGRI	BCSGA	Underway	In Progress
Funding for EDNA study with EDNA study. Partnership with Genome BC and BC Center for Disease Control to find new tool for early detection of Norovirus	BC		Estimate 2020	In Progress
Link BCSGA to Health Canada Joint Health Risk Assessment (i.e. to inform local research/development of an early warning system)	AGRI	CFIA facilitate linkage with Health Canada	July 2018	Pending

## Mitigation

Action	Lead	Support	Timeline	Status
Explore options for locations of potential alternate anchorages	HIAB	DFO RM ECCC	November 2018 (prior to season)	Pending
Explore options for contracting mobile pump out service	HIAB	TC	November 2018 (prior to season)	Pending
Explore options for wet storage of product prior to emergency closures including development of mechanisms/process to facilitate this	Wet Storage working group (DFO AMD, C&P and CFIA)	BCSGA	Prior to season Nov/Dec 2018	Pending

## Closures

Action	Lead	Support	Timeline	Status
Model potential closure boundaries based on current knowledge of vessel congregations	ECCC	DFO RM	Prior to October 2018 PRISC Meeting	Pending

## Enforcement

Action	Lead	Support	Timeline	Status
4 year cycle inspection (seine)	TC		During fishery (Feb - March 2019)	Pending
Conduct targeting spot checks on the grounds during the herring fishery in Baynes Sound	TC		During fishery (Feb - March 2019)	Pending
Provide Transport Canada information on fleet aggregation and movement/ anchoring	DFO RM DFO C&P Aerial surveillance program	HIAB	Prior to and during fishery	Pending
Provide a summary report back to HIAB and Vessel Discharge Working group on findings of spot checks	TC		March - April 2019	Pending
Plan for better communication and information sharing leading up to and during the herring fishery among all parties with a role in enforcement	All parties with monitoring/ enforcement role		ASAP	Pending

Have an increased enforcement presence during Herring Fishery (vessel and overflights)	TC	DFO C&P ECCC	Feb - March 2019 (weeks to be confirmed based on fishery openings)	Pending
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## **Participants**

### **Industry Associations:**

Darlene Winterburn, Executive Director, BC Shellfish Growers Association  
Greg Thomas, Chair, Herring Industry Advisory Board

### **Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA):**

Jackie Plamondon, Inspection Manager, Operations  
Kristen Kirby, Shellfish Specialist

### **Environment and Climate Change Canada:**

Elizabeth Graca, Section Head, Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program  
Heather Lord, Area Coordinator, Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program

### **Transport Canada (TC):**

Terri Whitelaw, Associate Director, Marine Safety and Security  
Ada Tam, Manager, Office of Boating Safety

### **BC Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI):**

David Travia, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, Seafood and Trade

### **Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO):**

#### **Aquaculture Management Division**

Allison Webb, Director Aquaculture Management Division  
Brenda McCorquodale, Regional Manager  
Gabrielle Kosmider, Senior Shellfish Aquaculture Coordinator, PRISC Vessel Discharge WG Co-Chair  
Melinda Scott, Shellfish Aquaculture Coordinator, PRISC Vessel Discharge Working Group Secretariat

### **Resource Management**

Brenda Spence, Herring Resource Manager

### **Conservation and Protection**

Neil Jensen, Senior Compliance Officer and PRISC Vessel Discharge WG Co-Chair