



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Presentation shared with
Shellfish Aquaculture
Management Advisory
Committee

November 22, 2021

AREA-BASED AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT



Canada



Objectives

- Background on Area-Based Aquaculture Management (ABAM)
- Pilot Area and Expressions of Interest (EOI) Applications
- Timeline and goals of ABAM over the next two years
- EOI evaluation and Pilot Area Selection
- Timeline of other aquaculture initiatives
- Discussion
- Indigenous Participation
- Capacity Funding



Aquaculture Management Division (AMD)

Aquaculture Management Division

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Pilot Area Development

Coordinator

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Coordinator

TBD – staffed in January



Why Area-Based Aquaculture Management?

October 2018 – DFO Minister Wilkinson announced Canada will adopt an area-based approach to aquaculture

December 2018 – DFO Minister Wilkinson announced Canada will work with provinces/territories, industry, Indigenous partners, environmental groups, and others to ensure a sustainable path forward for aquaculture

June 2019 – The Indigenous and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Body and 3 technical working groups established: one is focused on Area-Based Management

June 2020 – The Area-Based Management Technical Working Group (ABAM TWG) tabled draft framework for the adoption of ABAM in BC

Budget 2021 – \$3M announced over 2021-2023



What is Area-Based Aquaculture Management (ABAM)?

Recommendations from a multi-stakeholder and Indigenous working group:

- Enhance Federal / Provincial / Indigenous coordination and collaboration
- Ensure planning and management of areas is responsive to objectives
- Consider connectivity and cumulative impacts to better understand risks
- Support environmental protection and industry growth
- Establish objectives and measure performance to better reflect interests of Indigenous groups, industry, and stakeholders
- Increase incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and improve communication with Indigenous communities regarding planning, management, and performance of aquaculture facilities

ABAM will occur in distinct geographical areas so the unique jurisdictional, ecological, social, cultural, and economic values that exist can be considered.



Anticipated Outcomes of ABAM

ECOSYSTEM-BASED
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

**NATION-TO-NATION
COLLABORATIVE**
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

IMPROVED ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR **COASTAL
AND RURAL COMMUNITIES** FROM AQUACULTURE

TRANSPARENT
DECISION-MAKING

INCREASED
SOCIAL LICENCE

ENHANCED
**FOOD SECURITY
& SUSTAINABILITY**

INCLUSIVE
KNOWLEDGE

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER USES OF
WATER AND LAND

SHARED
ACCOUNTABILITY



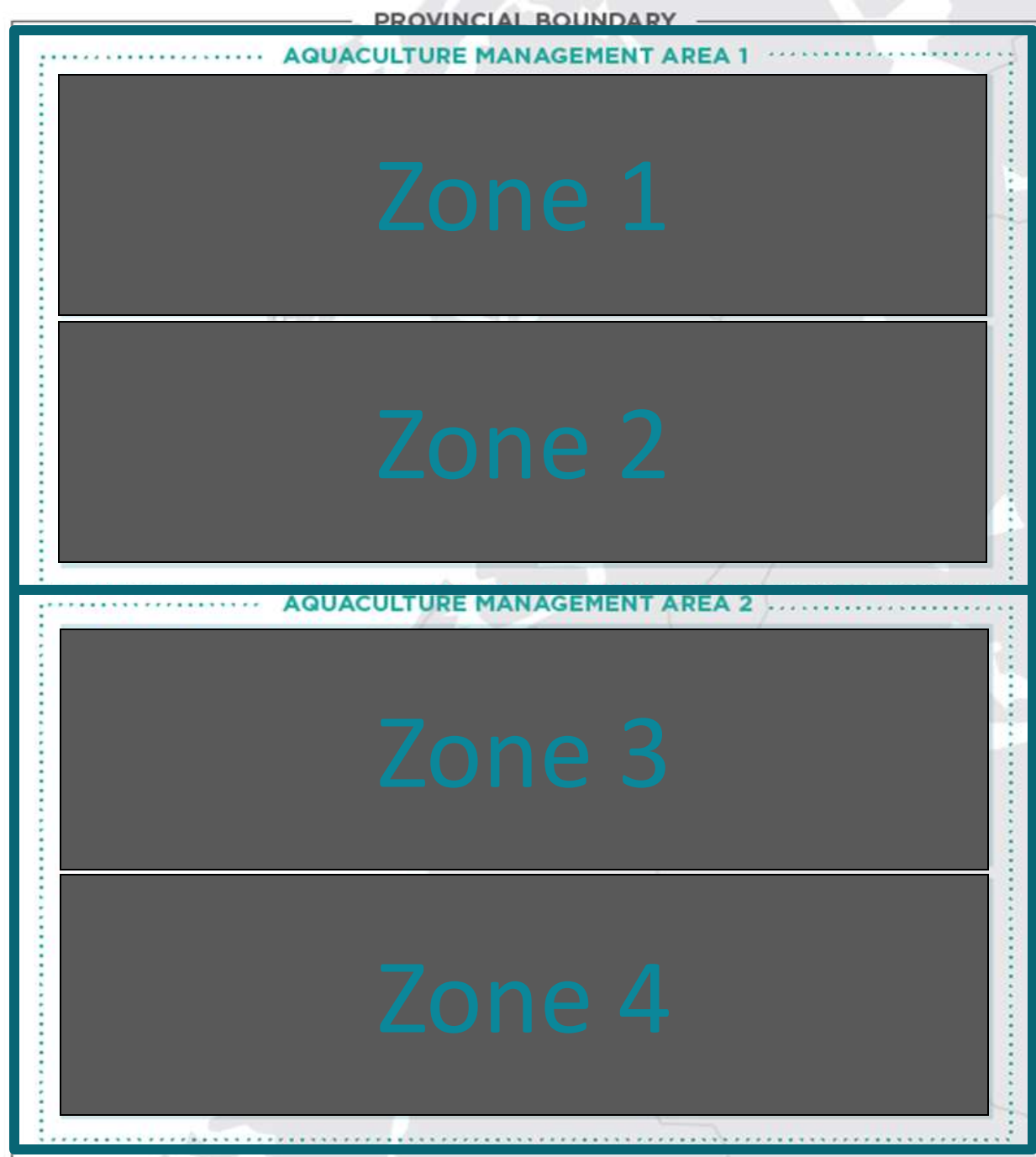
Existing Area-Based Aquaculture Management

- Coordination within and between companies
 - Stocking, harvesting, fallowing, depopulation, treatments, and equipment sharing
- Existing Fish Health Zones to minimize fish transfer risks
- During licensing, AMD considers nearby farm data
- Existing site-specific conditions of licence that reference area-management
- Industry has existing First Nations agreements which can include area values, goals, thresholds, and monitoring



Spatial Levels

We plan to advance elements at each of these geospatial levels.



*Note: this image is fictional and for illustration purposes only. AMAs have not yet been created.



ABAM Goals: 2021-2023

Spatial Level	Goals
Provincial level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a BC-wide <u>Regional Coordination Committee</u> (DFO, BC, Indigenous)• Update <u>Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan</u> (IMAP) to include principles of ABAM
Area level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify a <u>Pilot Aquaculture Management Area</u> (AMA) and build a collaborative governance structure - <u>Area Committee</u> (DFO, BC, and First Nations)• Co-create an <u>Area Management Plan</u> considering local social, cultural, environmental, and economic values
Zone level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create relevant <u>Aquaculture Management Zones</u> (AMZs) for marine finfish sites utilizing new farm hydrological connectivity science (CSAS) and existing health and sea lice data
Site level	<p><u>Licence Conditions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assign marine finfish farms to AMZs (when appropriate)• Site Health Management Plans (HMPs) and Sea Lice Management Plans (SLMPs) will be required to consider nearby farms that are also included in their AMZ



ABAM Project Timeline 2021-2023



PHASE 01

Introduce & Plan

Fall 2020 – Fall 2021

- Broad engagement - Provide an overview of area-based aquaculture management in BC



PHASE 02

Collect Input

Fall 2021 (ongoing)

- Seek expressions of interest for a pilot area
- Seek partnerships internally and externally
- Define Area Management Zones for marine finfish



PHASE 03

Development

Jan 2022 – Jun 2022

- Identify Pilot Area
- Develop:
 - Regional Committee
 - Pilot Area Committee
- Initiate Area Management Plan
- Draft Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan (IMAP)



PHASE 04

Review & Collaborate

Jul 2022 – Dec 2022

- Share draft IMAP
- Collaborate with partners on Committees
- Continue to work on Area goals and tools



PHASE 05

Finalize & Implement

Jan 2023 – Mar 2023

- Approve final IMAP
- Finalize, if possible, Pilot AMA Management Plan
- Program review
- Seek budget renewal beyond 2023

ABAM Partners & Stakeholders

First Nations	BC	Industry	Stakeholders
<p>Collaborative Governance Partners:</p> <p>A key to ABAM's success is First Nation participation in collaborative governance.</p>	<p>Collaborative Governance Partners:</p> <p>The ABAM approach is meant to create more consistency and alignment between governments.</p>	<p>Elevated Stakeholders/ Partners:</p> <p>The ABAM approach will recognize the role of industry as a stakeholders who can be creative, innovative, and invest in the future of aquaculture.</p>	<p>Advisors:</p> <p>ABAM will integrate an engagement process to seek feedback from other stakeholders.</p>

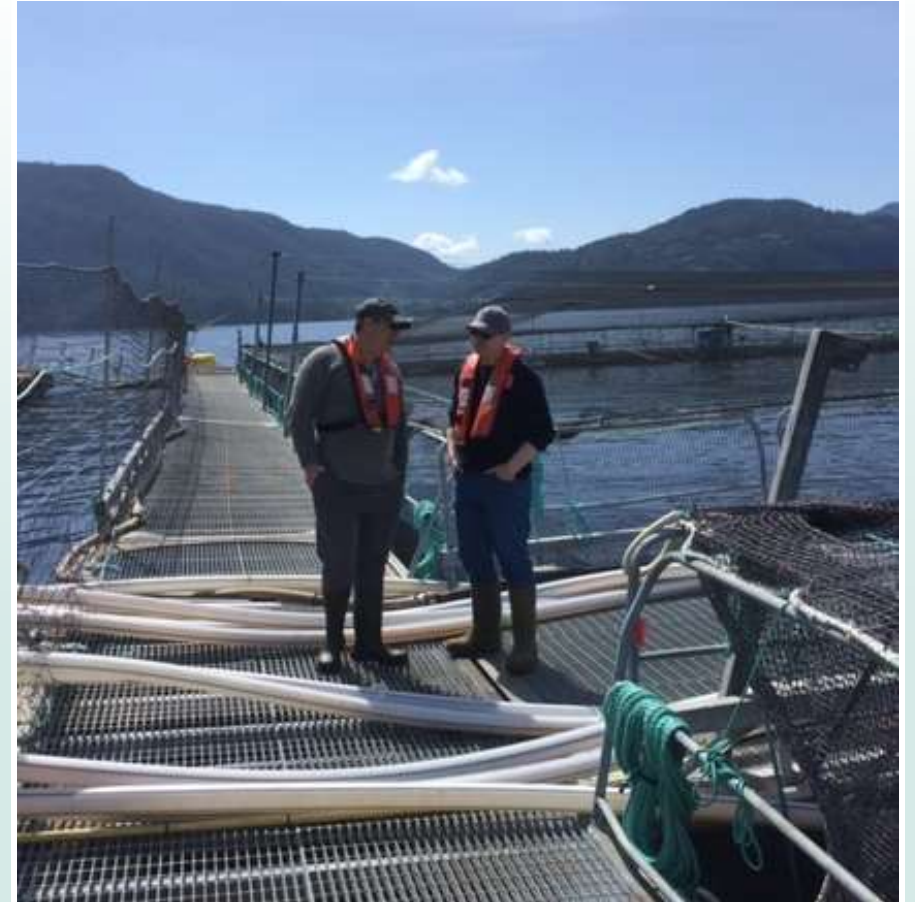
Engagement is occurring with all of these groups to clarify involvement in ABAM.



Input on Area-Based Aquaculture Management

Continued engagement and consultation on the development of ABAM can occur, including:

- Ongoing engagement planning
- Considerations for pilot area selection
- Regional and area management objectives
- Research priorities
- Monitoring, data collection, and evaluation
- Representation on Regional and Area Committees





Indigenous Involvement in ABAM

- ➊ Submit Pilot Area Expressions of Interest
- ➋ Participation on Regional Committee
- ➌ For selected Pilot Area:
 - ➍ Participate on Area Committee as a collaborative governance partner
 - ➎ Co-develop Area-Management Plan
- ➏ Develop/Expand Monitoring Programs





Pilot Area Considerations

➡ Expression of Interest (EOI) form released August 2021

➡ SUBMISSIONS DUE DECEMBER 31, 2021

➡ Pilot Area Considerations:

➡ Defined geospatial area

➡ Existing aquaculture activities with planned continuation

➡ Potential for aquaculture growth AND/OR innovative ideas or technologies to advance sector potential.

➡ Existing Partnerships or Opportunities for Partnerships:

➡ At least one First Nations partner who wants to support this initiative

➡ Willingness of multiple First Nations that overlap defined geospatial area

➡ An interested and innovative industry partner

➡ An interested regional or municipal government (bonus)

➡ An existing stakeholder table or potential to build one (bonus)





Pilot Area Evaluation – General Requirements

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Evaluation Description
Defined geospatial area	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate description of area• Area has at least one unique Area Management Zone which could have specific management measures• Adequate supporting maps included
Existing aquaculture activities with planned continuation	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed area has 5+ licensed, operational commercial aquaculture facilities• Descriptive explanation of the facilities provided (species grown, company name)
Potential for aquaculture growth AND/OR innovative ideas or technologies to advance sector potential	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential plan for aquaculture growth in proposed pilot area provided• Clear description of potential expansions, new innovations, or new technology



Pilot Area Evaluation - Partnership Requirements

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Evaluation Description
First Nations or Indigenous Governments in Area	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposed area has at least one interested Nation partnerProposed area has more than one interested Nation partners
First Nations Partners who want to support and participate in this initiative.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FN is primary applicant or partner on applicationAll Nations that overlap defined geographical area are willing to participate in ABAMFirst Nations in area have protocols in place to support Nation-Nation collaborationLetter of support provided explaining FN interest in participating and/or application for contribution funding
Interested and Innovative Industry Partner	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Has an interested industry partnerLetter of support included, showing high level of interest



Pilot Area Evaluation - Bonus

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Evaluation Description
Other collaborative partners and project team members (e.g. local governments, stakeholders)	Low-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support from collaborative partners, demonstrated through letters of support• Support received from regional and municipal governments of proposed pilot area
Existing collaborative stakeholder table or potential to build on one	Low-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmed existence of a collaborative stakeholder table or potential to implement a collaborative stakeholder table
Innovative ideas or technologies	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Descriptive explanation of innovative ideas included and ideas are realistic
Readiness to begin ABAM in 2022	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed pilot area is ready to begin the development and implementation of ABAM in the area beginning January 2022 and will be heavily involved until at least March 2023



Pilot Area Selection Process



Application

December 31, 2021

To be considered for initial pilot area

Submissions after this deadline may be considered for future development



Notification

Early January 2022

Acknowledgement email within 5 business days of the deadline - additional information may be requested OR confirm application accepted



Evaluation

January 2022

Utilize evaluation matrix
Summarize applications, generate a recommendation for the pilot area



Selection

March 31, 2022

DFO decision-maker to choose pilot area



Implementation

March 2022 - 2023

Email notify all applicants of decision
Successful EOI applicants engaged on Pilot Area Development

Applications may be submitted by First Nations, aquaculture licence holders, other Indigenous and/or stakeholder groups, other levels of government



Indigenous Contribution Funding Available

- To participate on Regional Committee
 - Tripartite coordination and communication role
- To participate on Area Committee
 - Tripartite collaborative governance for the Pilot Area
- To participate in engagement sessions and/or collaborative forums
- To assist in the completion of a Pilot Area Expression of Interest form for submission
- To develop recommendations on policy or implementation of ABAM
- To conduct research or compile Traditional Ecosystem Knowledge
- To establish Indigenous monitoring programs
- To deliver workshops, training, or materials for Indigenous peoples
- To hire staff or subject matter experts
- To purchase equipment or software




DFO Staff Support

- ➊ ABAM team can help support the development of **pilot area EOI applications** and **contribution funding applications**
- ➋ Contact a DFO ABAM Coordinator for application forms and support:
AreaBasedAquacultureManagement@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
(250) 754-0406
- ➌ We can also support through:
 - ➊ Aggregate meetings and workshops
 - ➋ Bilateral meetings
 - ➌ Connecting potential partners and subject matter experts



Aquaculture Initiatives with Overlapping Engagement

Initiatives with overlapping engagement				
	2021-2022	2022-2023		2023-2024
Net Pen Transition	Overview Plan Process & Engagement	Collect Input		Draft Plan
Aquaculture Act	Indigenous Engagement	Drafting & Parliamentary Process		
Area-Based Management (ABAM)	Broad Engagement on ABAM	Identify Pilot Area & Build BC-wide Regional Committee and Area Committee		Implement area-management tools and assess pilot
Marine Finfish Licence Reissuance	Draft & consult on conditions of licence		Issue Licences	Conditions of Licence in place
Aquaculture Activities Regulations	Engagement		Publication in CGI	Engagement Cont. Publication in CGII

Discussion – some ideas

- Shellfish industry interests in Area-Based Aquaculture Management
 - Pilot Area
 - Regionally
- Input on priorities for pilot area selection
 - Evaluation process

