

# ANNUAL SEAFLOOR INSPECTIONS

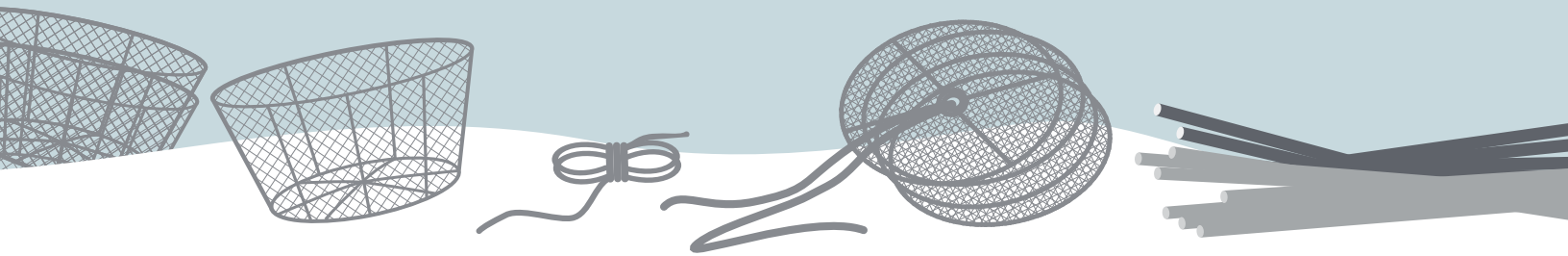
The shellfish aquaculture conditions of licence\* specify measures that must be taken to protect fish and fish habitat, including annual seafloor surveys and clean-ups. Shellfish facilities must be inspected for lost gear and efforts must be made to retrieve identified debris.

- 1 SURVEY** your facility during times of the year when subsurface visibility is clearest. Use a **drop camera system**, an underwater **remotely operated vehicle (ROV)** and/or **commercial divers**.

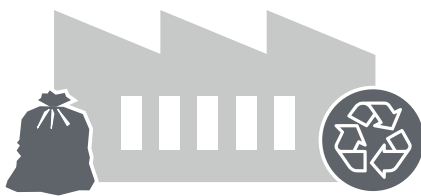


ROVs can be used to pinpoint debris areas and help reduce total diver time needed for debris retrievals.

- 2 RETRIEVE** debris such as plastic tubes, rope, netting, and oyster baskets using commercial divers or other effective means.



- 3 DISPOSE** of all end-of-life gear via a marine plastics recycling depot or other land-based facility such as a landfill.



- 4 MAINTAIN** survey and clean-up records as per Appendix VI of the shellfish aquaculture licence\*.



- 5 PRODUCE RECORDS** of your surveys and clean-ups if requested by a Fishery Officer or Fishery Guardian.



## ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with a condition of licence can result in an \$863 ticket or charges resulting in a formal court process.

\*see reverse



# SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE CONDITIONS OF LICENCE (2021) RELATING TO SEAFLOOR INSPECTIONS AND CLEAN-UP

## 9. Protection of fish and fish habitat

- 9.8 Starting April 1, 2022 and for the remainder of the term of this licence, at intervals no less than once every 12 months, all deepwater or subtidal licence holders shall conduct a seafloor inspection of the entire licensed facility.
- 9.9 For all seafloor inspections, the licence holder shall:
  - (a) retrieve any identified debris, equipment or gear;
  - (b) maintain records as outlined in Appendix VI;
  - (c) produce records upon request of a Fishery Officer or Fishery Guardian; and
  - (d) dispose of, or recycle all debris, broken or unusable equipment at an appropriate land based facility.

## Appendix VI. Seafloor inspection and clean-up protocol

Seafloor inspection and clean-up instructions for licensed aquaculture facilities starting April 1, 2022 and for the remainder of the term of this licence:

1. Survey of the seafloor:
  - (a) must cover the entire area within the licensed facility boundaries;
  - (b) should be completed using commercially certified divers or a Remotely Operated Vehicle; and
  - (c) must consider methodology of underwater visibility and be adjusted accordingly.
2. The licence holder must complete a detailed report outlining all items identified and retrieved during the seafloor survey. The report shall be produced or submitted upon request by a Fishery Officer or Fishery Guardian.
3. Survey report must include:
  - (a) DFO Facility Reference number;
  - (b) BC Land File number, if applicable;
  - (c) name and contact information of the individual or company that conducted the survey and cleanup;
  - (d) description of the survey methodology;
  - (e) date of survey clean up;
  - (f) start and end times of survey and clean up (if survey and clean up occur over the course of several days, the start and end times must be recorded each day);
  - (g) photographs showing all items retrieved from the seabed. Each item needs to be identified in a Summary Table (see example); and
  - (h) the following Summary Table populated accordingly.
4. All debris items within the licensed facility must be identified and retrieved.

Table 1. Example of summary table:

Item #	Location coordinates (degree minutes)		Debris description	Photo #	Retrieved (Y/N)	Name of disposal facility where debris was taken
	Latitude	Longitude				
1	50 35.316	126 09.748	Stack of oyster trays	123	Y	ACBD Landfill
2	50 35.407	126 09.748	Scallop pearl nets	456	Y	ACME marine plastic recycling

Refer to the Shellfish Aquaculture Licence for all of the conditions of licence:

<https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

For more information, please contact [Shellfish.Aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Shellfish.Aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).