



# NEWSLETTER

## Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

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[www.aboriginalaquaculture.com](http://www.aboriginalaquaculture.com)

### Funding Support for Community Based Aboriginal Aquaculture Projects a Success

Six First Nation community based aquaculture projects were supported through the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative (AACI)- Project Fund last fiscal year and ten projects are well underway this fiscal year. The AAA is a partner with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) for implementation of the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative (AACI) for BC, Alberta and Canada's North.

Over the past two years AANDC has provided additional AACI funding to support projects that contribute to Aboriginal aquaculture business development. "There has been tremendous interest in the fund with the AAA receiving large numbers of project proposals. These funds are needed as there are no focused funds available to support Aboriginal entrepreneurs or community based Aboriginal aquaculture projects", Marguerite Parker Director of Development for the AAA.

Using the project fund the Barkley Sound Shellfish (BSS) owned by the Toquaht Nation was successful in determining the best aquaculture grow out system for culture of scallops. Data on the growth rate and survivability helped BSS make decisions regarding further development options.

" We appreciate the support we received from the project fund, it's been invaluable to our company in moving forward with our shellfish aquaculture development plans. The Triple A has been

supportive in the process assisting us with many aspects of this project." Noah Plonka, General Manager Barkley Sound Shellfish.

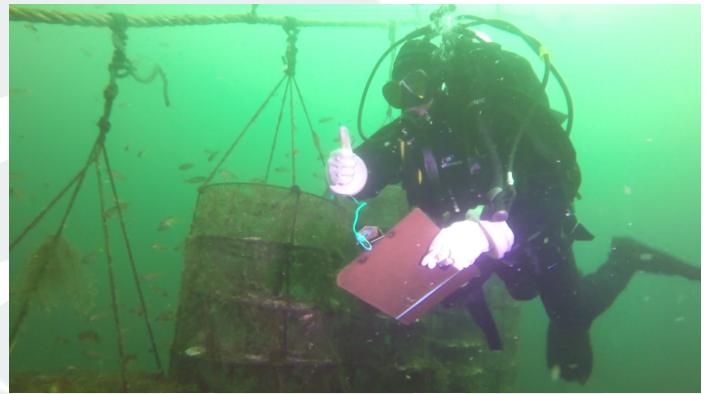
Malahat First Nation (MFN) took their first steps in development of a freshwater land-based aquaculture Signal crayfish operation. They entered into a partnership to build a semi-intensive facility to rear juvenile crayfish to harvest size. A suitable site was located on property owned by Malahat First Nation and the decision was made to construct a grow-out pond, a juvenile rearing facility and broodstock holding/hatchery section. MFN members have been involved in all stages of the development. The partner will provide ongoing training to MFN for the operation and maintenance of the business. "A key objective of the MFN to start this aquaculture business was to be able to provide employment locally for our members". Renee Racette, Band Manager for the MFN said "The youth in our community really took an interest in this project. They liked working with our partner and in particular learning the science of growing crayfish through all of its lifecycles". This project allows for commercialization of crayfish helping to diversify and expand BC seafood while providing a steady supply of marketable product.

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"This little bit of funding has gone a long way to stimulate community economic development initiatives and supported job creation" says Parker.

The AAA team worked closely with the project proponents on planning and implementation of the project activities. "The fund supported start up of First Nation community businesses, expansion of existing businesses, as well as creation of 33 new local jobs employing community members. This funding support has enabled some of the project proponents to take the next steps in building their aquaculture initiatives with some now planning for further expansion and investigating new species."

With the AACI program winding down this fiscal year the AAA is discussing funding options with DFO exploring the potential for continuation of the program fund and the Technical and Business support services. "We hope AANDC and DFO see the importance and value in continuing to support community based Aboriginal aquaculture development."



Diver at Toquaht site



Malahat First Nation Crayfish construction crew



Barkley Sound Shellfish Scallops



Malahat Crayfish



# Agri-Food Economic Table Established

Following the release of the Advisory Council on Economic Development report, "The Barton Report" *Unleashing the Growth Potential of Key Sectors* the Federal government has announced six Economic Strategy Tables that will support innovation and growth in agriculture and food (ag food), advanced manufacturing, clean technology, digital industries, health/bio-sciences and clean resources. The report speaks to the unleashing of the potential of these key sectors to drive economic growth.

The Council identified that one of Canada's most promising sectors is agriculture and food. This sector includes aquaculture and is one of the nation's largest employers. It is a force for economic inclusion across rural and urban Canada.

Canadian food has a reputation of safety, quality and trustworthiness. Canada's food brand is enhanced by the country's natural advantage, its stock of natural resources – fresh water and arable land – and an ecological footprint in producing food that is among the best in the world

The Economic Strategy Tables are part of the Government's *Innovation and Skills Plan* to create jobs by investing in high-growth sectors where Canada has a globally competitive advantage.

Each table is chaired by a business leader who will preside over a group of approximately 15 members who will guide federal efforts to create the conditions for long-term growth that lead to new business opportunities and jobs for Canadians.

The Table chairs and members were selected based on the advice of industry leaders and associations as well as federal government departments. The members represent a diverse group of experts from these high-growth sectors. They were selected based on their considerable experience in their respective sectors.

Murad Al-Katib, the President and CEO of Saskatchewan based AGT Food & Ingredients, chairs the Agri-food table which includes members from

across Canada. The AAA is pleased to announce that our President Richard Harry has been selected to participate on the Agri-Food Table in his capacity as owner of R. Harry Fishing Ltd. He brings his many years of experience as a commercial fisherman and founding member of the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association to the table.

The Economic Strategy Tables will set ambitious growth targets for Canadian agriculture and food, identifying sector-specific challenges and creating a roadmap to support Canada's global success and competitive position in capturing the opportunity to feed the world; Positioning Canada's agriculture and agri-food sectors for long-term growth. Each table will present a report of its findings and recommendations by summer 2018.

## NEED HELP WITH AQUACULTURE

The AAA can provide support with planning, development and implementation of economic development opportunities in the aquaculture sector.

Services include:

Identification of Opportunities including new or expanded commercial production; shellfish, finfish and freshwater, development of businesses in the aquaculture supply & service sector.

Planning, feasibility analysis and preparation of business development plans.

Assistance with tenure siting, preparing & amending tenure applications

Identifying new innovations, approaches and best practices.

Identifying and facilitating partnership and joint venture opportunities.

Advisory services and support.

Contact the AAA for more information

# Clean Tech Fund Announced

The **Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program** (FACTAP) is a national contributions program, which is investing up to \$20M over four years (2017-2021). It aims to encourage the Canadian fisheries and aquaculture industries to use clean technologies and measures, without incurring large financial risks. The long-term goal is to reduce the potential environment impacts of their activities.

The FACTAP offers funding to assist the adoption of market-ready clean technologies, processes, and/or sustainable practices in the day-to-day operations of aquaculture facilities and wild capture harvesting.

This includes changes or modifications (e.g., adaptation) of technologies, processes, and/or sustainable practices in order to use them operational in the Canadian context.

To be eligible, you must be active in, or support activities related to, the fish and seafood sectors like: Harvesting, Aquaculture, processing.

You must also be one of the following: a commercial enterprise, including: companies, individuals (self-employed). An Indigenous organization, such as: groups, associations, communities, an industry or professional association.

Eligible activities under the program include putting into use market-ready: clean processes, clean technologies, sustainable practices, such as protocols and harvesting techniques.

This includes changes in the day-to-day operations of: wild capture harvesting, aquaculture facilities, processing plants.

The FACTAP will provide cash funding for **up to 75%** of eligible project costs. A **minimum of 10%** of project funding must be provided by a provincial and/or territorial government as cash or in-kind. The remaining **5%** of can come from another federal department, agency, or program, or provincial, territorial, or municipal government. The remaining

**10%** that is not covered by government funding is the responsibility of the applicant.

The application process is a two-step process. An expression of interest is the first step. To apply you will need to complete and email an application form to the regional contact. If your project is eligible you will be asked to complete a project proposal template and include it with your application.

The AAA encourages you to consider how this fund could support your aquaculture operations. There are three Regional Program Coordinators across the country. For BC and the Yukon contact :

[DFO.PAC.FACTAP-PATTPA.PAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.PAC.FACTAP-PATTPA.PAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Information about this program will also be posted on the AAA Website as it becomes available.



*The Board of Directors and Staff  
at the AAA*

*Wish You and Your Family a  
Merry Christmas and a Happy and  
Healthy New Year*

## Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

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