



NEWSLETTER

Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

December 2016

www.aboriginalaquaculture.com

DFO Aquaculture Licensing Reform

Multi-Year and Multi Species

Multi Year Licenses Now a Reality

As of 2016, most shellfish growers will now qualify to have their aquaculture licenses issued for up to 9 years instead of having to renew them every year as was done previously. This is good news for growers that seek greater certainty in being able to operate their farm businesses and long-term security of their business investments in shellfish aquaculture. DFO's Conditions of License will still have to be met but this new move by DFO should lessen the paperwork. The cost of the 9 year licenses can be amortized over the duration of the license as to not impose too great of a burden on the license holder. DFO will continue to maintain the ability to modify license conditions throughout the 9-year license term for purposes of conservation and protection when warranted.

Most finfish growers will qualify for their licenses to be issued for up to a 6-year term, however the current moratorium on new fish farm development in the Discovery Islands area, as recommended by the Cohen Commission, still applies and multi-year licenses for that area are not available at this time.

First Nations shellfish growers welcome this change, as it will make running their aquaculture businesses a little easier. The Aboriginal Aquaculture Association is always available to work with First Nation aquaculture companies in "navigating" through their aquaculture licensing issues, whether it is for new license applications, amendments, or renewals.

Multi-Species Eligibility on Shellfish License

You can now grow scallops on your oyster farm or add cockles to your clam farm if you want.

DFO has also amended the Pacific Aquaculture Regulations to allow for shellfish license holders to amend their licenses to include all shellfish species with the exception of geoduck, sea cucumber and sea urchin. Adding all other species including oysters, mussels, scallops, clams, cockles etc. can easily be done now by amending your Shellfish Aquaculture Management Plan, by submitting a request for change through a Harmonized Provincial/Federal Pacific Shellfish Aquaculture Application available at Front Counter BC.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Identifying & Mitigating “Un-Invited” Marine Animals

Aquatic Invasive Species are a category of marine animals that don't belong in BC waters and cause harm to the ecology or environment of our oceans and lakes and can cause very negative impacts to shellfish farming efforts.

Some of the BC invasive species include “**European Green Crab**” and “**Tunicates**”. DFO has come up with shellfish growing and handling guidelines for specific areas where these animals have been seen to prevent the greater spread of these “un-invited guests”.

In Pacific Fisheries Management areas 20-6 and 20-7 (T'Sou-ke – Sooke Basin) as well as areas 23 to 27 (Barkley Sound, Clayoquot Sound, Nootka Sound, Esperanza Sound, Checleset Bay, and Quatsino Sound) DFO has the following measures in place to deal with invasive species:

1. License holder will thoroughly examine harvested shellfish for Green Crab and rinse shellfish before being removed from harvested area,
2. Shellfish culture gear (trays, lines, etc.) shall be thoroughly examined and rinsed prior to removal from growing areas 20-6, 20-7 and areas 23 to 27,
3. Shellfish harvested from these areas shall be wet stored or grown out only at approved licensed areas,
4. All containers used for transport of harvested shellfish from these areas must be rinsed and all water, including transport water, must be disposed of in a manner that ensure all life stages of European Green Crab do not re-enter marine waters in other areas,
5. The license holder shall not transfer or introduce or cause to introduce an aquatic invasive species beyond waters where it is currently found.

European Green Crab (*Carcinus maenas*)

One of the ten most unwanted species in the world! This small coastal crab is highly resilient and competes for prey and can upset the whole marine ecosystem. The “Mean Green Eating Machine” is the number 1 enemy of the geoduck and can consume up to 40 small clams a day.

- Adult size: up to 10 cm
- Shell serrated & trapeze-shaped, 3 spines between the eyes & 5 on each side
- Two claws of different sizes
- Tips of its back legs are pointed, slightly flattened and hairy
- Colour variable: green, red or yellow
- Aggressive, territorial & vigorous, survives out of the water for several days.



If you find any of these animals on your shellfish farm, record the location (GPS if possible), catch it, take a photo and freeze it for safekeeping. Notify DFO.

Introducing Daniel Rabu

The AAA is pleased to welcome Daniel Rabu as an Aboriginal Technical Business Expert. He is working with communities and entrepreneurs to assist with aquaculture development initiatives.



I was born to a Metis mother and Breton father near the Red River in Winnipeg Manitoba and, from a very young age, I dreamed of being like Jacques Cousteau working with the multitude of fascinating animals and plants that inhabit our oceans.

Growing up with a chef father, I have always savoured and appreciated the bounty that came from the sea; oysters, clams, scallops and, after thirty years of being in the restaurant industry, it was a natural progression for me to turn to shellfish aquaculture as my next life's passion.

As a Vancouver Islander and West Coast sailor, I have come to recognize the potential offered by BC's pristine and nutrient rich waters and believe that First Nations hold the key in supporting and engaging in the development of aquaculture as the next sustainable economic driver for their communities and the people of British Columbia, and Canada.

Sustainable aquaculture offers the promise of long-term jobs and I believe that the economic benefits for

communities and Nations, derived from aquaculture development, will create legacies of renewable wealth for generations to come.

My personal goal is to use the experience gained from owning many businesses over the years as well as the valuable insight I have acquired from working in the aquaculture industry and my experiences with First Nations, Provincial and Federal Governments, in the best manner I can to support and facilitate the meaningful participation of First Nations in the development of sustainable aquaculture. Everything I have done in my life has prepared and led me to this place I am now and I look forward to the challenges and successes ahead. – *Daniel Rabu*

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

AAA Job Opportunity

The AAA invites applicants for the role as an Aboriginal Technical Business Expert. As an **Aquaculture Technical Business Expert**, you will work hand-in-hand with Aboriginal communities in BC, Alberta and Canada's North. You will assume a key leadership role in assisting Aboriginal communities and entrepreneurs with the planning, development and implementation of economic development opportunities in the aquaculture sector.

If you have a passion for business development, a working knowledge of aquaculture, and experience working with First Nations and diverse stakeholder relations, this could be the perfect role for you. This is a full time position, located in Campbell River, BC.

For more information about this job posting visit us at www.aboriginalaquaculture.com.

Call for Proposals AACI Project Fund

AACI Project Funding will be available next fiscal year 2017-2018 to support eligible activities and projects that contribute to development of Aboriginal aquaculture in Canada. In fiscal year 2016-2017 there was \$750,000 available Nationally. In the western region six projects were supported.

The amount of funding available to support projects for 2017-2018 has not yet been confirmed. We expect the details about funding levels and guidelines to be available shortly.

When available the information about the AACI Project Fund 2017-2018 Call for Proposals will be posted on the AAA website.



*The Board of Directors and Staff
at the AAA*

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



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