



NEWSLETTER

Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

December 2018

www.aboriginalaquaculture.com

AAA Mourns the Loss of Percy Starr

We mourn the loss of Percy Starr a member of Kitasoo Xai'Xais First Nation. As a founding member of the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association (AAA) he helped establish the AAA vision that participation in the aquaculture industry could open opportunities for employment and economic growth in Aboriginal communities and contribute to long-term business sustainability.



Percy believed First Nations could diversity into fish farming and seafood processing and packaging. In an effort to re-establish his community when the local fish processing plant closed, he developed a partnership agreement with Marine Harvest Canada a salmon farm company. Over the years this partnership has resulted in reduced unemployment for the community and established a prototype of sustainable economic development based on self-sufficiency and co-operation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.



Percy was a visionary working hard for the benefit of his people and a recipient of the Order of Canada. We express our heartfelt condolences to his community and family.

PICFI's ADS "Aquaculture Fund Program"

The AAA wishes to congratulate Toquaht First Nation & Barkley Sound Shellfish in its successful application for funding from DFO's PICFI ADS program that will allow the company to expand its scallop farm business in Toquaht Bay.

Last year, the AAA assisted BSS in securing federal funding through the AACI funding initiative to investigate the feasibility of growing scallops in the traditional territory of the Toquaht First Nation.



That project's success and the determination, hard work and commitment by BSS's General Manager Noah Plonka was key in them being successful at securing financial support from DFO to further expand their farm in 2019. The Nation is on its way to producing commercial quantities of high-quality Pacific Scallops, creating jobs and revenues for the Company, Community members and Nation.

The PICFI ADS initiative provides \$600,000 annually to First Nation business organizations for aquaculture development. Applicants are not limited to PICFI CFEs; all First Nations can apply for funding to start or expand their existing aquaculture businesses.

Breaking Developments

In October the Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table released their report outlining a series of recommendations, which included need for more agile regulations, improving infrastructure, accelerating innovation and continuing to develop a workforce to meet the needs into the future. Aquaculture was highlighted in the report as one of the four priorities requiring immediate action citing the potential for the sector. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Treasury Board Secretariat and Canadian Food Inspection Agency have started to move on some of the recommendations. A whole of government approach will be needed for the recommendations to be realized.

The Table acknowledged the good work done as part of the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative (AACI). AAA as a partner for delivery of the AACI we know first hand the successes and challenges of Aboriginal aquaculture development and we look forward to continuing to work with government and industry to further advance First Nation engagement in the sector.

“There is a strong growth potential in the aquaculture sector, and Indigenous communities are in a unique position to benefit from, and to contribute to sustainable aquaculture development in Canada.”

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/og8.nsf/eng/oooo6.html>

The Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) met this past week and discussed their shared priorities and goals. Discussions included how to increase collaboration, respect Indigenous rights and better incorporate Indigenous knowledge in the decision-making process.

They discussed the need to improve the quality of life in Indigenous communities and take meaningful steps to advance reconciliation.

As well the Ministers directed officials to develop federal legislation with limited scope that respects federal, provincial and territorial jurisdiction and provides greater clarity to the sector, an Aquaculture Act. Such federal legislation would continue to ensure that Canada's aquaculture industry is a global leader in producing high-quality aquaculture products in an environmentally sustainable manner. We anticipate Fisheries and Oceans will engage with First Nations through out the development of this legislation. The AAA will work closely with DFO in an effort to facilitate open dialogue as legislation is developed.

They also announced the launch of a \$42.85 million Canadian Fish and Seafood Opportunities Fund. This cost-shared fund (70% federal and 30% provincial/territorial) will promote market access and development for the fish and seafood industry, thereby increasing fish and seafood exports, growing jobs and supporting coastal and inland communities.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/initiatives/opportunities-fund-fonds-initiatives/sip-application-page01-eng.html>

We are also learning about DFO Pacific Region plans for the co-development of an area-based management approach for aquaculture in the Pacific Region. Further information should be available early in 2019.

With these new developments the new year will be a busy time. The AAA looks forward to continuing to support and work with First Nations helping to ensure that you are able to take advantage of the opportunities in aquaculture development.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program (FACTAP)

In 2018, DFO announced “**FACTAP**”; a program that provides funding for aquaculture & fisheries related “clean tech” projects that minimize or improve environmental impact. It is a national contribution fund investing \$20M over four years.

This funding is available to all commercial & aquaculture enterprises and organizations including wild capture fisheries, aquaculture businesses and fish/shellfish processing facilities. 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 and wild capture fisheries.

The requirements for applying for this funding are that applicants must be a commercial enterprise (company or individual), that they are currently active in the fishing or aquaculture industry and that they can successfully secure 10% of the proposed funding project from the Province of British Columbia or a Territorial Government.

It is a continual intake process for funding applications. The BC Provincial government will continue to support this program and will have funding available in the new fiscal year. We recommend you start now to identify projects for your community that can begin early in 2019-2020.

The AAA can assist your business or organization in identifying potential aquaculture related projects that might be eligible for FACTAP funding and, help you improve your aquaculture environmental impact!

Some of the projects previously funded include:

- **Solar panels & batteries on oyster farm,**
- **Replace of Styrofoam with HDP floats,**

Call us at (250) 286-9939 or send us an email at info@aboriginalaquaculture.com to schedule a meeting, and/or site visit and let us help you identify & apply for funding support.

Marine & Aquaculture Debris

DFO is finding a considerable percentage of shellfish aquaculture sites not complying with their Conditions of Licence (COLS): debris under rafts and on sites, derelict rafts with deteriorating Styrofoam floats, disintegrating predator netting embedded in substrate, hydrocarbon containers improperly stored etc while conducting site visits in Baynes Sound, Okeover Inlet, Teakern Arm, Lewis Inlet etc. They have sent warning letters to operators giving them three months to comply.

It is critically important to maintain an active shellfish aquaculture site; for the health of the animals being grown, for the environment and impact to the ecology. Tenures that do not comply may face fines or loss of aquaculture tenure and may find themselves not being able to transfer, sell or amend their site until debris issue is managed.

Non-licensed crown tenure must be kept “clean, safe and free from debris” as per the Crown land lease agreement. Failing to do so might result in the lease being nullified. DFO will require all new tenure sale transactions to have underwater video that shows a potential lease to be free of debris.

DFO is leaning towards Rotomolded tanks as means of floatation for rafts. Although initially more expensive than Styrofoam, it is more cost effective in the long run due to longer service life.

If your shellfish farm operation has exposed Styrofoam or derelict aquaculture equipment posing a potential debris or environmental problem, contact the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association for help in identifying any debris issues that may affect your license; we can assist you in finding & implementing solutions.

If you witness any debris at an aquaculture site, take pictures, note the location (GPS coordinates if possible) and report to the DFO’s ORR (observe, record & report) web site or phone them @ 1-800-465-4336 and authorities will respond.

The Year in Pictures



Malahat Nation Crawfish Pond Building Team



*Stacey Aliqatuqtuq
Enjoying Clams*



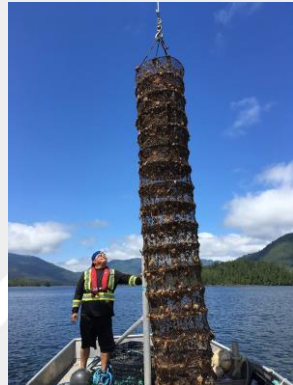
Tla'amin Nation Field Survey Crew



*Setting-up a Scallop Farm
in Toquaht Territory*



Marguerite Manning the ROV



Burton Checking BSS Scallop Net

Seasons Greetings

The AAA Board of Directors & Staff

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



Snaw'naw'as Aquaculture Security Team



Lloyd Chickite with a Geoduck



AAA's new ROV Underwater Survey Tool



Wild Juvenile Oysters at Oclucje



Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

Phone: 250-286-9939

info@aboriginalaquaculture.com

Physical Address: 1650 Old Spit Road, Campbell River

Mailing Address: 1400B Drake Road, Campbell River, BC, V9W 7K6



Aboriginal Aquaculture Association