



NEWSLETTER

Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

January 2017

www.aboriginalaquaculture.com

GEODUCK FRAMEWORK

DFO DELAY RESULTS IN LOST OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) delay on development of a workable Integrated Geoduck Management Framework (IGMF) has resulted in lost economic development opportunities for BC Coastal First Nations. Three years ago DFO stated that they would release a framework that would allow the expansion of geoduck aquaculture in BC and yet after three years and five DFO Ministers nothing has happened.

DFO prepared the draft IGMF without consultation with First Nations and put it out for review in December 2013. Numerous groups responded to the draft including a comprehensive response prepared by the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association outlining concerns and recommendations from Coastal First Nations.

One respondent stated that the framework will only further entrench an anti-competitive system for geoduck and will result in unreasonable and unjustifiable barriers for new entrants. It is important to realize that it is not over environmental nor ecological concerns that are at the root of DFO continued delay on this issue but rather the politics of protecting the wild fishery's (UHA) monopoly of this high value species.

When asked for updates on the status of the IGMF the standard flat response from DFO has been that the file is on the Minister's desk. As a result of the delay the status quo has been allowed to continue and in some instances expand. The status quo limits

geoduck aquaculture to a few privileged growers and excludes new entrants and First Nations from gaining access to the market. Given the long grow out cycle for geoduck this delay has put back development of a viable Aboriginal geoduck aquaculture sector in BC 10 plus years. Canada continues to lose ground to other jurisdictions. In the US there is a healthy geoduck aquaculture sector with a reported farmgate value in 2013 of \$35 million U.S.

A letter from the AAA sent to the Minister dated March 2016 signed by 22 First Nations representatives has gone unanswered. The signatories to the letter were concerned about many things including the lack of inclusion and consultation with First Nations in development of the framework. This lack of consultation undermines the autonomy of the individual First Nation and is inconsistent with the government's commitment to a nation-to-nation relationship with First Nations.

First Nation interests are being ignored while third party interests are given priority. First Nation issues are supposed to be second only to conservation. The Framework needs to allow for creation and implementation of an aquaculture geoduck industry in BC.

This lost opportunity results in lost revenues, jobs and excludes First Nations to co-manage their marine resources.

Oysters, Norovirus & Public Health

Norovirus: Threat to Public Health & BC Shellfish Farmers

Oysters are a wonderful gift; nutritious and a gourmet's delight but, more importantly for our oceans, they are tremendous filter feeders that "feed & clean" up to 50 gallons of water every day which is why it is so important that we grow oysters in the cleanest water and environment available.

This past holiday season, roughly 120 people fell ill after consuming raw oysters at the Clayoquot Oyster Festival and, after testing by the BC Centre for Disease Control, it was identified that the culprit behind those illnesses was the Norovirus. People having consumed raw oysters from the East Coast of Vancouver Island in January reported additional Norovirus cases and new Norovirus cases continue to be identified today. There are no linkages that indicate a volume of illnesses in any one location - it is widespread and there is no apparent source.

As of January 26, 2017 DFO has issued two Sanitary Closures due to the Norovirus outbreaks: Closure 21.1 in area 24-9 in Van Nevel & Duffin Passages near Tofino and Closure 13.mm in area 13-6 near Subtle Island, Cortez Island. For up to date, real time information on any changes to these closures or new closures please refer to the BCCDC website *Biotoxin and Sanitary Contamination Closures Map for Shellfish Harvesting in B.C*

<http://maps.bccdc.org/shellfish/>

The Norovirus, often referred to, as the "stomach flu" is an unpleasant bug. Most common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. The only way to ensure that oysters contaminated with the virus don't negatively affect human health is to cook oysters to an internal temperature of 90 degrees Celsius for 90 seconds before eating.

Currently the AAA is working with the BCCDC, CFIA, BC Shellfish Growers Association and DFO in keeping close tabs on the situation so that we can support and

advise First Nation shellfish growers of new closures and in identifying and mitigating the risk and spread of the Norovirus outbreak. The ability to test for norovirus in food is new, no standard has yet to be developed. Health Canada is working with CFIA on this.

The BC Centre for Disease control will be responding to enquiries from restaurants and retailers with a Bulletin that will be posted to their website. In a nutshell, are restaurants allowed to sell and serve raw oysters? Answer - Yes, raw oysters can be served, with some recommendations made. Vancouver Island Health Authority has not issued a ban on raw oysters.

What can you do as a shellfish grower?

Practice vigilance at the farms and processing plants.

Wear protective clothing (such as gloves).

Wash your hands both before handling any food and frequently while handling raw shellfish.

If you see anything unusual while you're at site (e.g., people emptying holding tanks), call Environment Canada.

Everyone is working collaboratively to find the source. Investigations are ongoing.



Western Economic Diversification - Indigenous Economic Growth Priority

Western Economic Diversification Canada launched their call for proposals on January 25, 2017. Applications will be accepted until February 23, 2017 at 1 p.m. Pacific Time.

This call is open to not-for profits organizations including First Nations, Tribal Councils, Metis and Inuit organizations.

Indigenous Economic Growth (IEG) has been identified as a priority for WED. The IEG Projects must address one or more of the following.

- Strengthen Indigenous business development and entrepreneurship
- Increase Indigenous participation in economic opportunities such as significant natural resource developments, tourism attraction, government procurement, or opportunities in the technology sector.

The projects will undergo a thorough evaluation process. WED will want the project to demonstrate a clear alignment with WED priorities and show a strong market/industry demand (e.g., the project addresses a significant gap in the market, there is a demonstrated industry demand for the project or there is demonstrated labour/skills shortages).

Strong project proposals should also demonstrate;

- Clear, measurable economic results for Western Canada;
- Effective governance measures and management team in place to carry out the project;
- A strong rationale for the project;
- Financial statements that demonstrate the organization is financially self-sustaining;
- Leveraged funding from provincial governments, the private sector, and other non-government sources (typically 50 percent or more).

Preference will be given to IEG projects that focus on or include industry participation and/or support.

Full details regarding the fund and application details are available on line:

<https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/301.asp>

Career Opportunities in Sustainable Aquaculture

On Feb 9th, the Black Press "Extreme Career Fair" will be held at the Florence Filberg Center and the Native Sons Hall in Courtenay and the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association will be there.

Looking for a new career, change your existing career or talk to top employers and industry professionals to find your career, then come to the Black Press "Extreme Career Fair" on Feb 9th, we will be there to talk about and answer questions on the great well-paying employment opportunities offered by the sustainable aquaculture industry.

There will be "Ted Talk" styled presentations by leading industry experts and if you live in Campbell River, there will be free shuttle service to the career fair in Courtenay: Buses are scheduled to depart from the Campbell River Community Centre at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Buses head back to Campbell River at noon, 2 and 4 p.m.

Come down, talk to the experts and see what could be in store for your future.

AQUACULTURE JOBS POSSIBILITIES ARE MANY

Fish farm technician, shellfish grower, Farm manager, Hatchery technician, Saltwater production manager, Fish health technician, veterinarian, Aquaculture engineer, Research scientist, Processing line supervisor, Instructor, Aquaculture diver, boat operator, quality assurance worker, communication specialist, truck operator, fork lift operator, accountants, payroll specialist, seafood retailer/wholesaler, habitat biologists.....



AAA at the 2017 Island Agriculture Show Port Alberni Feb 4-5

Every year farmers and agriculture companies from all over gather to showcase the latest in farming trends and equipment development but this year, the Island AG Show has something new to talk about: Aquaculture is now featured alongside traditional agriculture presenters & exhibitors!

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District along with Provincial and corporate sponsors are hosting this annual event in Port Alberni on Feb 3rd & 4th culminating with a shellfish and finfish farm tour in Barkley Sound and a Hatchery visit in Bamfield.

Conference Speaker Panels will include presentations and discussions on Economic Opportunities in the Seafood Sector for First Nations as well as other agriculture-aquaculture related subjects. Richard Harry President of the AAA has been invited to be a presenter.

This show is a great family activity and a wealth of information for anyone wanting to consider getting into aquaculture or agriculture on Vancouver island.

Mark the date on your calendar and don't miss it this annual event! Come by the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association booth and let's talk aquaculture.

Show opens at 8:30am on Feb 3rd at the Glenmore Centre in Port Alberni, for more information and to book the aquaculture farm & hatchery tour visit: www.iashow.ca

Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative Project Fund 2017-2018

A CALL FOR PROPOSAL EXPECTED SOON

A call for proposals for the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada (AACI) Project Fund 2017-2018 is expected soon. The AACI Project Fund is to support eligible activities and projects that contribute to the development of Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada.

Funds will be made available, via a nationally competitive process, to support the development of Aboriginal aquaculture business development in Canada.

An application guide as well as program information will be available soon and will be posted on the AAA Website. Check often for updates.

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