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UPDATE ON THE CANADIAN SHELLFISH SANITATION PROGRAM (CSSP)

January 2017

Canada 



CSSP Long Term Sustainability Workplan: Recap

- *Long-Term Sustainability Workplan* (LTSWP) developed to address current and future pressures
- The Workplan is comprised of four pillars:
 1. **Online interactive mapping tool** to communicate where bivalve shellfish can safely be harvested
 2. **Review of shellfish harvest areas** to align resources where they are most needed to protect public health and maintain market access
 3. **Alternate delivery options for commercial harvest** (fisheries and aquaculture)
 4. **Alternate delivery options for non-commercial harvest** (recreational and Aboriginal food, social & ceremonial (FSC) fisheries)



Pillar 1 - Online Mapping Application

- The CSSP mapping application provides a real-time online map of openings and closures of bivalve molluscan shellfish harvesting areas throughout Canada
- The application will be accessible on the DFO website and is on track to be released on March 1st 2017
- Users will also be able to subscribe to future notifications (i.e., closures, meeting notifications) specific to their geographic area
- Once mapping tool is online, Pillar 2 (engagement on shellfish harvest area review), can begin



Pillar 2 - Review of shellfish harvest areas

Objective: To consult local resource users in low-activity harvest areas to gather their feedback on possible declassification of these areas

Engagement will include online survey and regional meetings, co-led by all CSSP partners

If engagement shows little to no use/activity, CSSP delivery will cease for the area

If engagement shows substantial activity, CSSP delivery will be maintained, likely via alternate delivery mechanisms.

Activity	Timeframe	Lead
➤ Briefings to other federal organizations, such as Health Canada, Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency	Nov 2016-March 2017	All
➤ Briefings to CSSP partner organization employees tasked with implementing the CSSP program, such as inspectors, fisheries officers, etc.	Oct 2016-March 2017	All
➤ Briefings to provincial and territorial officials as applicable	Oct 2016-March 2017	All
➤ Online & public consultation with low-priority area users	March 2017-Dec 2017	Regional CSSP



Pillar 2 – Impact by DFO region

As part of the CSSP Long Term Sustainability Plan, CSSP partner organizations (DFO, ECCC and CFIA) reviewed the available data for shellfish harvest activity in all areas

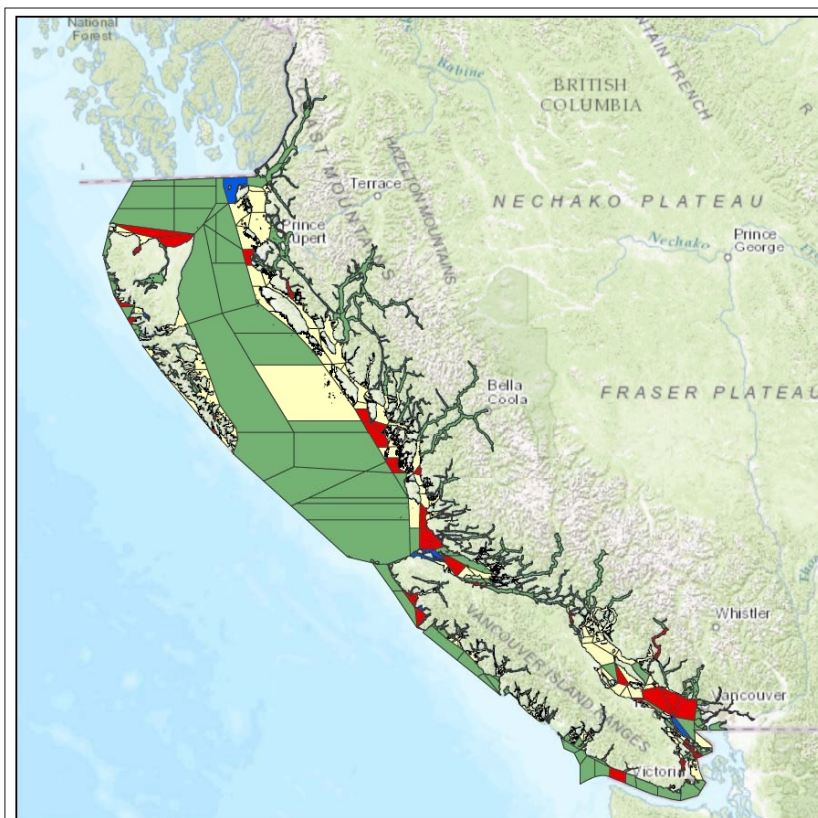
Based on this review, approximately half of the 1,400 classified areas were identified as low activity. These areas included:

- ~80 where there are no known harvesting activities;
- ~600 where the program is delivered but sound harvest data is lacking; and
- ~80 where the program is not fully delivered (water or biotoxin monitoring is missing) and some harvesting is thought to occur.

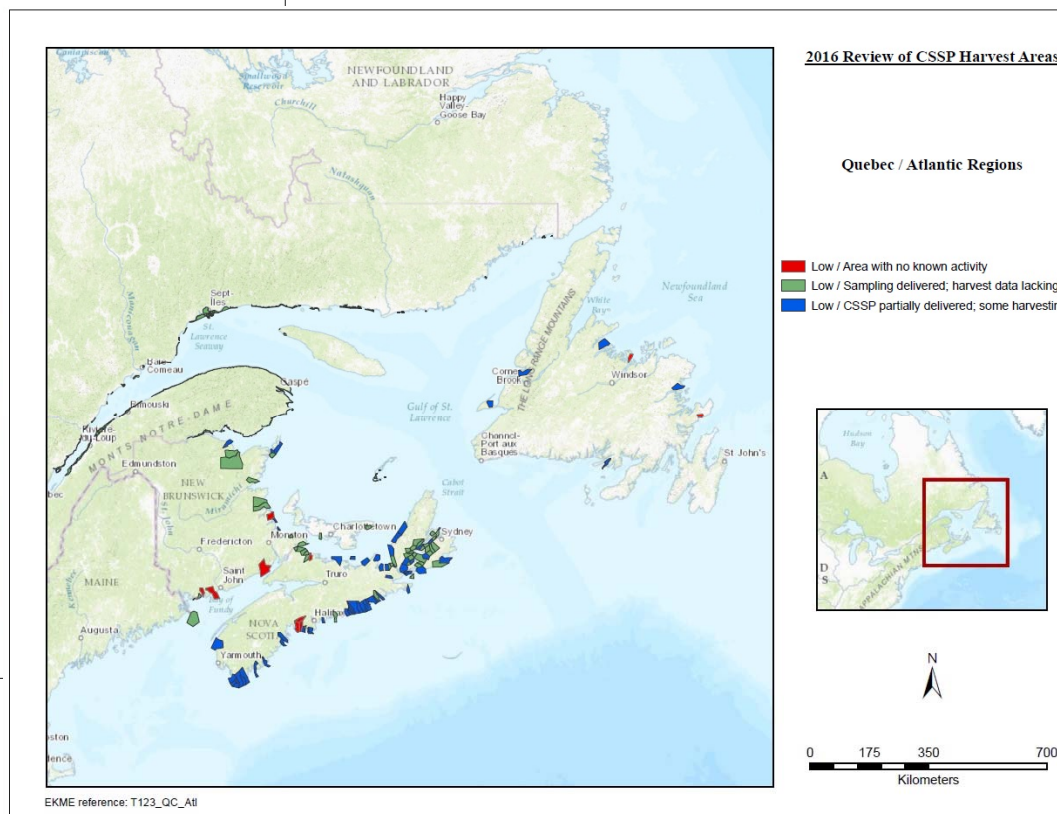
It is anticipated that many of the 599 areas will be maintained as classified and open following this exercise



Pillar 2 – Consultation and Engagement



Stakeholders: Commercial (fishers and aquaculturists), Indigenous communities and recreational harvesters



Communications Activities and Tools:
CSSP mapping tool, social media, DFO and CSSP partner web-sites, public notices, on-line surveys, CSSP committee meetings, Ministerial engagements etc.



Pillar 2 – Consultation and Engagement: Key Messages and Considerations

Maintaining the food safety of shellfish harvested in Canada: The primary objective of the CSSP is to ensure that shellfish harvested in Canada is safe for human consumption. The CSSP partners monitor water quality and biotoxins in areas where there is active shellfish harvesting. Regular reviews of these areas are done to guide the efficient delivery of the program. The planned consultation process is being undertaken to identify areas where delivery of the program can be discontinued to free up resources to deliver the program in areas where shellfish harvesting is being developed

Duty to consult and accommodate: Declassification of certain areas may impact Indigenous rights to harvest for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes. We are committed to the Government's duty to consult and accommodate First Nations. Should program changes adversely affect Aboriginal or Treaty rights, we will accommodate.

Stakeholder feedback will guide decision making: There is a lack of data available related to harvesting being done by recreational fishers as well as by other users of the resource. It is important that we obtain more information about harvesting activities in the identified areas. Changes may be made to the delivery of the program, based on the feedback received during the public consultation



Pillar 2 – Criteria for ceasing program delivery

Should the fact-finding efforts confirm that some of these areas are under-utilized, they could be declassified to enable the partner organizations to reallocate its sampling, analysis and patrolling resources to new or existing harvesting areas.

The following criteria determine how site classification will be assessed:

- Areas with levels of activity that would justify the cost of delivery will be maintained as classified
- Areas where no information is brought forward, or with low levels of activity, will be declassified in 2017
- Through this initiative, and as harvest information is validated, some harvest areas may change priority



Pillar 3 - Alternate Delivery for Commercial Harvest

- Due to a direct economic interest, commercial fisheries and aquaculture have long expressed a desire to be actively involved in a more efficiently delivered CSSP
- Alternate service delivery refers to sampling and testing activities, which are responsibilities of Environment and Climate Change Canada – water and sanitation (bacteria); and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for shellstock (biotoxins and viruses).
 - Options will be developed by ECCC and CFIA, in consultation with DFO and other relevant parties (i.e., FNs, sector, etc)
- Options for alternate delivery would be presented to industry in 2017 to solicit their views on this element of program modernization



Pillar 3 - Alternate Delivery for Commercial Harvest

Examples of alternate delivery could include:

- Increased outsourcing:
 - Industry provides (and pays for) water and biotoxin sampling services
 - Certified 3rd party samplers
- Introduction of cost recovery (new services fees)
 - In order to meet increased international standards, commercial sector pays for increased sampling and testing frequency
 - Industry pays for testing into new, unclassified areas



Pillar 4 - Alternate Delivery for Non-Commercial Harvest

- This pillar seeks to find alternate delivery options for non-commercial harvests (food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes and recreational use)
- Following the *Marshall* and *Sparrow* Supreme Court decisions, there is a Government of Canada fiduciary duty to provide FSC harvest rights to Aboriginal groups. This right extends to species covered under the CSSP
- A food safety issue would trump the Aboriginal rights to harvest, however, there is a delicate balance between food safety risks and FSC rights



Pillar 4 - Alternate Delivery for Non-Commercial Harvest

- CSSP partners are looking to capture a new way to deliver the program in non commercial areas (FSC and recreational)
- Water sampling frequency would revert to a triennial cycle for recreational and FSC (old USFDA style) that would continue to maintaining equivalent health protection
- With the support of CSSP partners, Community Harvest Plans (CHP) or other partnership arrangements could be developed with municipalities/First Nations to provide monitoring of harvest areas in order to ensure adequate food safety
- Options for alternate delivery would be presented to Aboriginal groups and recreational users in 2017 to solicit their views on this element of program modernization



SUMMARY

1. Mapping: on track for public launch in March 1, 2017
2. Review of Low-activity areas: consultations to begin in March 2017
3. CFIA and ECCC to develop alternate delivery mechanisms for commercial sector (2017)
4. CSSP partners to explore new cooperative arrangements for low-activity FN/recreational areas (2017)