



## **Indigenous Program Review Implementation What does it mean for the Aquaculture Sector?**

To contribute to the implementation of department-wide recommendations, officials across the Aquaculture Management Directorate should:

- ✓ Commit its personnel to demonstrate the renewed relationship and be accountable for recognizing priority rights and implementing meaningful co-management of the resource
- ✓ Shift to a shared capacity model for field research, aquaculture monitoring, data collection and other scientific activities when these activities are taking place in the territorial areas of Indigenous communities
- ✓ Support the DFO-CCG Indigenous procurement policy by contracting some aquaculture goods and services to Indigenous-owned and -operated companies
- ✓ Work with Aquaculture Science colleagues to allocate some A-base funding toward Indigenous knowledge and science related to aquaculture priorities
- ✓ Collaborate with Ecosystems Science, Strategic Policy (IARD), and other DFO-CCG sectors as they work to co-develop data-sharing agreements and parameters
- ✓ Communicate with IARD when there are aquaculture funding opportunities for Indigenous groups and communities and seek their advice to ensure that these opportunities are most effectively rolled out and administered
- ✓ Base the contribution agreement for any aquaculture-related funding program on the IARD model, use the standardized terms and conditions in this agreement, and adhere to the service standards adopted for funding, planning and reporting cycles
- ✓ Be open to the idea of connecting aquaculture-related funding opportunities to existing IARD contribution agreements when this is requested by Indigenous groups and communities
- ✓ Be familiar with Indigenous definitions of success for programs and activities (in each Indigenous Program Review report) and apply these definitions to aquaculture initiatives
- ✓ Participate in Indigenous Fisheries 101 training and other DFO-CCG human resource strategies and succession planning
- ✓ Participate in the partnership being established between DFO-CCG and Employment and Social Development Canada when this activity is underway
- ✓ Prepare to be involved in the DFO-CCG-ESDC partnership by establishing potential aquaculture resource management and fishery guardian (monitoring) careers and progression paths<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Collaborate with IARD and its co-delivery partners as they work to document 'field' technician training courses and institutions and map training needs for activities such as data collection and fish enhancement
- ✓ Help IARD respond to the aquaculture-related recommendations made during Indigenous Program Review and report back annually on continuing progress being made

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<sup>1</sup> See page 15 and page 23 of the Indigenous Program Review phase two final report for career progression path infographics. [http://indigenousfisheries.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/reports/Institute\\_Indigenous%20Program%20Review\\_Phase%20Two%20Final%20Report.pdf](http://indigenousfisheries.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/reports/Institute_Indigenous%20Program%20Review_Phase%20Two%20Final%20Report.pdf)

Officials in the Aquaculture Management directorate should also work with the Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation Directorate to implement the aquaculture-specific recommendations made during Indigenous Program Review:

- ✓ Help commercial fishing enterprises in the Atlantic and the Pacific access program funding from aquaculture-related business and/or economic development funding, such as the Clean Technology Adoption Program
- ✓ Participate in any strategic partnerships initiative developed by the Department for Atlantic, Pacific or Northern commercial fishing enterprises to advance marketing activities and infrastructure and technology priorities
- ✓ Collaborate with IARD to determine if (and how) aquaculture could be better aligned with the administrative tools and practises designed for the Atlantic and Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiatives (e.g., program guidance materials, program structure, succession planning, training activities, and networking opportunities)
- ✓ Connect Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management (AAROM) groups to any technically relevant aquaculture funding programs, such as the Aquaculture Collaborative Research and Development Program
- ✓ Enable science-to-science ‘field’ partnerships, access to labs, and equipment sharing through collaborative agreements with AAROM groups
- ✓ Help AAROM groups address issues with other users on the water through inclusion at inter-regional and international tables and other opportunities for joint activities
- ✓ Use the science, data and knowledge generated by AAROM groups in decision-making and management planning processes for aquaculture
- ✓ Focus aquaculture efforts on building knowledge about what species and technologies are viable on land or in water
- ✓ Build on examples where Indigenous knowledge has been properly reflected in decision-making
- ✓ Support fish enhancement initiatives and facilities in Indigenous communities to help them meet section 35.1 needs, including by registering facilities to the salmon enhancement program
- ✓ Ensure Indigenous communities are the beneficiaries of fish enhancement activities
- ✓ Support greater access by Indigenous communities to programs, tools, protocols and training that support their participation in environmental monitoring and decision-making
- ✓ Regularly exchange information with Indigenous groups and communities, such as changes to legislation and regulations
- ✓ Identify potential aquaculture-related designation authorities<sup>2</sup> in legislation or regulations
- ✓ Recognize that Indigenous fishery guardians and officers are better placed to perform enforcement services in their territories

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<sup>2</sup> Related to enforcement and jurisdictional authorities (e.g., peace officer status)

## Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative

The new Northern commercial program is designed to support commercial fishing enterprises and aquaculture operations in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik, northern Quebec and the North Shore, and Newfoundland and Labrador. It must also support Indigenous communities in Canada's interior regions which are pursuing aquaculture ventures.

This program has two models: a commercial one similar to those administered in the Atlantic and Pacific, and a redistributive model which is focussed on food security and local market saturation (including aquaponics). The program also features a bridging component to help communities move from the redistributive model to small-scale commercial fisheries (and beyond), when viable and desired by community members.

### How is Aquaculture Management involved in this Program?

Officials in the Aquaculture Management directorate should be aware of this new program and how it will support Indigenous businesses and communities that may be interested in expanding or becoming involved in aquaculture and/or aquaponics operations. For example, the business development teams which support the Atlantic and Pacific programs will extend their services to communities located in the east and west across the North, while the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute will be the interim host of services in Nunavut. The Waubetek Business Development Corporation is the business development team for aquaculture activities across the interior regions of Canada. Waubetek will also regularly meet with the Atlantic and Pacific business development teams to share their industry-specific expertise.

Officials should also read the Northern Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative final report to be aware of the communities and areas that have expressed interest in becoming more involved in aquaculture operations – and to consider how it may play a role in implementing some of the recommendations, such as by:

- ✓ Aligning available sources of funding for aquaculture research and development to the NICFI program, such as the Program for Aquaculture Regulatory Research and the Aquaculture Collaborative Research and Development Program
- ✓ Finding solutions to multi-jurisdictional regulation and other aquaculture development issues<sup>3</sup> through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers and its deputy-level fora
- ✓ Collaborating with IARD and its co-delivery partners as they strive to work with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to develop in the North curricula for fish handling and processing, enable a shellfish sanitation program and other food inspection agency services, and get local processing methods recognized
- ✓ Helping to meet any aquaculture-related training, infrastructure and marketing needs identified by potential participants
- ✓ Participating in any interdepartmental partnerships which may be formed through the NICFI program to help the Government of Canada address food security issues in the North
- ✓ Ensuring Indigenous rights are clearly defined and included in any aquaculture legislation, regulations and/or policies

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<sup>3</sup> See pages 13 and 14 for more information. <http://indigenousfisheries.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Northern-Integrated-Commercial-Fisheries-Initiative.pdf>