

Workshop

Following a discussion about the proposed concept and any required changes or input from AAROMs and First Nations without an AAROM, the workshop will focus on identifying the parameters and estimated cost of the project over four years.

For example, this project could include the following elements:

- Identifying existing First Nations aquaculture-related capacity, resources, and gaps
- Defining the scope, functionality, and implementation of First Nations aquaculture monitoring and science, to complement other related existing First Nations-led activities
- Coordinating and building expertise (through meaningful career paths) among First Nations to undertake activities
- Building sustainable revenue and funding through relationship building with industry and government
- Establishing best practices to inform First Nations decision-making and engagement with industry and government

This project would be undertaken between 2020-2024. Activities beyond the duration of BCSRIF may be acquired through agreements with industry, own source revenue activities, and other government programs, such as the DFO Science Partnership Fund.

Why is this Concept Being Considered?

The growth of the aquaculture industry in BC has introduced criticism from First Nations around limited engagement between industry and First Nations, as well as the degradation of the environment caused by aquaculture facilities. These issues, along with fragmented policy, limited enforcement operations and lack of resources within government, have collectively contributed to critical perceptions of the industry.

Increased involvement of First Nations in data collection and scientific research related to aquaculture operations would enable greater First Nations participation in Crown (both provincial and federal) decision-making processes through groundtruthing mechanisms, scientific data collection and research. This involvement could provide a role in the development of stronger relationships with industry and oversight of technical activities in the monitoring of industry activities.

Alignment with BCSRIF Priorities

This project would advance and coordinate the technical and scientific capacity of First Nations in BC to support sustainable and healthy aquaculture operations, while improving the conservation and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. It is focused on building scientific partnerships between First Nations, government, and industry and will be constructed to complement activities being led by Broughton Area Indigenous communities.



Alignment with Other Initiatives (Potential Partners)

BCSRIF support may be used to augment the funding or activities of other programs.

- **BCSRIF projects with Broughton Archipelago First Nations**

The 'Namgis, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis, and Mamalilikulla First Nations are implementing the Broughton First Nations Indigenous Monitoring and Inspection Plan, using BCSRIF support to build monitoring and oversight capacity over finfish farms in the Broughton, capacity to monitor wild salmon, other marine species (and their ecosystems) and to conduct salmon habitat restoration activities.

These Nations are also working together to establish a genomics lab to analyze samples collected by First Nations with an interest in conducting independent fish health sampling, as well as partnering to assess, prioritize and restore critical salmon habitat in the Nimpkish and Kokish Rivers, Rivers flowing from Bond Sound, Thompson Sound, Wakemen Sound, Viner Sound and Rivers Near Hoyea Sound and Lull Creek.

- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program**

This national contribution program is investing \$20 million over four years (from 2017 to 2021) to help Canada's fisheries and aquaculture industries improve their environmental performance. This includes helping industry implement market-ready clean technologies, processes and sustainable practices into their day-to-day operations.

