

Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Panel Meeting Summary

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 6th Floor World Trade and Convention Center
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendance

NSDFA:

Honorable Keith Colwell, Minister
Mr. Mark MacPhail, Executive Assistant to the Minister
Mr. Kim MacNeil, Deputy Minister
Mr. Bruce Osborne, Executive Director
Mr. Bruce Hancock, Director of Aquaculture
Dr. Vicki Swan, Manager of Aquaculture Development
Mr. Brennan Goreham, Manager of Leasing and Licencing
Ms. Heather Hughes, Manager of Legislative Services
Dr. Roland Cusack, Provincial Fish Health Veterinarian

Committee Members:

In attendance: Mr. Edgar Samson, President, Premium Seafood Group
Mr. Bruce Morrison, Warden, Municipality of the County of Victoria
Mr. Tom Smith, Executive Director, Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia
Mr. Raymond Plourd, Wilderness Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre
Ms. Lisa Dahr, Manager of Professional Development and Industry Relations Nova Scotia Tourism Human Resources Council
Mr. Christopher Clark, Mayor, Region of Queens Municipality
Mr. Paul Budreski, President, AquaDelights Seafood Limited
Mr. Bernie Berry, LFA 34 Lobster fisherman/President of Coldwater Lobster Association
Mr. Carl Purcell, Nova Scotia Salmon Association

Phone in: Ms. Nell Halse, Vice President of Communications, Cooke Aquaculture

Regrets: Dr. David Gray, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at Dalhousie University
Chief Terry Paul, Membertou First Nation and Fisheries Portfolio lead for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs
Mr. Lloyd Robicheau, LFA 32 Lobster fisherman
Mr. Henry Demone, Chairman of the Board, High Liner Foods

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Minister Colwell chaired the meeting and welcomed the panel members to the inaugural meeting.

The Terms of Reference for the committee were reviewed.

An overview of the path and aims of the new regulatory framework for aquaculture was presented by Departmental staff. Presentations were made on the two draft regulations, the Aquaculture Management Regulations and the Aquaculture License and Leasing Regulations. Departmental staff fielded questions from Panel members.

Panel members were offered an opportunity to review the draft Regulations in detail prior to the next meeting scheduled for July 22, 2015. The confidentiality of the draft Regulations was stressed once again, and members were advised that any breach of this confidentiality would be considered a very serious matter.

Min. Colwell provided closing remarks. The Panel will meet on a regular basis to see how the regulations are performing from the different perspectives represented on the Panel. The Doelle-Lahey report provided the Department with a road map for aquaculture regulation in the province. The Panel will provide input into current draft regulations and later on their performance. The Minister acknowledged issues related to aquaculture, the environment and commercial fishing have been heard and need to be addressed through science. The Minister indicated a science review panel will be struck to guide this process. The Minister asked the Panel to bring forward their questions and comments on the draft Regulations for consideration. Any changes recommended by the Minister stemming from the Panel's input will be forwarded for legal and policy review to determine if they are possible for incorporation into the regulations.

The date for the next meeting was set for Wednesday July 22nd, 2015 from 9:00-11:00 am in the Minister's boardroom, 6th floor, WTCC, Halifax.

Prepared by: Vicki Swan, Manager Aquaculture Development

Updated by: Brennan Goreham, Manager of Licensing and Leasing

Last updated: August 13, 2015