

Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, 6th Floor World Trade and Convention Center
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Wednesday, August 12, 2015
9:00 – 11:00 am

Province of Nova Scotia:

Present:

Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Mark MacPhail, Executive Assistant to the Minister
Bruce Osborne, Executive Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Bruce Hancock, Director of Aquaculture
Brennan Goreham, Manager of Leasing and Licencing
Dr. Roland Cusack, Chief Aquatic Animal Health Veterinarian

Committee Members:

Present:

Lloyd Robicheau, Lobster harvester (LFA 32), Three Fathom Harbour
Nell Halse, Vice President of Communications, Cooke Aquaculture
Tom Smith, Executive Director, Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia
Raymond Plourd, Wilderness Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre
Bruce Morrison, Warden, Municipality of the County of Victoria
Edgar Samson, President, Premium Seafood Group
Lisa Dahr, Manager, Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, Halifax Regional Municipality

Phone in:

Paul Budreski, AquaDelights Seafood Limited

Regrets:

Bernie Berry, LFA 34 Lobster fisherman/President of Coldwater Lobster Association
Dr. David Gray, Dean, Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture
Chief Terrance Paul, Membertou First Nation and Fisheries Portfolio Lead for the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs
Christopher Clark, Mayor, Region of Queens Municipality
Carl Purcell, Nova Scotia Salmon Association

Meeting Summary

Bruce Osborne opened the meeting by welcoming members. Roundtable introductions were also made.

Members discussed the need for all members of the Committee to be present at meetings as much as possible. It was noted that Henry Demone has withdrawn from participation on the Committee.

Draft summaries of the July 14th and July 22nd Committee Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Several suggestions were provided to the Department for purposes of clarity of the minutes. Proposed changes to the Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed. There was consensus that the additional language inserted strengthened the document. A minor revision was recommended.

A draft press release regarding the Committee was reviewed by members. There was discussion around the timeframe for the release, the eventual uploading of Committee information to the website, and the content of the Press Release. Several recommendations for changes were provided to the Minister for his consideration

Brennan Goreham provided a summary of both written and oral feedback received from Committee members regarding the Draft Recommendations. This feedback was categorized into twelve high-level categories:

- Roles of Aquaculture Review Board and Administrator
- Containment
- Enforcement
- Criteria for Decisions
- Fees/Bonds
- Scoping Process
- Transparency
- Timelines
- Role of Science
- Definitions
- Grandfathering/Transitioning
- Protection of Wild Atlantic Salmon

Brennan Goreham provided an overview of changes made to the Draft Licensing and Leasing Regulations since the last version viewed by Committee members. Discussion around these changes occurred as Committee members sought clarification of these changes from the Department.

Bruce Hancock provided an overview of changes made to the Draft Aquaculture Management Regulations since the last version viewed by Committee members. Discussion around these changes occurred as Committee members sought clarification of these changes from the Department.

Bruce Hancock provided an overview of forthcoming policy items that the Department will be considering. These included:

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- Use of anti-foulant materials
- Marking of Finfish
- Formation of the Science Committee
- Transparency
- Planned Development
- Fee Structure

Mr. Hancock discussed anticipated timelines for these policy items, and informed the Committee that the Department would use this Committee as a forum for discussion regarding these matters.

Discussion regarding future meetings of the Committee occurred. It was determined that the next meeting would be held in late October or early November. This would allow the Department time to work on the policy items noted above, and also allow for the Regulations to be finalized and approved by Cabinet.

Minister Colwell closed the meeting by thanking those present for their attendance, and for the time and effort expended in reviewing the Draft Regulations over the past several weeks.