

## **Aquaculture Regulatory Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

Membertou Trade and Convention Centre  
Membertou, Nova Scotia  
June 13, 2018

### **Attendees:**

#### **Province of Nova Scotia:**

Honourable Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Frank Dunn, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Mark MacPhail, Executive Assistant to the Minister  
Bruce Hancock, Director of Aquaculture  
Roland Cusack, Aquatic Animal Health Veterinarian  
Nathaniel Feindel, Manager of Aquaculture Development  
Jessica Feindel, Manager of Aquaculture Operations  
Brennan Goreham, Manager of Licensing and Leasing  
Shelley Van Buskirk-Spears, Licensing Coordinator  
Dougald MacNeil, Conservation Enforcement Coordinator (Nova Scotia Environment)

#### **Committee Members:**

Chief Terrance Paul, Membertou First Nation  
Tom Smith, Executive Director, Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia  
Carl Purcell, Nova Scotia Salmon Association and Chair of the Nova Scotia Salmon Traceability Advisory Committee  
Janice Ryan, World Wildlife Federation  
Jeffery Nickerson, Cooke Aquaculture

### **Introductions and Welcome**

Chief Paul, Chair of the meeting welcomed all present to Membertou First Nation. Roundtable introductions were held.

### **Review of December 13, 2017 Meeting**

The meeting summary from December 13, 2017 was reviewed by Committee members and approved by consensus.

### **Legislative and Regulatory Changes**

Brennan Goreham provided an overview of changes to the *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act* made in the Spring 2018 legislative session. These changes related to adjudicative amendments, institutional aquaculture, site amalgamation, appeals, and language clarifications.

### **Overview of Aquaculture Review Board**

Carla Buchan provided an overview of the Aquaculture Review Board (ARB). Carla outlined the Board composition, jurisdiction, stages in the process, and the factors upon which the board will render decisions.

### **Licensing and Leasing Update**

Brennan Goreham provided an update on various Licensing and Leasing activities, as follows:

- Number of decisions made under the new regulatory framework;
- Number of applications currently in progress;
- Progress of ISO 9001:2015 initiative;
- Number of aquaculture sites currently issued
- 2017 utilization, production, and employment statistics

Bruce Hancock outlined that the Centre for Marine Applied Research has commissioned an economic study to quantify the various economic contributions, beyond farmgate sales and employment, made by the aquaculture sector.

### **Overview of Reallocation Site Process**

Jessica Feindel explained that only sites issued after 2015 are eligible for reissuance.

Bruce Hancock explained that any decisions made on these sites need to be looked at through the 8 factors that must be considered and that everything meets the new regulations.

### **Overview of Farm Management Plans**

Jessica Feindel provided an overview of the Operations Section of the Department and Farm Management Plans (FMP's). The Farm Management Plan provides the Department with the opportunity to regularly meet with clients and go over the details of their respective operations.

### **Containment and Traceability**

Nathaniel Feindel reviewed proposed regulatory changes. The Department has engaged a third-party consultant to further develop the containment and traceability program, and will allow the Salmon Traceability Committee to review this work. Elements of containment management have been incorporated into the Farm Management Plans.

### **Aquatic Animal Health Updates**

Dr. Roland Cusack provided an update on recent Aquatic Animal Health (AAH) initiatives. Dr. Cusack outlined the province's expanded aquatic animal health regulatory role, and various research projects being led by the AAH unit.

### **Update from Nova Scotia Environment**

Dougald MacNeil outlined recent inspection, compliance, and enforcement activities of Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) as they relate to aquaculture. Dougald also provided information on the vessels and equipment that NSE used and has on order.