

**DFO SUMMARY ON KEY SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE INITIATIVES 2019-2020**  
**Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee**  
**November 13-14, 2019**

1. Bivalve Traceability

- DFO, in cooperation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), issued a Fishery Notice on November 5, 2019 to bivalve shellfish harvesters, growers and processors in British Columbia to address the issue of illegal harvest and sale of bivalve shellfish as well as activities that are not in compliance with DFO shellfish aquaculture licences, reminding them of their legal responsibilities and the consequences of violations.
- DFO will investigate reports of illegal harvesting violations and will take appropriate enforcement actions, including prosecution. Furthermore, DFO may consider more restrictive management approaches if needed to protect public health.
- If you are aware of illegal bivalve harvest activities and/or are aware of violations, please call the DFO Observe, Record and Report (ORR) phone line at 1-800-465-4336.

2. Environmental Protection Strategy and Action Plan

- BC and DFO have been conducting joint shellfish aquaculture site inspections to increase efficiency, including inspections of Okeover Inlet and west side of Denman Island in 2019. Follow up inspections are planned for Spring 2020 verify clean-up efforts and compliance.
- DFO continues to receive complaints regarding shellfish aquaculture debris from individuals and local government officials, with an increase in concern regarding shellfish aquaculture trays and rope debris on beaches.

3. Area Based Management

- DFO is working towards the development of an area based approach for aquaculture that brings together First Nations, BC and DFO towards co-development and co-management of the sector.
- DFO's Indigenous and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Body on Enhanced Sustainability of Aquaculture will be making recommendations on guidelines for advancing area based management, taking into consideration advice from its technical working group on area based management (as well as two other WGs on fish health and alternative production technologies).
- DFO is exploring options regarding areas that may be suitable for area based management, including Baynes Sound.