



Area-Based Aquaculture Management (ABAM)

Presentation to Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel
Ecosystem Forum

December 10, 2021

*Aquaculture Management Division
Fisheries Management*





Area-Based Aquaculture Management (ABAM) Presentation Objectives

- Background on ABAM
- Timeline and goals of ABAM over the next two years
- Pilot Area and Expressions of Interest (EOI) Applications
- Discussion



Why Area-Based Aquaculture Management?

October 2018 – DFO Minister Wilkinson announced Canada will adopt an area-based approach to aquaculture

December 2018 – DFO Minister Wilkinson announced Canada will work with provinces/territories, industry, Indigenous partners, environmental groups, and others to ensure a sustainable path forward for aquaculture

June 2019 – The Indigenous and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Body and 3 technical working groups established: one is focused on Area-Based Management

June 2020 – The Area-Based Management Technical Working Group (ABAM TWG) tabled draft framework for the adoption of ABAM in BC

Budget 2021 – \$3M announced over 2021-2023



What is Area-Based Aquaculture Management?

ABAM is an approach to manage aquaculture in distinct geographical areas



ABAM will consider an areas' unique jurisdictional, ecological, social, cultural, and economic values



Layers of Aquaculture Management

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The continuous improvement of all levels of management as new information and data becomes available



Aquaculture Management Tools

- Acts and Regulations
- Agreements
- Policies and Practices
- Management Plans
- Siting Considerations
- Licence Decisions - New and Amended Site Applications, Licence Re-issuance
- Conditions of Licence
- Industry Monitoring and Reporting
- Third Party Monitoring
- DFO Monitoring, Inspection, and Enforcement
- Decommissioning





Some Objectives of ABAM

ECOSYSTEM-BASED
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

**NATION-TO-NATION
COLLABORATIVE**
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

IMPROVED ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR **COASTAL
AND RURAL COMMUNITIES** FROM AQUACULTURE

TRANSPARENT
DECISION-MAKING

INCREASED
SOCIAL LICENCE

ENHANCED
**FOOD SECURITY
& SUSTAINABILITY**

INCLUSIVE
KNOWLEDGE

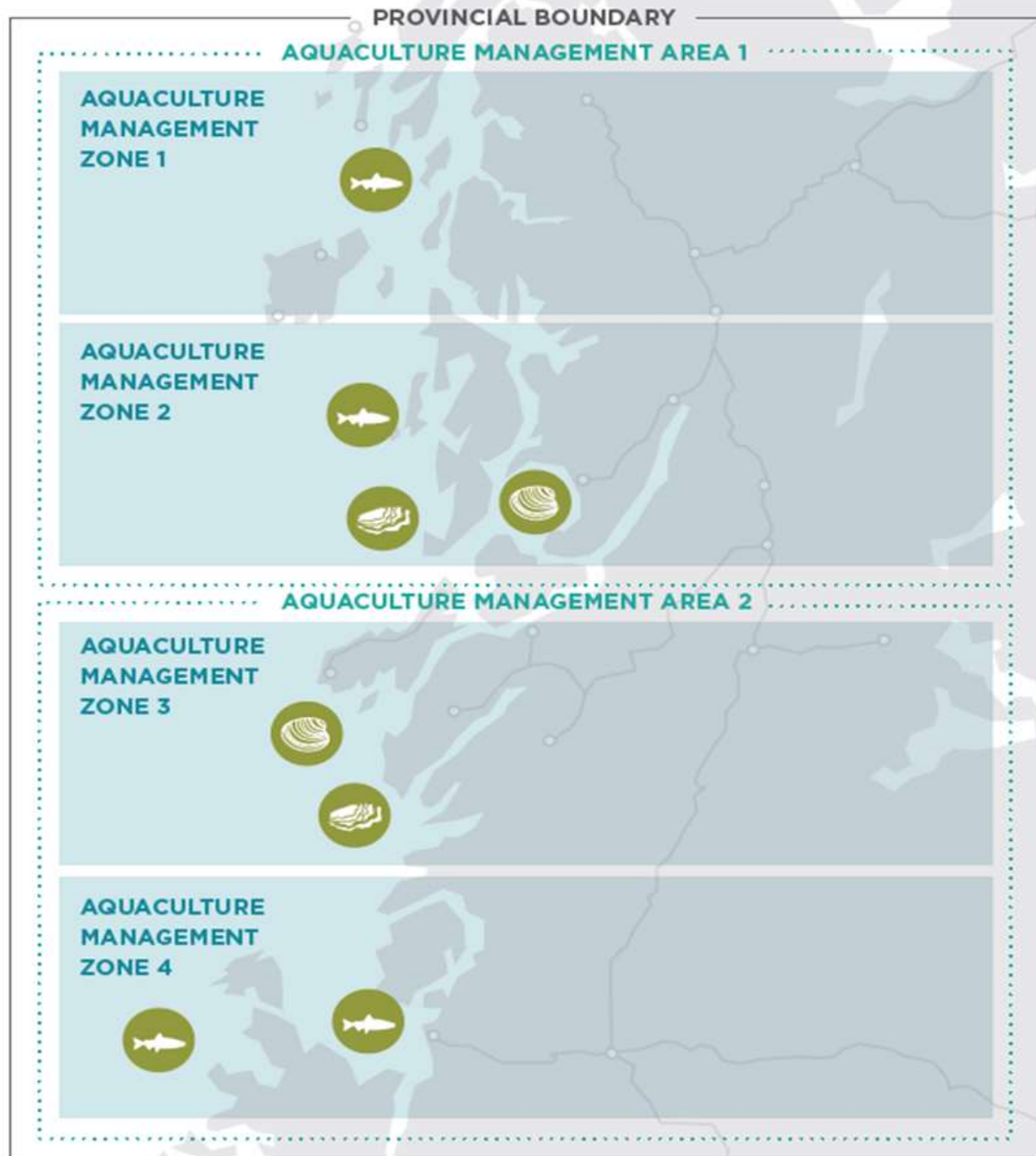
CONSIDERATION OF OTHER USES OF
WATER AND LAND

SHARED
ACCOUNTABILITY



Spatial Levels

We plan to advance elements at each of these geospatial levels.



*Note: this image is fictional and for illustration purposes only. AMAs have not yet been created.



ABAM Goals 2021-2023

Spatial Level	Goals
Provincial level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a BC-wide <u>Regional Coordination Committee</u> (DFO, BC, Indigenous) • Update <u>Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan</u> (IMAP) to include principles of area-based management
Area level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a <u>Pilot Area</u> and build a collaborative governance <u>Area Committee</u> (DFO, BC, and First Nations) • Create an <u>Area Management Plan</u> considering local social, cultural, environmental, and economic values
Zone level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create relevant <u>Aquaculture Management Zones</u> (AMZs) • Use relevant ecological and hydrological data to inform creation of AMZs
Site level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Licence Conditions</u> –for farms within an AMA and/or AMZ



Project Timelines



PHASE 01

Introduce & Plan

Fall 2020 – Fall 2021

Broad engagement - Provide an overview of area-based aquaculture management in BC



PHASE 02

Collect Input

Fall 2021 (ongoing)

- Seek expressions of interest for a pilot area
- Seek partnerships internally and externally
- Define Area Management Zones for marine finfish



PHASE 03

Development

Jan 2022 – Jun 2022

- Identify Pilot Area
- Develop:
 - Regional Committee
 - Pilot Area Committee
- Initiate Area Management Plan
- Draft Integrated Management of Aquaculture Plan (IMAP)



PHASE 04

Review & Collaborate

Jul 2022 – Dec 2022

Share draft IMAP
Collaborate with partners on Committees
Continue to work on Area goals and tools



PHASE 05

Finalize & Implement

Jan 2023 – Mar 2023

Approve final IMAP
Finalize, if possible, Pilot AMA Management Plan
Program review
Seek budget renewal beyond 2023



Partners and Stakeholders

Existing Stakeholder / Advisory Tables like BSLCEF can provide an important role in coordinating advice to governing bodies.

First Nations	BC	Industry	Stakeholders
<p>Collaborative Governance Partners: A key to ABAM's success is First Nation participation in collaborative governance.</p>	<p>Collaborative Governance Partners: The ABAM approach is meant to create more consistency and alignment between governments.</p>	<p>Elevated Stakeholders/ Partners: The ABAM approach will recognize the role of industry as a stakeholders who can be creative, innovative, and invest in the future of aquaculture.</p>	<p>Advisors: ABAM will integrate an engagement process to seek feedback from other stakeholders.</p>

Engagement is occurring with all of these groups to clarify involvement in ABAM



Pilot Area Selection

Expression of Interest form released August 2021 to FN, stakeholders, govt

- SUBMISSIONS DUE DECEMBER 31, 2021

Pilot Area Considerations:

- Defined geospatial area
- Existing aquaculture activities with planned continuation
- Potential for aquaculture growth AND/OR innovative ideas or technologies to advance sector potential
- Existing Partnerships or Opportunities for Partnerships





Pilot Area Evaluation – General Requirements

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Evaluation Description
Defined geospatial area	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate description of area• Area has at least one unique Area Management Zone which could have specific management measures• Adequate supporting maps included
Existing aquaculture activities with planned continuation	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed area has 5+ licensed, operational commercial aquaculture facilities• Descriptive explanation of the facilities provided (species grown, company name)
Potential for aquaculture growth AND/OR innovative ideas or technologies to advance sector potential	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential plan for aquaculture growth in proposed pilot area provided• Clear description of potential expansions, new innovations, or new technology



Pilot Area Evaluation - Partnership Requirements

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Evaluation Description
First Nations or Indigenous Governments in Area	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed area has at least one interested Nation partner Proposed area has more than one interested Nation partners
First Nations Partners who want to support and participate in this initiative.	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FN is primary applicant or partner on application All Nations that overlap defined geographical area are willing to participate in ABAM First Nations in area have protocols in place to support Nation-Nation collaboration Letter of support provided explaining FN interest in participating and/or application for contribution funding
Interested & Innovative Industry Partner	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has an interested industry partner Letter of support included, showing high level of interest



Pilot Area Evaluation - Bonus

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Evaluation Description
Other collaborative partners and project team members (e.g. local governments, stakeholders)	Low-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support from collaborative partners, demonstrated through letters of support Support received from regional and municipal governments of proposed pilot area
Existing collaborative stakeholder table or potential to build on one	Low-Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed existence of a collaborative stakeholder table or potential to implement a collaborative stakeholder table
Innovative ideas or technologies	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Descriptive explanation of innovative ideas included and ideas are realistic
Readiness to begin ABAM in 2022	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed pilot area is ready to begin the development and implementation of ABAM in the area beginning January 2022 and will be heavily involved until at least March 2023



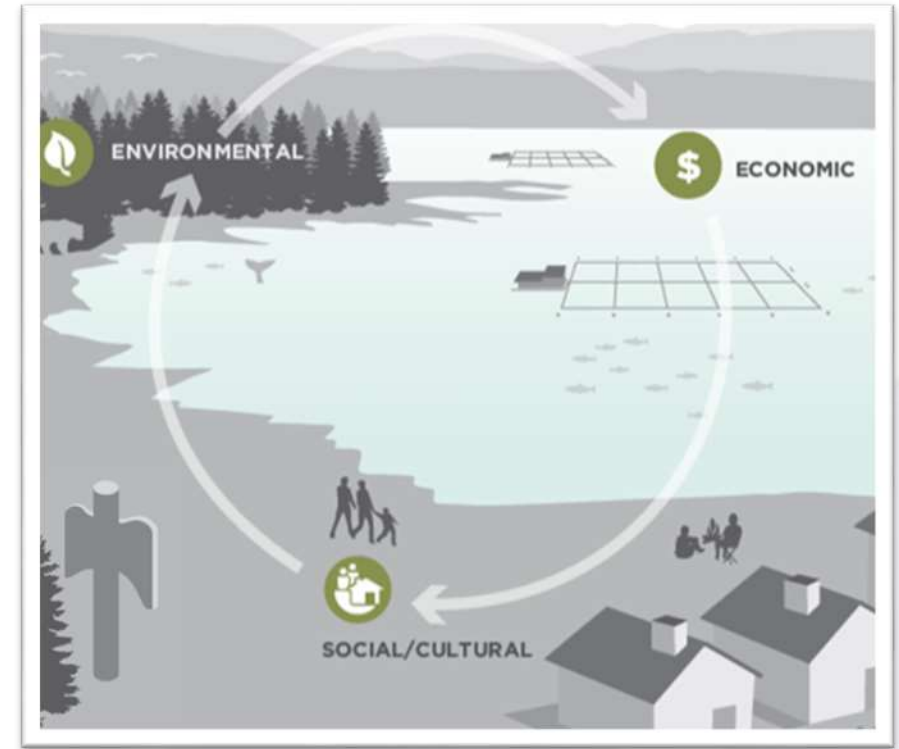
Future of ABAM

- **2021-2023** – demonstrate successes in ABAM approach so that further resources can be secured after 2023 and other Areas (AMAs) can be developed
- **Beyond 2023** – potential expansion of ABAM to other areas, considering:
 - Timing for coast-wide implementation – phased approach
 - Relevant spatial scales for coast-wide implementation
 - Relevant for decision-making
 - Can be sustainably resourced
 - Requires multiple First Nations and various levels of government collaborating
 - Multiple aquaculture sectors (Marine Finfish, Shellfish, Land-Based)
 - Incorporating other resource/economic sectors (fisheries, recreation, culture, etc...)



Discussion – some ideas

- Feedback on Baynes Sound / Lambert Channel Ecosystem Forum's interest & participation in ABAM
 - Interest in Pilot Area?
 - Interest in ongoing engagement?
- Input on:
 - Priorities for Pilot Area evaluation & selection process
 - ABAM development coast-wide





ABAM Contact Information

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