

Aquaculture Debris Management Plan Guidance

This document provides guidance to provincial aquaculture tenure and licence holders (aquaculture operators) on the information that should be included in a debris management plan. The debris management plan is a document for the aquaculture operator to implement, but it does not absolve the operator from complying with any of the requirements under the DFO licence, provincial tenure contract, or any other municipal, provincial or federal authorization.

Debris:

- *Pieces of gear, equipment, and/or infrastructure that has become lost, scattered, or discarded in the natural environment.*
- *Any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, enters into the marine environment.*

Contents of a debris management plan

Section 1 – Gear, Equipment &/or Infrastructure

- Identify, describe, and inventory:
 - each type of gear, equipment, and/or infrastructure that will be used on site.
- For each item/group of items list their expected lifespan and the probability of each item becoming debris.
- Identify the highest risk items for becoming debris and mitigation measures to be implemented to prevent them from becoming debris.
- List the end of life destination for each type of gear once it is degraded or otherwise no longer functional
- Describe where any debris from your site may travel to and why (e.g. beaches vs. sea floor). Please provide rationale for your assessment.

Section 2 – Debris Management Protocols

- Describe how you will reduce and manage debris generation.
- Create an inspection and maintenance checklist outlining what is to be checked and what info will be recorded by those doing the inspection.
- Describe protocols for the inspection and maintenance of gear, equipment and/or infrastructure including the frequency (e.g. every week, every month, etc.).
- The inspection and maintenance protocols should be specific, including:
 - the actions that will be taken (such as regularly scheduled clean-ups of tenure areas & surrounding area);
 - the frequency of maintenance and inspections;
 - how you will document the actions taken; and,
 - the process to assess the adequacy of your debris management protocols.
- Outline your debris complaint response protocols. i.e. if you receive a public complaint regarding debris generated from your site.

Section 3 – Implementation Plan

- Describe the steps you will take to implement the debris management plan (e.g. develop standard operating procedures, staff training plan, etc.).
- Describe how you will document the actions taken by you or your staff described in the debris management plan.

Section 4 – Contact Information

- Define instructions for how members of the public may contact you to report debris, including proposed signage or other site or equipment markings.