

# **Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

### **January 19 & 20, 2017**

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#### ***Agenda Item***

##### **1. Welcome and Review Agenda**

Paul Sprout welcomed MAACFA members to the meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda.

John Werring suggested an agenda item related to two finfish aquaculture tenures approved by the Province of British Columbia. After a short discussion, it was agreed that a B.C. government official would follow up directly with John on the issue instead of making it a formal agenda item.

##### **2. MAACFA Membership Update**

Derek Sturko provided an update on MAACFA membership. Since the October 2016 MAACFA meeting, Hereditary Chief Bill Cranmer, Chief Ernie Crey and Chief Lee Spahan had been appointed to the council by the Minister. Derek officially welcomed Chief Cranmer, who was present at the January meeting, to the council.

##### **3. Meeting Minutes**

The October 25/26, 2016 draft meeting minutes were discussed and approved.

##### **4. Confirm Nature & Content of Progress Report to Minister**

Paul Sprout noted that the deadline for submitting MAACFA's progress report to the Minister of Agriculture has been extended to March 31, 2017.

Following a discussion about the content of the progress report, MAACFA members agreed that it should include the following:

- Highlight that the MAACFA membership has evolved since the council was established.
- Note that MAACFA has developed a work plan (i.e., chart) and that the council's work is proceeding consistent with its terms of reference.
- List individuals who have made presentations to MAACFA and the topic of their presentation as well as a list of those who declined to make a presentation.
- Describe progress to date, noting that the council has a better understanding of the regulatory framework, has been receiving perspectives on aquaculture from key groups and interests, and is working on a "rolling draft report" to document the council's work as it proceeds.
- Describe the process followed to produce minutes of MAACFA meetings, noting that they become available publically once the minutes are approved at a MAACFA meeting.
- Advise that the council is committed to producing its final report by the end of 2017.

A draft MAACFA progress report will be prepared and circulated to MAACFA members for their review. Based on feedback received from council members, the progress report will either be submitted by the Chair on behalf of the council before the next meeting or discussed further at the next MAACFA meeting (March 21/22, 2017).

## **5. Presentations**

The council heard four presentations, followed by a brief question and answer period on each. Written presentations made to the council are attached. Also, a summary of each presentation is being incorporated into MAACFA's rolling draft report for review by council members.

### Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation First Nations Presentation

Saya Masso made a presentation describing the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation's role in managing aquaculture within their territories. The presentation outlined the evolution of the Nation's relationship with aquaculture companies in their territory from the late 1990s to the present, which served to emphasize the importance of First Nation's control of the guiding principles used in farming salmon on their territory (e.g., no use of night lights). The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation now has a protocol agreement for the Chinook salmon farming operations in their territory ensuring that lands, waters, and watersheds are

developed in a manner that reflects respect for First Nations governance and for progressive environmental stewardship.

#### Fish Health, Disease & Risks Associated with Salmon Farming Presentation

Stewart Johnson (DFO) made a presentation on fish health, in particular, disease and risks associated with salmon farming. The presentation identified information needed to understand the risk of pathogen-disease transmission between wild and farmed finfish, including generic information on: (a) migratory pathways of wild salmon and the duration of their residency in the vicinity of fish farms; (b) prevalence of pathogens and diseases within wild and farmed populations; and, (c) knowledge of the infectious dose necessary to cause disease.

#### Salmon Biology and Ecology Presentation

Brian Riddell made a presentation on B.C.'s Pacific salmon resource, ecology, and pressures. The presentation outlined the distribution of Pacific salmon, the complexity of the salmon genetics within BC with regard to networks of salmon populations and their production, and the need for management of interactions between wild, hatchery, and aquaculture salmonids (since at present this cannot be avoided). This presentation stated that of all the salmon aquaculture-producing countries of the world, it should be expected that British Columbia would have the greatest concern for potential impacts on wild salmon given the diversity and wide spread geographic distribution of our salmon, and their high ecological and human importance (culturally and economically). He also pointed out that Justice Cohen noted that "global climate change" was the 'elephant in the room' in terms of wild salmon production and future effects.

#### First Nation Wild Salmon Alliance Presentation

Chief Bob Chamberlin made a presentation on behalf of the First Nation Wild Salmon Alliance. The presentation highlighted concerns that the federal and provincial government consultations with First Nations related to aquaculture were inadequate and that the level of scientific information on the impacts of salmon farms on wild salmon was insufficient. In addition, the presentation stressed the importance of First Nations' rights and the role that First Nations should play related to all activities that occur within their territories.

## **6. Summary and Discussion of Presentations**

Paul Macgillivray presented a general summary of key points from the four presentations. A short discussion took place among MAACFA members on the summary points, which are intended for inclusion in the rolling draft report.

## **7. Review & Comments on Rolling Draft Report**

MAACFA members identified a number of topics that should be included in the rolling draft report and suggested revisions to the table of contents. These included:

- A temporary “parking lot” section for preliminary recommendations that would then assist in shaping the content of the preliminary sections.
- A context section that addresses the importance of wild salmon and the many stressors at play besides salmon farms, as well as the mandate and purpose of the Council.
- A section on First Nations perspectives on governance.
- The need to organize the report in a way that addresses key questions regarding the state and acceptability of risk.
- Potential organization according to themes of food, economic, and environmental/ecological security.

It was agreed that the Chair, Co-Chair and Secretariat will revise the rolling draft report and table of contents to reflect council member input, for discussion at the March 2017 meeting. MAACFA members can access the rolling draft report at the council’s SharePoint site.

## **8. Planning for Next Meeting**

The next MAACFA meeting will be on March 21/22, 2017 (location to be finalized but likely Richmond). It was agreed that the following potential presenters would be invited to the March meeting: Marvin Rosenau, Kristi Miller, Gary Marty and Craig Stephens.

Other potential presenters and topics for the March MAACFA meeting (depending on the availability of those identified above) or for the May 2017 meeting include: Larry Dill, Chris Ninnes (Aquaculture Stewardship Council), a DFO presentation on risk and a presentation on closed containment (circulating aquaculture system).

It was also suggested that the meeting agenda be arranged to allow for review of the rolling draft report before the expert presentations in order to promote a fulsome discussion rather than leaving this item to end of the meeting.

### Attachments

January 19 and 20, 2017 Meeting Agenda and Meeting Attendance

Presentations (available on the SharePoint site)

- *A Formalized Protocol: Two Decades in the Making* (Saya Masso)
- *Fish Health: Understanding Disease & Risks Associated with Salmon Farming* (Stewart Johnson)
- *A brief on B.C.'s Pacific salmon resource, ecology, and pressures* (Brian Riddell)

# Minister of Agriculture's Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture

## Meeting Agenda

**Date:** *January 19 & 20, 2017*

**Time:** *Meeting begins at 10 a.m. on Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> and ends at noon on Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>*

**Location:** *Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo*

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### Thursday January 19, 2017

*Coffee Available at 9.30 am -- Meeting Begins at 10 am*

#### ***Agenda Item***

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Review Agenda                                                                                                                                | Paul Sprout           |
| 2. MAACFA Membership Update (as required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Membership Changes</li><li>• Introduction of new MAACFA members</li></ul> | Derek Sturko          |
| 3. Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approval of October 25/26, 2016 Meeting Minutes</li></ul>                                        | Roundtable Discussion |
| 4. Confirm Nature & Content of Progress Report to Minister                                                                                                  | Paul Sprout           |
| 5. First Nations Perspectives Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation</li></ul>                                     | Saya Masso            |
| LUNCH                                                                                                                                                       |                       |
| 6. Salmon Biology and Ecology Presentation                                                                                                                  | Brian Riddell         |
| 7. Fish Health, Disease & Risks Associated with Salmon Farming                                                                                              | Stewart Johnson       |

Coffee

**8. Exchange Views on Presentation Key Points**

**Roundtable**

**END OF DAY 1**

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**Friday January 20, 2017**

**Coffee Available at 8.00 am -- Meeting Begins at 8.30 am**

**9. First Nations Perspectives Presentation**

- **First Nation Wild Salmon Alliance**

**Bob Chamberlin**

**10. Synopsis of Key Points for Possible Inclusion in Rolling Draft Report**

**Roundtable**

**11. Review & Comments on Rolling Draft Report**

**Roundtable**

- **Overview**
- **Discussion & Observations on Selected Key Points**

**Coffee**

**12. Planning for Next Meeting**

**Paul Sprout**

- **MAACFA Report to the Minister on Progress**
- **Summary of Meeting and Review Action Items**
- **Confirm Next MAACFA Meeting and Agenda**

**MEETING AJOURNS AT NOON**

## **January 19 and 20, 2017 MAACFA Meeting Attendance**

### MAACFA Members in Attendance

Tony Allard  
John Bones (Vice-Chair)  
Bill Cranmer  
Jeremy Dunn  
Anthony Farrell (January 19<sup>th</sup>)  
Larry Greba  
Saya Masso  
Don Noakes  
Brian Riddell  
John Werring  
Paul Sprout (Chair)  
Derek Sturko (BC government member)  
Sharon Hadway (BC government)

### Regrets

Keith Atleo  
Christina Burridge  
Ernie Crey  
Richard Harry  
Lee Spahan  
Tessa Terbasket

### MAACFA Secretariat

James Mack  
Jim Russell

### Contractor Supporting MAACFA

Paul Macgillivray