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Aboriginal Principles for Sustainable Aquaculture (APSA)



2010 STANDARD

Pilot Project Version

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ABORIGINAL PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE (APSA)

Aboriginal Aquaculture Association of Canada (AAA)

1.0 Introduction

The First Nations people have long been stewards of the natural resources upon which their communities depend. Although sustainability is a concept that is embedded within First Nations society, the development of a formal process by which these values can be expressed in modern society is often lacking. This guiding set of Aboriginal Principles for Sustainable Aquaculture provides a standard for the structural and operational framework under which First Nations can be assured that their values, expectations and interests are included in the sustainable management of aquaculture operations in coastal British Columbia.

Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

The Aboriginal Aquaculture Association of Canada (AAA of Canada, or AAA) was established as a federally incorporated company in July, 2003 by six founding members representing a cross-section of aboriginal leaders in British Columbia. These leaders came to realize that there were very few opportunities for band members to be involved in the various resource sectors of their local communities. After careful studies, they concluded that, for the benefit of all parties, a significant opportunity existed to better First Nations relations and involvement with the aquaculture industry.

The vision created by the founding members of the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association is:

First Nations will play a key role in the development and management of a healthy and sustainable aquaculture sector.

The mission of the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association of Canada is:

To promote and assist the development of First Nations' Aquaculture that respects and supports First Nation Communities, Culture and Values.

2.0 Scope and Applicability of this Standard

The Aboriginal Principles for Sustainable Aquaculture (APSA) (the Standard) can be applied to any aquaculture organization in Canada that wishes to include the values and interests of First Nations in the management of their operations and obtain use of the AAA *Certified Sustainable* logo. This Standard is normally applied to aquaculture

operations within the traditional use areas of First Nations participating in the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association.

The organization (typically a company), or Participant, shall initiate contact with affected First Nations based on the proximity and location of their operations in relation to First Nations traditional use areas. These *affected* First Nations shall then have the opportunity to form First Nations Aquaculture Advisory Committees (FNAACs), or a similar committee*. Each FNAAC, in conjunction with organization representatives, will produce a FNAAC Sustainability Plan to help ensure the aquaculture operations in their area are conducted in accordance with the principles in this Standard and reflect the specific values and interest of the FNAAC. The FNAAC Sustainability Plan is a brief, concise action plan that will function as a dynamic process and enable the organization and the affected First Nation to maintain dialogue and continued conformance with the Standard. The scope of each audit process is limited to an individual First Nation's traditional territory.

**the establishment of an FNAAC may not be necessary if an already existing committee is fulfilling the described FNAAC functions.*

3.0 Assurance and Certification

Third-party certification to this Standard and subsequent logo use will be available to all industry Participants that pass a certification audit. Interested Participants shall contact the AAA of Canada to initiate the certification process. The initial certification audit and subsequent surveillance audits shall be conducted by a qualified third-party Certification Body approved by the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association. The qualifications of the Certification Body will be determined by the AAA. Participants may choose to schedule the APSA audit at the same time as other audit processes (e.g., ISO 9001, GAA, ISO 14001). Surveillance audits shall take place at least annually.

Auditors shall have the knowledge and skills to conduct an audit and report audit results in accordance with International Standard ISO 19011:2002, *Guidelines for Quality and/or Environmental Management Systems Auditing*. A detailed checklist has been developed and forms an important component of the completed audit documentation.

4.0 Transparency and First Nations Inclusiveness

PRINCIPLES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p>Transparency and First Nations Inclusiveness</p> <p>The organization shall be transparent in its decisions and activities that impact on society and the environment.</p> <p>The organization shall respect, consider and respond to all affected First Nations.</p> <p>The organization shall incorporate the reasonable and practicable values and interests of local First Nations into operations.</p>	
<p>4.1 A commitment to disclose in a clear, accurate and complete manner the policies, decisions and activities which impact society and the environment.</p> <p><i>NB: The principle of transparency does not require that proprietary information be made public, nor does it involve providing information that is legally protected or that would breach legal, commercial, security or personal privacy obligations.</i></p>	<p>An organization shall be transparent regarding:</p> <p>4.1.1 The purpose, nature and location of its activities;</p> <p>4.1.2 The manner in which decisions are made, implemented and reviewed including roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and authority;</p> <p>4.1.3 Standards and criteria against which the organization evaluates its performance</p> <p>4.1.4 Its performance on relevant social and environmental issues;</p> <p>4.1.5 The source of its financial resources;</p> <p>4.1.6 The known and likely impact of its operations and decisions on First Nations, society and the environment;</p> <p>4.1.7 The identity of each First Nation and the criteria and procedures used to identify and engage them.</p>
<p>4.2 A commitment to respect, consider and respond to all First Nations affected by the operations of the organization.</p>	<p>An organization shall:</p> <p>4.2.1 Identify the affected First Nations;</p> <p>4.2.2 Be conscious of and respect the interest of each First Nation and respond to their expressed concerns;</p> <p>4.2.3 Recognize the interest and legal rights of each First Nation;</p> <p>4.2.4 Take into account the relative ability of each First Nation to engage, influence and affect the activities of the organizations;</p> <p>4.2.5 Consider the views of First Nations that may be affected by a decision even if they have no formal role in the governance of the organization or are unaware of their interest that may result from activities.</p>

PRINCIPLES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
<p>4.3 A commitment to incorporate the reasonable and practicable values and interests of local First Nations into operations.</p>	<p>An organization shall:</p> <p>4.3.1 Contact all First Nations with traditional use areas that overlap the geographic location of aquaculture operations.</p> <p>4.3.2 Form First Nations Aquaculture Advisory Committees (FNAACs) and openly seek representation from FN's potentially impacted by operations.</p> <p>4.3.3 Define basic operating rules for FNAACs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. content and scope ii. goals iii. timelines iv. internal and external communication v. resources (including human, physical, financial, information, and technological, as necessary and reasonable) vi. roles, responsibilities, and obligations of participants, including their organization vii. conflict of interest viii. decision-making methods ix. authority for decisions x. mechanisms to adjust the process as needed xi. access to information (including this Standard) xii. the participation of experts, other interests, and government xiii. a dispute-resolution mechanism <p>4.3.4 Develop a formal FNAAC Sustainability Plan that clearly defines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. First Nations values and interests beyond those indicated in this Standard ii. common goals, objectives and targets iii. strategies, necessary programs and resources needed to meet objectives iv. responsibilities v. timeline for implementation vi. reporting requirements vii. review and revision requirements

5.0 Social Responsibility

PRINCIPLES		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Social Responsibility			
The organization shall address the social concerns of First Nations within the area it operates.			
5.1	A commitment to develop a relationship that is based on trust, respect and performance and that provides stability for all parties.	5.1.1	Organization-wide policy, or policies, that define the commitment related to the social aspects of the relationship.
5.2	A commitment to the continual improvement of occupational health and safety and worker wellbeing.	5.2.1	Formal safety program including an organization wide policy, objectives and targets, and resources. Safety risks are documented, communicated, and understood by the organization and its contractors. Reporting of safety incidents, lost time and performance.
		5.2.2	Access to health and wellness services or a wellness program.
5.3	Commitment to fair and equitable wages.	5.3.1	Organization-wide policy, or policies, that include the partner's overall commitment related to the labor aspects.
5.4	Equal opportunity employment.	5.4.1	Qualified applicants are considered equally. Total workforce by employment type, employment contract, and region.
5.5	Access to training and educational opportunities relevant to the job (e.g., first aid training, boat operator training).	5.5.1	Average hours of training per year per employee by employee category.
5.6	Equal opportunities for advancement.	5.6.1	Percentage of employees receiving regular performance and career development reviews, per year by employee category.
5.7	Equal opportunity for representation on committees related to health and safety.	5.7.1	Percentage of total workforce represented in formal joint management–worker health and safety committees that help monitor and advise on occupational health and safety programs.
5.8	Access to assistance programs.	5.8.1	Education, training, counseling, prevention, and risk-control programs in place to assist workforce members, their families, or community members regarding serious social issues, illnesses, and diseases.

PRINCIPLES		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
5.9	Promotion of capacity building.	5.9.1	Evidence of financial or in-kind resource manager assistance.
5.10	Reasonable and practicable social values and interests of local First Nations have been integrated into operations.	5.10.1	Social goals, objectives and targets from the FNAAC Sustainability Plan have been adequately integrated into operations.
		5.10.2	A system exists to monitor, measure and report on FNAAC social goals, objectives and targets.

6.0 Environmental Responsibility

PRINCIPLES		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Environmental The organization shall manage the environmental dimension of sustainability, focusing on the organization's impacts on living and non-living natural systems, including ecosystems, land, air, and water.			
6.1	A mutual commitment and respect for the historic and contemporary uses and stewardship of land, water and resources.	6.1.1	Environmental Policy or policies are documented, communicated, and understood by the organization and its contractors.
6.2	A commitment to the continual improvement of environmental performance.	6.2.1	Formal environment program including an organization wide policy, objectives and targets, and resources. Environment risks are documented, communicated, and understood by the organization and its contractors.
		6.2.2	Access to information related to environmental performance.
6.3	Commitment to comply with legal and other requirements, including new or revised requirements.	6.3.1	Organization-wide policy, or policies, that define the how the organization keeps current with changes to legal and other requirements.
6.4	Determination of potential significant impacts of activities, products, and services on the environment.	6.4.1	Organization has implemented and maintained a process for determining the significant environmental aspects of its operations.
6.5	Best Management Practices (BMP's), or similar procedures, designed to mitigate the potential for environmental impact from the operations.	6.5.1	BMP's, or similar procedures, have been developed, implemented, and maintained, and are in line with the significant environmental aspects (environmental risks) identified by the organization.

PRINCIPLES		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
6.6	Environmental emergency preparedness and response.	6.6.1	Potential for environmental emergencies has been assessed, and plans documented and tested for each type of potential environmental emergency
6.7	Reasonable and practicable environmental values and interests of local First Nations have been integrated into operations.	6.7.1	Environmental goals, objectives and targets from the FNAAC Sustainability Plan have been adequately integrated into operations.
		6.7.2	A system exists to monitor, measure and report on FNAAC environmental goals, objectives and targets.

7.0 Economic Responsibility

PRINCIPLES		PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Economic			
The organization shall consider the economic interest of First Nations affected by their operations.			
7.1	A desire to set objectives and maintain operations that are in the best business interest of all parties.	7.1.1	Agreements between affected First Nations and the organization include a commitment relevant to mutual benefits.
7.2	Wage equality for First Nations employees.	7.2.1	Equitable wages and payroll by region.
7.3	Business opportunities for First Nations contractors.	7.3.1	Equal and transparent consideration of qualified contractors.
7.4	Co-operation with First Nations on tenure and license applications and renewals.	7.4.1	Collaborative approach when applying for new tenures and licenses, including documented support for growth of the industry
7.5	Reasonable and practicable economic values and interests of local First Nations have been integrated into operations.	7.5.1	Economic goals, objectives and targets from the FNAAC Sustainability Plan have been adequately integrated into operations.
		7.5.2	A system exists to monitor, measure and report on FNAAC economic goals, objectives and targets.