

# BACKGROUND

## SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE PROGRAM

The Government of Canada is committed to enhancing the global competitiveness and environmental performance of Canada's aquaculture industry. In 2008, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) received a \$70 million investment over five years to meet this commitment.

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DFO'S AQUACULTURE PROGRAM

- **Commitment to Economic Leadership:** A growing, vibrant aquaculture sector contributes to the economy of rural, coastal and First Nations communities, in addition to the overall Canadian economy.
- **Environmental Performance:** Building on a closely monitored and tightly regulated industry, the Sustainable Aquaculture Program has been founded on the approach of "continuous improvement" and strives to look for new and better ways to further improve the environmental performance of the aquaculture industry.
- **Transparency & Accountability:** Governments have the responsibility to regulate sectors and use funds in a manner that is accountable and transparent to Canadians.
- **Collaboration and Coordination:** DFO works willingly with a number of partners who share a common interest in the sustainable management of this industry, including provinces and territories, other government departments, Aboriginal people, industry, academia, environmental advocacy associations and international partners to achieve the objectives under the Sustainable Aquaculture Program.

### FOUR PILLARS TO MODERNIZE AND STRENGTHEN CANADA'S AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY

**Governance and Regulatory Reform:** This program pillar is funded at \$13 million over five years and focuses on streamlining federal, provincial and territorial regulations and policies pertaining to the environmental aspects of farm site review processes; ongoing regulatory management; a regulatory risk management framework; new policies, regulatory amendments and tools to assist in regulatory decision-making; and, information to support policy development.

**Scientific Regulatory Research:** The overall goal of this pillar is to strengthen scientific knowledge and advice that supports performance-based environmental standards. Funded at \$22 million over five years, this pillar focuses on two key activities:

- conducting new priority research and knowledge gathering

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- providing advice to inform environmental regulation of the aquaculture sector

**Innovation:** This pillar, funded at \$25 million, spurs innovation to enhance the sector's competitiveness and productivity. Through the Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program (AIMAP), DFO is helping Canada's aquaculture industry to develop and adopt management techniques and technologies that enhance its economic and environmental performance.

**Certification and Market Access:** Funded at \$10 million over five years, this pillar supports the aquaculture sector's ability to meet domestic market demands and rigorous international trade and marketing requirements. It focuses on the following activities:

- collecting and analyzing market, consumer and industry data to develop a Canadian approach to certification and market access that meets rigorous quality standards applied to international markets.
- increasing public, market and/or consumer awareness of the strength, value and environmental sustainability of Canada's aquaculture industry.

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