

ADA Update (Aquaculture Development Area)

- Data Collection is ongoing and there is a wave/wind buoy in Lobster bay as well as 4 sensors for temp, oxygen, and salinity. They will be there until late October
- Through CMAR funding, we have a student James Cunningham that has been gathering important information that will provide evidence to where the best sites for shellfish and marine plants will be. Most of the required data has been located and Alix has supplied several datasets that were otherwise unavailable: for example, lobster and kiack buoys, beaches, and boat shops.
- Alix and Charlene have completed the fieldwork necessary to determine primary productivity in 6 locations within our area of interest. This primary productivity is to determine how much shellfish a body of water can safely accommodate. Samples have gone to Dalhousie for analysis.
- We did a video to be released this week which shows suspended culture oyster farming. Soon we will have a facebook live explaining what an ADA means. This is part of the initial stakeholder engagement process.

The ADA project has now three committees.

- The Steering committee
- The Data committee
- The Stakeholder committee

Stakeholder committee members include:

- Municipality of the District of Argyle
- NSDFA – Nova Scotia Dept of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- CMAR – Centre for Marine Applied Research
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Jim Conrad, local fisherman
- Colton d'Eon, Aquaculture farmer

We will soon be starting targeted stakeholder engagement which will include some face to face meetings, correspondence, and dialogue. The level of engagement varies depending on the specific group.

We will be supporting CMAR's project of identifying ghost gear in Pubnico Harbour and Lobster Bay. Coastal Action has a project underway and in the next two years they will begin retrieving ghost gear. There will be 3 vessels doing retrieval in LFA 34 and are each permitted to conduct 10 retrieval days between Sept 1 to October 31.

Upcoming: checking the sensors, droning for Eel Grass beds in Sept when the sun is at a 40 degree angle (will be done annually), identifying derelict gear and underground cables, and the creation a package and survey to pinpoint areas residents use.

The tentative date for Cabinet submission is December 19th, 2020.