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Shellfish Aquaculture: Debris Strategy & Action Plan





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Issues


- 2010-2015 inspections: Over 50% of licenced sites in B.C. have derelict or unmaintained gear and infrastructure, as well as improperly wrapped or exposed Styrofoam.
- The industry's public perception and social license is quite low in some areas due to debris issues
- Need to improve relationships with local communities and help to protect the environment

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Challenges

- On-going efforts for educating licence holders on the current conditions of licence
- Language barriers
- Enforcement via prosecution takes considerable time and resources, ticketing ability in the consultation phase but currently not in place

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Action Plan

Education & Shared Stewardship- "Pillar 1"

- Shellfish Aquaculture Industry Advisory Panel (SAIAP)
- Debris Technical Working Group- focused on finding solutions and projects to combat the debris issue
- Projects already completed and more in development


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“Pillar I” activities- education, outreach and collaboration

i) Turn it in Week- September 11th-15th 2017

- Tracked letter sent out to all B.C. Shellfish Aq. licence holders- advising of Sec. 8, debris related Conditions of Licence
- Majority of active growing areas covered- bins supplied
- 65 Metric Tonnes of debris turned in by industry



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“Pillar I” activities- continued


ii) Big Beach Clean-up September 23rd-30th, 2017

- DFO, BCSGA, ADIMS (Denman Island), industry, community and government volunteers
- All of Baynes Sound and Denman Island shoreline covered
- Over 180 volunteers participated over the week









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Monitoring, Control and Surveillance "Pillar II"


- Targeted inspections for compliance with debris related Conditions of Licence- report card listing worst offenders to guide enforcement activity
- Identifying particularly non-compliant licence holders who have not reasonably responded to Pillar I- education, outreach, collaboration initiatives
- Pursuing increased compliance via a variety of enforcement and licencing tools

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Going Forward

- DFO and the public consider debris to be the most significant environmental risk and impact from the shellfish aquaculture sector in B.C.
- The Debris Strategy and action plan are fluid and open to comment
- Technical working group will continue to develop new initiatives
- New inspection and enforcement projects are being developed

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