

Title: Initial Formation & Early Development of an Aquaculture Standards Working Group, known as the Canadian Aquaculture Standards Forum (CASF)

Summary:

In 2008, DFO, through the AIMAP program, financially supported the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA) initiative to establish an Aquaculture Standards Working Group. The initiative was in response to the Canadian industry's need to gain a better understanding of the range of options and developments related to standards and certification, as well as the increasing market and social requirements to objectively demonstrate industry sustainability. The initiative is envisioned as being truly national in scope, character and objective, with positive international overtones and involvements associated with positioning of Canadian aquaculture standard and certification objectives and programs as world class. Furthermore, it is envisioned that the program will be designed to cover the interests of all aquaculture farmed species and growing regions. The overall objective during the short time-frame from November 2008 to March 2009 was to take initial steps toward establishing processes for the advancement of common understanding, dialogue, and capacity building related to standards, accreditation, and certification. Based on this preliminary program, CAIA is very encouraged that the CASF is meeting intended goals. Future CASF projects must continue to be aimed at creating a constructive and knowledgeable environment which facilitates standard and certification program development and addresses emerging opportunities for advancement for the Canadian aquaculture industry. Based on feedback and outcomes, especially direct industry feedback at the February 2009 workshop, multiple projects may be advisable related to standards and certification development and capacity building across key aquaculture sectors, e.g., salmon, mussels, oysters, freshwater, and marine species.

Project Lead: Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA)

Total Project cost: \$139,819

DFO-AIMAP Contribution: \$103,230

Other Financial Support:

- Industry

For more information, please contact the National Capital Region at info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca