



Pre-workshop Primer

Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management groups across Canada gathered in Kelowna, British Columbia for a national AAROM meeting. The Institute took advantage of this opportunity to distribute the Assessing Indigenous Technical Capacity to Participate in Marine Spatial Planning discussion paper, to share more information about upcoming workshops, and to answer any questions about the workshops.

What We Heard and Discussed

- One asked if the workshops would be different location by location as their group has member communities that could be involved in more than one marine area. **Answer:** Workshops will follow the same agenda, so groups only need to attend one per region.
- One asked about the flexibility of proposed dates as there are other workshops taking place that would involve the same technical personnel invited to the marine spatial planning workshops. **Answer:** Dates are subject to change and options will be discussed/planned to maximize participation.
- One asked if groups representing riparian communities would be invited. **Answer:** Yes.
- One asked how the workshops related to other Fisheries and Oceans Canada activities in which Indigenous groups and communities may be involved, such as emergency / spill response. **Answer:** These workshops are intended to ensure communities have the same access to resources to be involved in marine spatial planning activities across Canada. It's about aligning future activities over the long term to ensure national standards; it's not about preventing any previously established activities or initiatives.
- One asked if the experience of Nations that have been involved in marine spatial planning for more than a decade, including through marine use planning, would be integrated into these workshops. **Answer:** The workshops are an opportunity for experienced Nations to share best practices and knowledge. The technical capacity needs of experienced Nations are also important to understand, such as for succession planning.
- One asked whether the Institute or the Department was aware of the report prepared by Natural Resource Canada entitled, *Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure User Needs Assessment*, as Indigenous groups and communities were engaged in this process. **Answer:** The Institute were not aware of the report and will review it prior to the workshops to build on its findings. The Institute also invites all Indigenous groups and communities to let them know if there are any other previously completed studies or related initiatives which can be reviewed prior to the workshops.
- There was some discussion about which federal department was responsible for oceans management as there has been confusion about overlapping mandates and multiple departments operating programming in the marine environment with the introduction of the Oceans Protection Plan. It was requested that federal departments better coordinate Oceans Protection Plan initiatives in the future (both existing and new) and that clearer communications on these initiatives be made available.