

June 2015 – Report of the Auditor General

Chapter 3: Aquaculture Monitoring

Why we did this audit:

- Industry is a significant contributor to Nova Scotia's rural and coastal communities
- Potential environmental risks to coastal and inland water
- Government role to regulate and monitor to help ensure a strong and environmentally-safe industry

Overall Conclusions:

- Improvements needed in monitoring and managing risks related to aquaculture industry
- We made 9 recommendations
- Department agreed with all recommendations

What we found in our audit:

- No detailed, written guidelines for completing technical reviews of applications
- Documentation supporting application approvals not always complete
- The Department's IT systems do not provide management with an overall picture of the Aquaculture Division's work
- There were significant renewal application processing delays, averaging 372 days
- Limited enforcement options to require operators to meet environmental monitoring requirements
- No written procedures or guidance for staff doing environmental monitoring audits
- Department deals with fish health emergencies
- A disease outbreak could occur without the Department knowing because there is no provincial regulatory requirement for operators to report fish disease outbreaks



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