

BCSGA Summary of the Shellfish Aquaculture Conditions of License. The official Condition of License is available here: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

The following is a simplified plain language summary and should only be used as a quick reference of the [Shellfish Aquaculture Conditions of License](#) (CoL). If any uncertainty exists in the interpretation of any Conditions of the Shellfish Aquaculture License Contact DFO for clarification: shellfish.aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

It is the licence holder's responsibility to obtain all forms of authorization from other agencies (federal and provincial) that have jurisdiction over marine shellfish aquaculture facilities. The license holder is also responsible for understanding and complying with the Fisheries Act and all regulations under the Fisheries Act.

In addition to these conditions, it is also the licence holder's responsibility to be informed of, and comply with, the Fisheries Act and the regulations made there under.

A copy (electronic or paper) of the issued license must be kept at the licensed facility and when transporting shellfish.

Everyone carrying out activities authorized by the license must comply with the conditions of the license.

1. Facility Management Plans (Page 5 and Appendix 1-2):

- You must have a Shellfish Aquaculture Management Plan (Appendix 1).
- The management plan authorizes the gear and infrastructure allowed on the tenure. The authorization for your facility management plan must be the same for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Forests, and the Transport Canada Navigation Protection Program.
- Any changes to species, size of area, or non-standard equipment or infrastructure at the licensed area requires a Harmonized Pacific Shellfish Aquaculture Application.
- Changes to standard equipment or infrastructure (Appendix 2) require a notification to DFO by email at shellfish.aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca within 30 days of the changes.

BCSGA Summary of the Shellfish Aquaculture Conditions of License. The official Condition of License is available here: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

2. Facility Inspections (Page 5):

- Regularly inspect the infrastructure at your licensed area, minimum once per year.
- Clearly mark the corners of intertidal and subtidal leases (cannot be marked with ropes or lines).

3. Transfer of Fish (Page 5-6 and Appendix 3):

- Healthy non-adult shellfish (except Geoduck, Sea Cucumber, Sea Urchin, or Varnish Clams) can be transferred between licensed areas within the same transfer zone, but not between zones (The map is available in Appendix 3). Pacific oysters and Manilla clam transfers have exceptions.
- While transferring shellfish between licensed areas they cannot contact the surrounding ocean.

4. Access to Wild Fish (Page 6):

- You may collect and harvest any wild shellfish that your facility is licensed to farm.

5. Escape or Release (Page 6):

- Take all reasonable precautions to prevent the escape of cultured fish while in transport.

6. Incidental Catch (Page 6):

- Fish collected incidentally must be returned to the water in a way that minimizes harm.

7. Predator Control (Page 6-7):

- Inspect and maintain your predator exclusion equipment so that it does not trap or kill fish/marine mammals or harm important or sensitive habitat.
- Ensure that all netting has routine maintenance to minimize biofouling, ensure that it is secured tightly, and ensure that it is not floating or buried in sediments.

8. Marine Mammal Interactions (Page 7):

- When a sea lion is on your equipment you must install sea lion exclusion devices and keep them installed until the sea lions are gone (You cannot use noise generating deterrents).
- If you find a live or dead entangled marine mammal you must report it immediately and fill out the report in Appendix V of the CoL within 7 days.

BCSGA Summary of the Shellfish Aquaculture Conditions of License. The official Condition of License is available here: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

9. Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat (Page 7-8):

- You must minimize harm to important and sensitive habitat and contain all dangerous substances by being able to collect and contain a leak, spill or overflow.
- All inadequately contained foam floatation must be removed and disposed of.
- All floatation must be fully encased in a rigid, durable, and non-toxic shell.
- All used and stored equipment, structures, and gear must be secured so it won't be lost into the environment. You cannot allow any garbage into the marine environment. You must retrieve lost gear or debris swiftly.
- Rebar must be curved or bent on the exposed end, and not be affixed in hardening substance like concrete.
- Sea floor inspections (section 9.8, 9.9, and Appendix 6) are required annually as of April 1, 2022. License holders are required to retrieve any debris, record the inspection and retrieval/disposal of any debris as described in Appendix 6. These records must be available to fishery officers when requested.

10. Machinery Operations (Page 8):

- All machinery must be clean and no fuel or lubricants should enter the marine environment.
- All spills should be reported to the Canadian Coast Guard at 1-800-889-8852 or VHF Channel 16.

11. Gear and Equipment Identifications (Page 8-9, Appendix 7):

- Starting 1-April-2023 all aquaculture gear, such as trays, pouches, nets, buoys, floatation etc., must be clearly labeled with the License Holder Name and DFO Facility Reference Number or BC Land File Number.
- All nets, in use or stored on the facility, must be tagged once if less than 12 meters and twice if greater than 12 meters in length; only fisheries tags from an approved supplier may be used.

BCSGA Summary of the Shellfish Aquaculture Conditions of License. The official Condition of License is available here: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

12. Harvesting and Handling (Page 9):

- All containers holding shellfish that are leaving a licensed area destined for market sale must have a tag or label that indicates the License holder name, Species, Pacific Fishery Management Area, BC Land File Number or DFO Facility Reference Number, and the Date at which product leaves the facility.
- These tags must be legible, attached to each container, waterproof, and written in water resistant ink.

13. Measures to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (Page 10):

- You cannot cause invasive species to be introduced to new areas.
- This requires that shellfish and equipment are inspected for invasive species and any invasive species are destroyed.
- Subareas 20-6 and 20-7 have additional rules.

14. On-board Waste Containment:

- All vessels must have a toilet like receptacle with a tight-fitting lid that is secured, does not leak, is emptied at an approved sewage disposal system, and is cleaned after emptying.

15. Records (Page 10-11):

- You must keep daily records of any activities in which shellfish is moved on or off your licensed area; activities are categorized as importations, introductions, transfers, harvests, wet storage, and relay. With each entry you must record the activity, the activity date, the BC Land File Number, DFO Facility Reference Number, Pacific Fishery Management Area, type of containers, number of containers, source of shellfish (BC Landfile or DFO facility reference number), water classification at the source of the shellfish (Shelli Map), destination of shellfish (BC Landfile for non-harvests and for harvests) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Facility License Number of the processor it is going to. Additionally, within fourteen days, harvests must have information on the date product was accepted by the processor, the number of shellfish, and the units used (individuals, dozens, or kg). These units must match the AASR. All transfers leaving a licensed

BCSGA Summary of the Shellfish Aquaculture Conditions of License. The official Condition of License is available here: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

facility for another must be accompanied by records of the date, source, destination, species, and amount in current transit.

- These records must be available at the licensed area and if requested by a Fisheries Officer and submitted to DFO in an electronic sortable format within 24 hours of being requested.
- You must keep a log of facility inspections and maintenance of infrastructure (Point 2) and keep records of seafloor inspections (Point 9) that are available upon request at your licensed area. 15.3.D: “the nature of the activity (i.e. Activity Code (IP - Importation) (TS - Transfer) (H - Harvest for Market Sale) (W- Wet Storage) (R – Relay));”
- For additional details see this guidance document: ([BCSGA Record Keeping](#))
-

16. Annual Aquaculture Statistical Report (Page 12, Appendix 8):

- This report requires you to summarize all activities on your farm for the previous calendar year (1 January – 31 December). It is summarized in Appendix 8 of the Conditions of License. If you did not receive a copy of the AASR specific to your facility you can request it from DFO.PACAASR-RSAAPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.
- The report must be submitted before or on January 25th to the following email address: DFO.PACAASR-RSAAPAC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

17. Administrative Matters (Page 12):

- Unless otherwise specified all reports are to be submitted by email or mail to DFO.

Attn:

Aquaculture Resource Management

PBS Mailroom

3190 Hammond Bay Road

Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N7

Email: Shellfish.aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

BCSGA Summary of the Shellfish Aquaculture Conditions of License. The official Condition of License is available here: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

Additional Conditions for Licensed Bivalve Species (Page 13-14):

- All harvested bivalves must be sold to and received by a facility that is federally licensed for shellfish processing by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency before consumption.
- No aquaculture activities aside from harvesting is allowed for Varnish Clams.
- You cannot conduct shellfish aquaculture activities within 125 meters of any floating accommodations or Finfish Net Pens.
- Any seed transferred to a licensed area from a prohibited area must remain in the growing waters for at least 12 months before being harvested.

Additional Rules for Sea Urchins and Sea Cucumber Culture (page 14-15)

Additional Rules for Geoducks Culture (page 15-17)

Table of Appendices

Appendix 1	Page 18	Elements of a Shellfish Aquaculture Facility Management Plan
Appendix 2	Page 19	Standard Equipment or Infrastructure
Appendix 3	Page 20-21	Introductions and Transfers (Map of Shellfish Transfer Zones)
Appendix 4	Page 22	Sea Lion Exclusion Devices
Appendix 5	Page 23-24	Marine Mammal Incident Report Form
Appendix 6	Page 25	Seafloor Inspection and Clean-up Protocol
Appendix 7	Page 26	Equipment or Gear Identification
Appendix 8	Page 27-29	Annual Aquaculture Statistical Report (AASR)
Appendix 9	Page 30	Aquaculture Harvest Notification Form for Geoduck, Sea Urchin or Sea Cucumber