# The Indigenous Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences and Stewardship (ICAHSS)

*(Formerly BC CAHS)*

**Dr. Peter McKenzie Nov 2026**



# ICAHSS | Introduction



**Dr. Peter McKenzie BSc. DVM**
**CEO**

*New CEO but with 25 Years of history with CAHS*

## Background

- 25+ years as an Aquatic Veterinarian
- 5 years with CFIA to develop and implement the National Aquatic Animal Health Program
- 5 Years in aquatic pharmaceuticals as Senior VP of Regulatory, Product Develop, Quality Control, and Technical Support
- 8 years as a ICAHSS Board Member

# ICAHSS | About the Lab

## Background

- Based in Campbell River
- 25 + years as a Diagnostic and Research Laboratory
- Internationally Certified ( ISO Standards)
- Not-For-Profit
- Indigenous Lead Leadership
- Services are fee for service *(FN, aquaculture, gov, research, private sector…)*

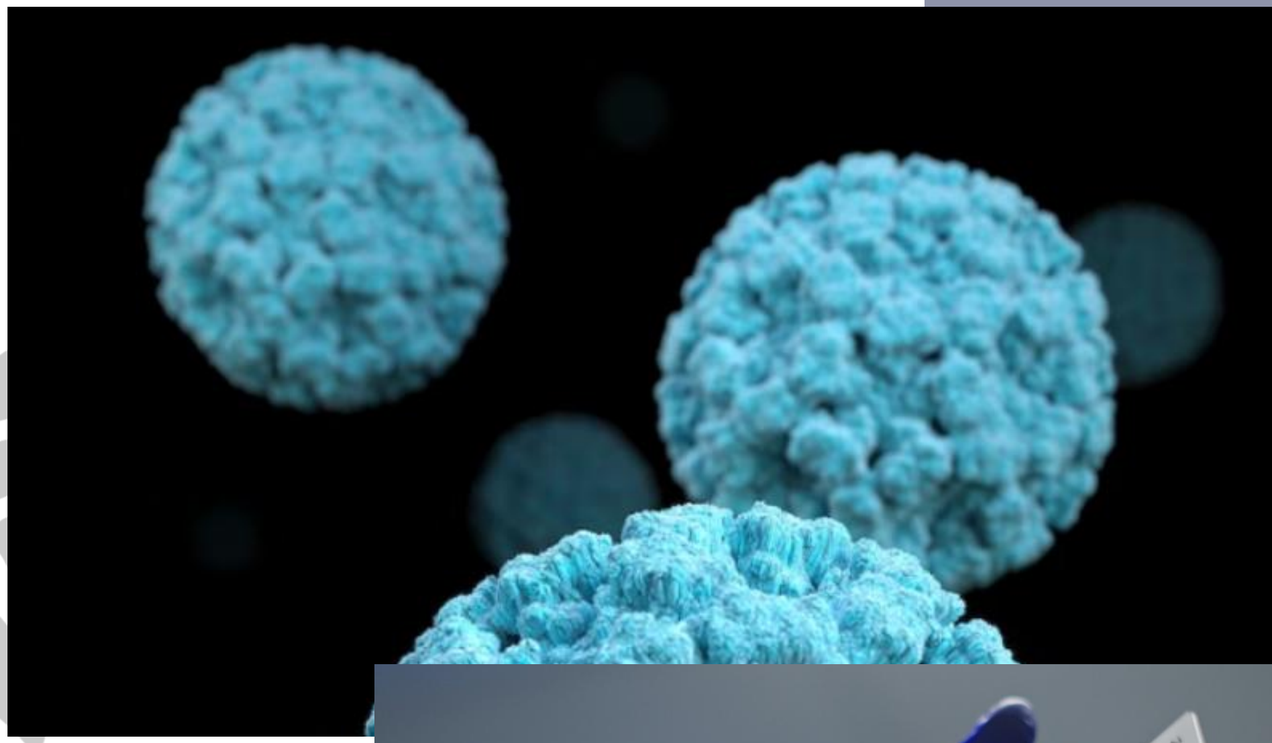
The Objective of ICAHSS has always been to create a local high quality laboratory facility to service the needs of the coastal fisheries, wild and farmed, and the communities.

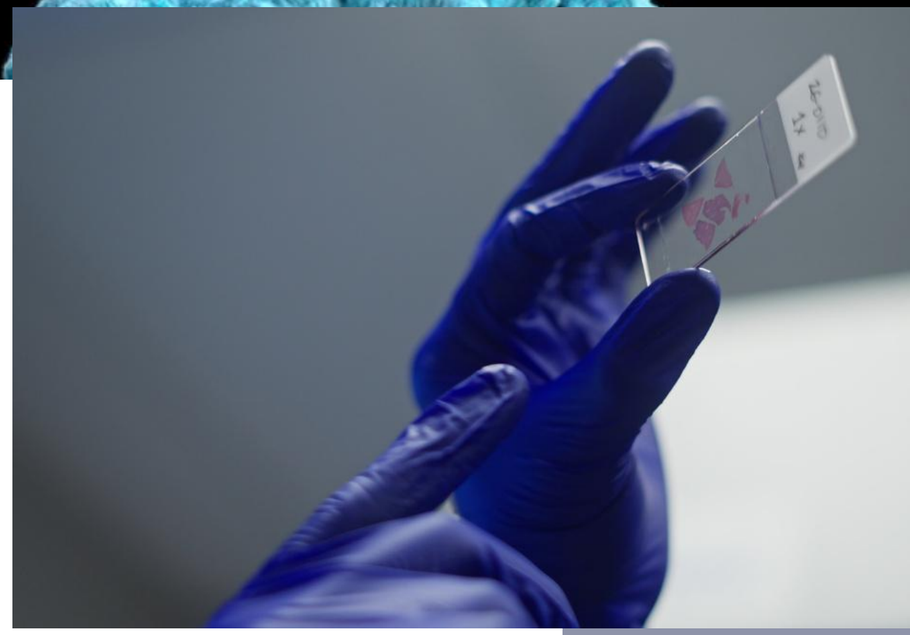




# Evolution of Services

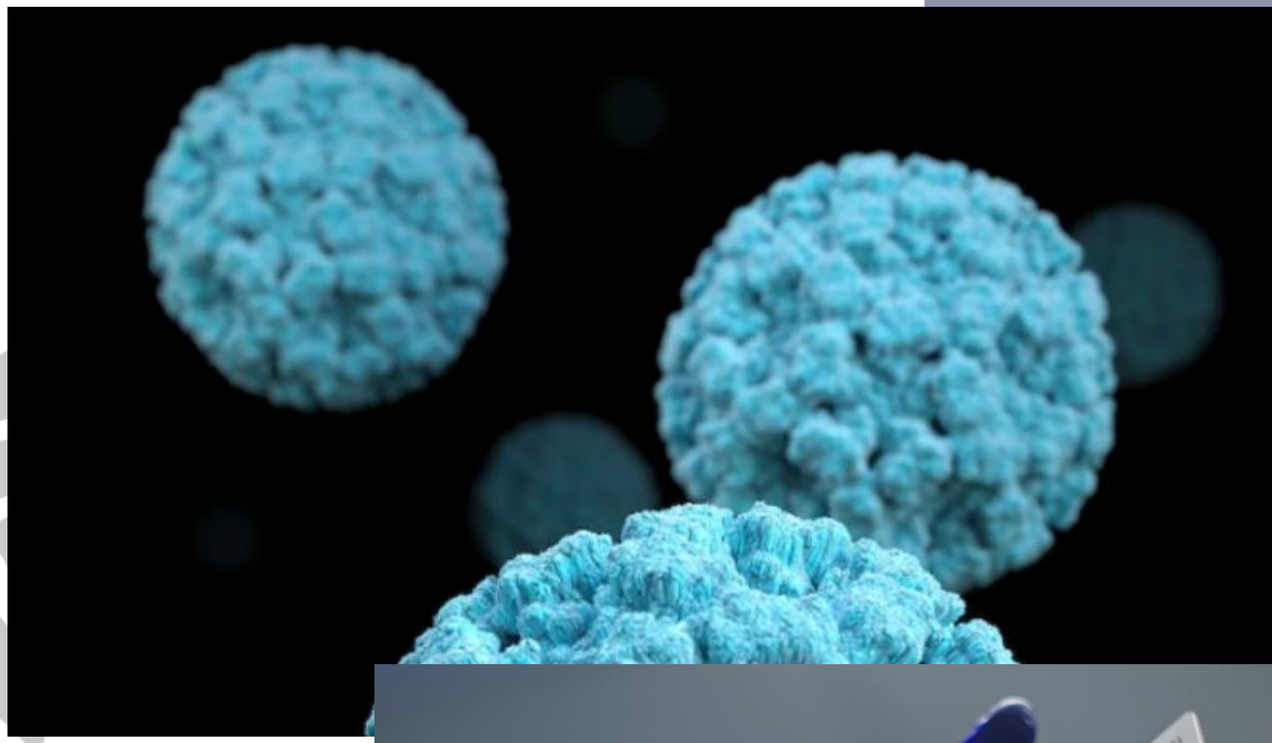
- qPCR
- Conventional PCR
- Bacterial/Viral Phylogenomic
- eDNA Metabarcoding
- Virology
- Bacteriology
- Blood Biochemistry
- Sequencing
- ELISA
- Histology
- Bioassays
- Water Quality Testing
- Food Safety Testing
- Research
- Project Management
- Epidemiology
- Fish Health Training

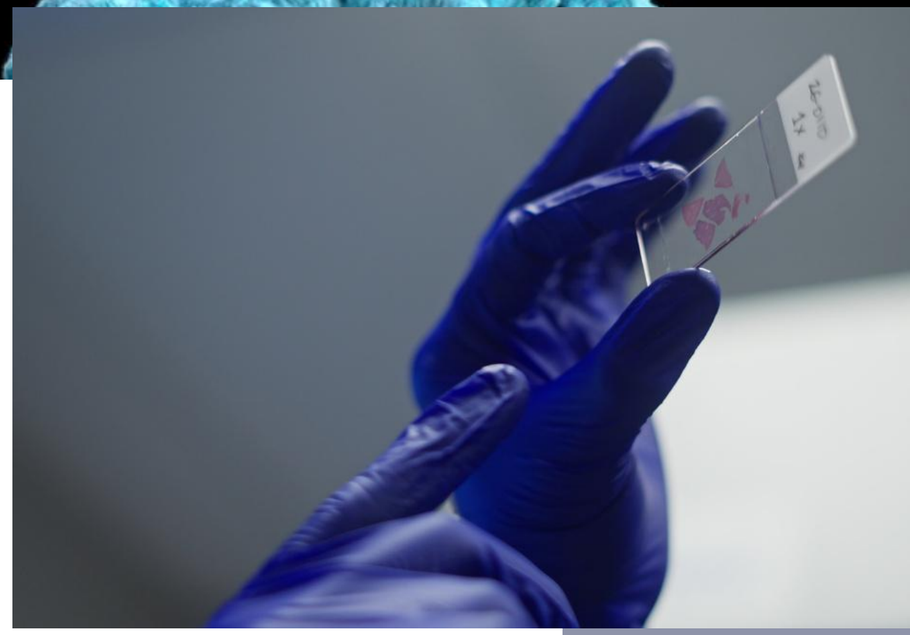




# Evolution of Services

- **qPCR**
- Conventional PCR
- Bacterial/Viral Phylogenomic
- **eDNA Metabarcoding**
- **Virology**
- Bacteriology
- Blood Biochemistry
- **Sequencing**
- **ELISA**
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- **Water Quality Testing**
- **Food Safety Testing**
- Research
- **Project Management**
- **Epidemiology**
- Fish Health Training





# Shellfish

Due to limited and dwindling lab capacity there is a critical need to increase local diagnostic capacity to support shellfish; food safety, FN Cultural harvest, regulatory, and surveillance needs.

ICAHSS has the expertise, local space, and is well position to build this capacity very quickly.  With ISO certification and previous CFIA lab Approvals (for export), ICAHSS is focused on being approved as a third-party lab to support CSSP and other shellfish needs.







## Status

- **Norovirus ( Non-reg):  Available now**
- **Histology:  Available Now**
- **Vibrio: Preparing for ISO Certification (Final Stages)**

## Expansion Plans

- Adding HPLC capacity to do all **CSSP testing** (underway)
- Discussion started with CFIA regarding Third Party Lab status.

# Building Capacity

- Experience navigating CFIA
- Existing CFIA Approvals
- Committed Board to expanding local Shellfish diagnostic capacity.
- Not for profit.
- No academic or administrative fees creating unnecessary cost.
- Long history of working with industry and addressing production needs.

**We want to hear what BC Shellfish Growers need from ICAHSS!**





# Thank You.

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