

## **Open-net Pen Transition Plan – Phase 3 Consultation**

### **July 2023**

The purpose of this document is to provide partners and interested stakeholders with information on the next phase of the open-net pen transition consultation. Phase 3 will run to the end of September 2023. Phase 4 will follow and will involve further targeted engagement.

In 2019 and 2021, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard was mandated to work with the Province of British Columbia (B.C.) and Indigenous communities on a responsible plan to transition from open net-pen salmon farming in coastal B.C. waters by 2025.

In June 2022, the Department released a [Discussion Framework](#) to guide engagement on the development of an Open-Net Pen Transition Plan. The Discussion Framework proposed four main objectives for the Transition Plan: transition from open-net pen aquaculture; trust and transparency; reconciliation and Indigenous partnerships, and growth in B.C. sustainable aquaculture innovation.

During the engagement process, partners and stakeholders shared a variety of views about these objectives. These views are summarized in the [What We Heard Report](#) for phases 1 and 2 of the engagement process. In Phase 3, all participants have the opportunity to reflect on the full scope of what was heard and provide their own perspectives on the points raised.

Participants supported the development of a responsible plan to transition from open-net pen salmon farming in coastal B.C. but with significant variation on what a responsible plan would look like. There was a significant range of perspectives in the objective focused on the transition from open-net pen salmon aquaculture. Input on the rest of the objectives, while less varied, was always based on participant's perspectives on how they viewed the fundamentals of transition. Some participants advocated for the immediate removal of marine salmon aquaculture, while some supported a performance and outcomes-based transition focused on the goal of minimizing or eliminating interactions between wild and cultured fish. Some expressed preference for a rapid transition focused on specific technologies, while other input targeted results.

It is important to better understand the specifics of options that have been put forward by participants in the consultations, as well as the impacts of those options and how they might be mitigated.

The following questions are intended to probe on these issues.

1) Through consultations, some participants recommended an approach to remove open net pens in the near term (e.g. by 2025):

- How would you see that being implemented?
- What specific factors would need to be considered to advance such an option?
- Over what time horizon would you see such an option implemented — i.e. completed by what date? Are there phases or milestones that should be included?
- What would be the potential impacts of a requirement in to remove open net pens in the near terms, for communities, for businesses, for wild salmon, etc?
- For First Nation communities, what are your community's perspectives on this option? How should the Government continue to pursue reconciliation with your community and your broader socioeconomic, financial, cultural and other needs and interests?

- What kinds of alternative economic activities and business development could support employment in communities affected by such an option? What kind of economic transition measures and specific supports could be used to mitigate impacts of this option?

2) Other participants in consultations recommended that a transition focus an approach that mandates more stringent performance outcomes to progressively minimize or eliminate interactions with wild salmon over time.

- How would such an approach be implemented?
- What specific factors need to be considered to advance such an option?
- Over what time horizon would you expect interactions between fish farms and wild salmon to be eliminated? Are there phases or milestones that should be included?
- What would be the potential impacts of such an option, for communities, for businesses, for wild Pacific salmon, etc.?
- For First Nation communities, what are your community's perspectives on this option? How should the Government continue to pursue reconciliation with your community and your broader socioeconomic, financial, cultural and other needs and interests?
- What kinds of alternative economic activities and business development could support employment in communities affected by such an option? What kind of specific economic measures and supports could be used to mitigate impacts of this option?

3) Are there hybrid options that combine elements of the two different approaches outlined in questions 1) and 2)?

- How would such an approach be implemented?
- What specific factors need to be considered to advance such an option?
- Over what time horizon would you see such an option implemented? Are there phases or milestones that should be included?
- What would be the potential impacts of such an option, for communities, for businesses, for wild Pacific salmon, etc.?
- For First Nation communities, what are your community's perspectives on this kind of option? How should the Government continue to pursue reconciliation with your community and your broader socioeconomic, financial, cultural and other needs and interests?
- What kinds of alternative economic activities and business development could support employment in communities affected by such an option? What kind of specific economic measures and supports could be used to mitigate impacts of this option?

4) What is the role of other jurisdictions in facilitating a transition away from open net pens (e.g. municipal, regional, Provincial)?