

ADA Updates via Municipality of Argyle Facebook Page

May 31 at 4:31 PM

During the last few weeks, we have received comments and met with many residents about the Aquaculture Development Area (ADA). We understand that there are concerns and we are committed to ensuring that the community is appropriately engaged and that all feedback is forwarded to the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA).

Aquaculture is an important source of sustainable and healthy food. It contributes to our economic growth, generating about \$158 million in revenue here in Nova Scotia. The waters of the municipality offer many opportunities for this industry. The ADA pilot project in Argyle is a new and innovative approach to sustainable marine aquaculture in Nova Scotia. This pilot project has pre-assessed ADA areas for shellfish (e.g., oysters and mussels) and marine plant (e.g., kelp) aquaculture to facilitate growth in the industry while ensuring other marine users are minimally impacted. While this pre-assessment work has already been completed, those interested in a lease need to go through a call for proposal and an application process managed by the NSDFA that includes various checks, consultations with government bodies and a public comment period.

For more details on the ADA, please visit the NSDFA webpage:


<https://novascotia.ca/argyle-aquaculture-development-area/>

Follow this page for more details on this project and how you can provide further feedback.



SHELLFISH & MARINE PLANT AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AREA

This pilot project is a new and innovative approach to sustainable marine aquaculture in Nova Scotia that will provide opportunities for diversification of our local economy.



**WE HEARD FROM YOU AND
WE ARE COMMITTED TO MORE
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT!**

June 3 at 8:36 AM

The Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) in Argyle represents 53 areas that were identified as possibly being suitable for shellfish and marine plant aquaculture.

The Municipality of Argyle was responsible for local engagement on the pilot project, while the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) worked with various Provincial and Federal Departments and First Nations. Municipal engagements focused on local users of the ocean (e.g., lobster fishers) while the NSDFA tackled topics such as navigation and ecological factors like eel grass, wetlands and birds. This pre-assessment process was undertaken over 4 years.

The Municipality reached out to people through direct engagement with marine users, as well as outreach to all residents through publications, radio, news outlets, pop-up sessions, presentations, social media and public open houses.

The Municipality's work on this is described in the report at the following link:

<https://www.aquacultureargyle.com/report>

While there have been assessments completed on the 53 areas within the ADA, only 6 are currently open for application. These pre-assessed areas are not aquaculture leases, they represent areas where someone interested in farming shellfish or marine plants can apply for a site.

For more details on the ADA, please visit the NSDFA webpage:

<https://novascotia.ca/argyle-aquaculture-development-area/>

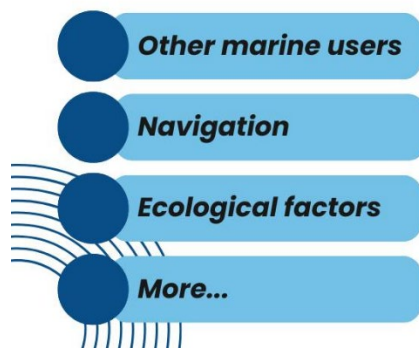
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SHELLFISH & MARINE PLANT AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AREA

This pilot project represents 53 pre-assessed areas where farmers can apply to grow shellfish and marine plants.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA INCLUDE:



June 7 at 7:20 PM

We appreciate our community’s questions and have been working with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to get more information for you. If there are questions about aquaculture and the Argyle Aquaculture Development Area (ADA), the department has let us know they welcome you to reach out to them at aquaculture@novascotia.ca.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture’s 6 ADA areas that are currently open for applications from industry are listed and described on the infographic. To learn more about these 6 areas, follow the link below, then click on “Aquaculture Sites in Nova Scotia,” then on “Designated Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) Sites.”

<https://novascotia.ca/fish/aquaculture/public-information/>

The provincial government has indicated they will not move forward with any further calls for lease applications until feedback on any completed applications for the initial 6 pilot areas is received and reviewed.

If the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture receive a completed application, that application will be posted online and the province will invite public comment. In the applications, the person applying will need to share what a farm on the site could look like and the public will then be invited to provide comments related to the 8 regulated factors considered by government when approving a lease. Factors like the contribution of the operation to the community and provincial economic development, and other users of the public waters. This would all be done before a decision is made.

Community members can provide their feedback to the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture online via the website, by email (aquaculture@novascotia.ca) or by written letter during the 30-day period, which will start when an application is received by the department and posted online.

Continue to follow this page for more details on this project and how you can provide further feedback.

SHELLFISH & MARINE PLANT AQUACULTURE AVAILABLE SITES
ANNOUNCED BY THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

ADA ID #	Site Name	Area (Hectares)	Location Description
ADA ID # 8007	TUSKET RIVER	24.0 HECTARES	West of Mikes Island, between that location and Chemin de l'Est, Wedgeport
ADA ID # 8010	INDIAN SLUICE BAY	89.2 HECTARES	Between Surettes Island and Mikes Island
ADA ID # 8012	SALT BAY	24.4 HECTARES	In Salt Bay, between Rocco Point (Gunning Island) and Eel Brook
ADA ID # 8023	LOBSTER BAY	7.1 HECTARES	Between Board Islands and Bonds Island
ADA ID # 8038	PUBNICO HARBOUR	23.2 HECTARES	Between Middle West and Middle East Pubnico
ADA ID # 8046	ARGYLE SOUND	6.0 HECTARES	In Argyle Sound, northeast of Frost Island

June 12 at 5:21 PM

We understand and appreciate there are concerns about the engagement process for the Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) despite extensive efforts to involve, consult, engage, and inform residents and other interested parties throughout the project's development. Between January 2020 and January 2023, we conducted dozens of meetings with local fishermen, aquaculture industry representatives, and environmental groups to ensure diverse perspectives were considered. Detailed information sessions were conducted to explain the criteria and process for selecting the 53 potential sites, and all relevant feedback received was forwarded to the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Forms of engagement included:

- Fisher and Farmer One-on-Ones
- Publications
- Media
- Pop-up sessions
- Public Open House
- Formal Presentations
- Stakeholder Committee
- Direct Emails
- Website
- Chance Conversations

The ADA project includes provisions for continuous public engagement, ensuring that residents can express their views and concerns throughout the project's implementation.

We remain committed to transparent communication and ongoing community involvement as we move forward with the ADA project.

We've outlined all details pertaining to our engagement activity in our Stakeholder Engagement Report (<https://www.aquacultureargyle.com/report>) and encourage those who have questions or concerns to contact their Councillor or reach out to the province directly at the following email address: aquaculture@novascotia.ca

For more details on the ADA, please visit the NSDFA webpage: <https://novascotia.ca/argyle-aquaculture-development-area/>



Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) Stakeholder Engagement Report



Why create the report?

We prepared the report to summarize input received following a comprehensive community engagement process that occurred between January 2020 and January 2023.



From the beginning

In the interest of economic growth for the municipality, MoDA Council identified further development of the aquaculture industry as a priority in 2015. We heard from hundreds of people at one-on-ones, pop-ups, open houses, online, by email and in everyday conversations.

Forms of engagement included



FISHER AND FARMER ONE-ON-ONES



WEBSITE



CHANCE CONVERSATIONS



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



POP UPS



MEDIA



DIRECT EMAILS



FORMAL PRESENTATIONS



STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

WHAT WE HEARD



We encourage those who have ongoing questions or concerns to contact their Councillor or reach out to the province directly at the following email address: aquaculture@novascotia.ca



[READ FULL REPORT](#)

