

Oyster Farm Development Program (OFDP)

Program Guidelines

**Regional Development Corporation
January 2019**

Oyster Farm Development Program Guidelines

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Oyster Farm Development Program (OFDP) is to provide an incentive for commercial oyster aquaculture operations in the province of New Brunswick to increase efficiency and sustainability, improve quality, and expand production through the adoption of suspended oyster culture technology and techniques to produce cultivated oysters on their leases. The Program will support aquaculture in New Brunswick by supporting the implementation of the *2017-2021 Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy*.

The OFDP is funded by the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF) and administered by the Regional Development Corporation (RDC).

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE

- The program could provide up to 25% of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$100,000 per eligible projects per year without exceeding \$300,000 per eligible recipients for the life of the program. The program will end March 31st, 2021.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Eligible Activity:**
 - Adoption of suspended oyster (*crassostrea virginica*) culture technology, or equipment to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the sector in New Brunswick.
- **Eligible Applicants:**
 - Commercial oyster producer, including First Nations which hold and is in compliance with all the necessary permits, leases and licenses to operate suspended oyster aquaculture.
 - Commercial Oyster producer:
 - Incorporated entities;
 - Co-operatives;
 - Partnerships;
 - Sole proprietorship; and
 - Indigenous organizations.
 - All eligible applicants must be registered and in good standing with the Province of New Brunswick Corporate Affairs Registry; have the required authority to enter into an agreement with RDC and must not owe any outstanding amounts to the Province of New Brunswick.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Eligible costs that contribute towards a clearly identified eligible activity.
- Equipment must be incremental to existing equipment (not replacing equipment).
- Equipment, related accessories, and materials dedicated for the eligible activity. Cost must be reasonable and based on size and scope of the proposed project.

Eligible Expenditures normally includes but not limited to:

- **Production equipment:**
 - Grow out equipment;
 - seed collection equipment;
 - nursery equipment;
 - sorting equipment;
 - harvesting equipment including equipment to handle and/or flip cages on the lease site;

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- holding equipment and equipment to transport the cages to sorting facility on land (excluding motorized wheeled vehicle);
- equipment to control predators, invasive species, or biofouling;
- modification to existing equipment leading to improved efficiency;
- on-water handling equipment and platforms;
- boats and related outboard motors may also be considered.
- **Oyster Seeds:**
 - Oyster seed stock (*crassostrea virginica*) with proper licenses and permits required by the authority having jurisdiction, and
 - Maximum of 25% or \$8/1000 with accompanied receipts and proof of payment.
- **Farm Management Tools:**
 - Sensors, e.g., salinity, turbidity, temperature, sonar, wind;
 - lab equipment for bac testing; and
 - software for Traceability/Inventory Management systems.

NON-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Equipment, related accessories and materials not fully dedicated for the eligible activity stated above or for which the cost is considered unreasonable (by RDC) based on the size and scope of the proposed project.

Non-eligible expenditures normally includes but not limited to:

- Motorized wheeled vehicle (including recreational vehicles such as ATVs, lifts, trucks, snowmobiles, etc.);
- utility trailers;
- operating expenses (salaries, wages, consumables and others);
- general office supplies and furniture;
- used equipment;
- real estate, land and buildings;
- taxes paid on items receiving support from this program;
- all expenditures applied towards a non-eligible activity; and
- all expenditures considered non-reasonable or commensurate with proposed project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Complete application addressed to the Regional Development Corporation President signed by the applicant must be submitted to the RDC.
 - The New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (NB-DAAF) may provide assistance to the applicant to insure completeness of the application.
 - The complete application must include the following:
 - Business plan including the financial projections for 2-3 years;
 - historical financial statements for the past two years or more;
 - copies of relevant leases and licenses for the commercial aquaculture site identified in the business plan; and
 - any other document considered relevant for assessing the application, as may be required.

For more information please contact a Business growth officer at the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries at (506) 453-2666 or the Regional Development Corporation at (506) 453-2277.