



Advancing the Sustainable Growth and Prosperity of Quality Farmed Seafood Production

## Aquaculture Technology Adoption Program Application Guidelines

### Purpose

The purpose of Aquaculture Technology Adoption Program (A-TAP) is to enable PEI aquaculture businesses to increase product quality, overall productivity and/or sustainability through the adoption of technology which will increase mechanisation and automation, and so reduce the impact of the labour shortages.

### Assistance Provided

The A-TAP may provide successful applicants with a one-time financial contribution in form of a non-repayable contribution up to 70% of eligible expenditures, up to a maximum of \$69,999 for the acquisition of new equipment. **For import purchases** expenses such as shipping, staff training, document translation and necessary system adaptation (i.e., electrical conversions) are eligible for inclusion. The minimum project contribution is \$10,000.

Growers operating on sublet lease acreage must provide a **notarized, legal sublet agreement**, valid for at least the duration of the current lease approval, to be eligible for funding under this portion of the program.

Applications must properly describe how the proposed equipment purchases will help the business to increase product quality, overall productivity and/or sustainability. Eligible activities must be new (not replacing existing equipment) and implemented or adopted in PEI. They should also reflect the **industry sector priorities detailed below**.

### Industry Priorities

**Mussel** - Invasive Species Mitigation

**Oyster** - Static and mobile work platforms / Grading systems / Counting and weighing systems

### Finfish

- Automated feeding systems
- Grading systems
- Fish & egg counters
- Water quality and fish movement monitoring systems
- Electronic data capture systems

### **The following are not eligible for funding:**

- Real Estate, including buildings,
- Boats, Vehicles, and Trailers,
- Outboard Motors,
- Security systems,
- Cages, Bags, Socks, Rope, etc.
- Seed Collectors,
- Buoys,
- Used Equipment,
- Seed Stocks,
- Consumables,
- Processing Equipment,
- Salaries and Wages.

### **Eligibility**

An eligible applicant is any individual (Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident), company, partnerships, and sole proprietorships (registered in PEI), involved in aquaculture production in Prince Edward Island. Applicants must hold all necessary permits, licenses or lease contracts, and must also be a signatory to the Aquaculture Environmental Code of Practice (AECOP). Other authorizations may be required depending upon the nature of the project.

No applications will be accepted from any business not in good standing with DFO or the Province of Prince Edward Island (e.g. not in compliance with all the terms of the lease contract or previous funding agreements) which includes but is not limited to having lease(s) marked properly, arrears in payment of lease fees, and/or submission of Annual Lease Reports.

The intent of the Program is to ensure funds are directed to separate business entities and that each business entity receives no more than the maximum allowable funding under the ATAP. Situations where business ownership is unclear may require further review after the completed application is received. To determine an applicant's eligibility, as a single business entity, for funding under the ATAP, the PEIAA reserves the right to request additional information from an applicant.

**Providing false information to the program will result in the immediate rejection of the application and ineligibility for the life of the program.**

### **Application Guidelines**

1. The application must be submitted in accordance with a prescribed form, with any required supporting documentation. The proposal must show enough detail to allow satisfactory assessment by the Program Management Committee.
2. Applications are not considered received until they are complete, as assessed by the Program Officer.
3. Applications must properly describe how the proposed equipment purchases will help the business to increase product quality, overall productivity and/or sustainability.
4. The applicant must agree to allow access to the operation by a representative of the PEI Aquaculture Alliance for the purpose of monitoring the progress of the project.
5. Any assets purchased prior to the date of the receipt of the **completed** application will not be eligible for assistance. Purchases following the date of receipt and prior to the possible approval of the project are at the applicant's own risk.

6. If the proposal meets the satisfaction of the Program Management Committee, a notification of approval will be sent to the applicant. The Management Committee reserves the right to limit financial assistance.
7. A Project Contract will be sent with the approval outlining terms and conditions of the assistance. The applicant will have 14 days to accept the contract in writing or the contract will be rescinded.
8. The project must be carried out and completed within 12 months of the contract being signed or prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
9. The applicant must submit paid original invoices and acceptable verification of payment (such as copies of cleared cheques).
10. Cash payments in excess of \$500 will require verification of payment. A payment verification form will be provided and must be signed by both the vendor and the program applicant.
11. Taxes paid on items assisted under this Program are not eligible for assistance.
12. In any matter of difference between the Program Management Committee and the applicant through the life of the project, the Program Management Committee's decision will be final.
13. The Program expires September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and no applications or claims for funding will be accepted after that date.
14. If there are more applications than funding can provide for over the life of the program completed applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and the level of contribution may vary.
15. Previous projects with the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF), Oyster Infrastructure and Training (OIT) Program, and / or other third-party programs funded under the AFF, will be considered in the review of this application.

The A-TAP is funded by the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF) and administered by the PEI Aquaculture Alliance.