

# Assessing Suitability for Low-Impact, Sustainable Aquaculture Development in Nova Scotia



## Background

The Government is developing an online platform to map and rate (classify) coastal waters based on suitability for low-impact, sustainable aquaculture development. Various types of aquaculture will be included. Suitability ratings (or classifications) will be based on information relating to health requirements, environmental protection and conservation efforts, and consideration of other ocean users.

## Objectives

- Create an easily accessible platform that will contain information associated with aquaculture development and management.
- Complete broad (high-level) assessments that will explore suitability of Nova Scotia's coastal waters for various types of aquaculture development.
- Identify general issues and help guide further research and data collection needed to support industry development.

## Outcomes

- A more efficient method to review high-level environmental information is created.
- Potential areas for future development or targeted assessments are identified.
- Communities, industry, and other interested parties are engaged early in the planning process.
- Increased public knowledge and awareness of the type of information included in planning, licensing, and leasing processes.
- Environmental protection and conservation efforts continue to be a priority.

## Scientific Support

The Centre for Marine Applied Research (CMAR) is providing scientific support for the project. CMAR is an independent division of Perennia Food and Aquaculture Corporation, which is a provincial Crown corporation.

## Key Deliverables

The platform will include a mapping tool that allows users to view suitability maps that rate (or classify) coastal waters for various types of aquaculture development. Users will also be able to view map layers for the information included in the assessments (e.g., water temperature layer, water depth layer, etc.).

Fact sheets, discussion papers, and summary papers will be published on the project's engagement website to keep people informed. These documents will provide information on the type of information being collected and how the classifications were determined.

## Timeline

**SUMMER 2024:** Begin public engagement, including an online survey, to collect feedback as the system is developed.

**SPRING 2025:** Launch CCS online platform.

## Updates and Contact Information:

<https://novascotia.ca/coastal-classification-system-engagement/>

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