

APPLICATION PROCESS



With today's growing demand for salmon and high standards for salmon farming, B.C. salmon farmers see a great opportunity for careful growth of the sector in the province. Any growth, however, requires a significant process that includes the review of multiple regulatory bodies and opportunity for the public to provide comment. For clarification, the BCSFA is sharing the below summary of the application process so British Columbians can understand the steps taken to ensure each submission receives appropriate review.

Summary of Application Process

Applications can be submitted for a variety of reasons ranging from new site proposals, to amendments of existing operations (ie – different cage configuration, changes to production levels, corrections of clerical or administrative errors).

When an application is submitted to the province, it goes through two initial vetting processes to make sure it doesn't overlap with other tenures and coincides with land planning processes/zoning that is in place.

If it passes that process the provincial regulators then posts the application to their website and invites public comment.

When posted, it triggers an applicant-driven process that requires two additional public comment opportunities - one is advertising notifying of the application and eliciting comment and the other is a public open house.

The province then sends out to their list of referral agencies. One of those is the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada who reviews with their experts. DFO will also lead the First Nations consultations.

This process may take months, and application processes can take years. If at any time something comes up that requires further review the entire process is put on hold until that is complete.

Over and Above

In addition to the above work, many applications include additional outreach. For example, some companies post information to their own websites, allowing access for review during the entire application period.

More questions? Contact us at the BC Salmon Farmers Association and we'd be happy to help answer them.