



AAROM Capacity Assessment Tool Background, Approach & FAQ

BACKGROUND

Renewed AAROM program

The renewed AAROM program supports a core AAROM platform while providing access to strategic funding through the AAROM Fund, access to AAROM networking activities, and enabling greater access to other sources of funding (see Figure 1). Moving forward, it will be essential to develop a definition of capacity, as well as capacity assessment and development models and tools to inform both DFO and AAROM departments on the progress and functionality of the new strategic direction.

Indigenous Program Review

As noted in the IPR Phase One report, the AAROM program has helped fund and build a network of Indigenous-led technical organizations that provide “in-the-field” expertise and organizational capacity that can deliver a variety of services in the aquatic and resource sector and increasingly this platform is being accessed by other federal programs and departments to deliver on their core mandates. Therefore, the IPR provided key recommendations surrounding the development of capacity, which are:

- Reflect Indigenous definitions of success in the desired outcomes of the program.
- Recognize that Indigenous groups and communities are best placed to deliver technical services.
- Align performance metrics to Indigenous definitions of success.
- Ensure program structure meets preferences, needs and aspirations of all groups.

DFO 2018-19 Evaluation of AAROM & IPR

In 2018-19, DFO Evaluations performed a mandated five year review of the AAROM program. They coordinated their work with the ongoing IPR, including attending some working sessions held with DFO sectors, and developed an evaluation which complimented and did not replicate the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute’s work. Based on interviews with AAROM program participants and DFO AAROM program managers, they recommended that “*the Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, was to define capacity building for AAROM and develop tools to measure capacity building to demonstrate the progression of recipient’s capacity over time.*” Indigenous programs responded with a Management Action Plan (MAP) that outlines a step-wise and multi-year process to develop models and tools for defining and assessing capacity and program success in collaboration with Indigenous program participants and experts.

Approach

Indigenous programs, working with Indigenous program participants and experts, will undergo a year long process to co-develop capacity assessment and development models and tools for the AAROM

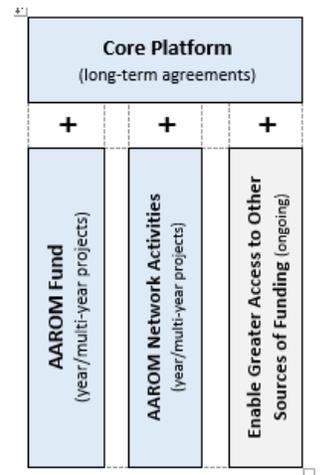


Figure 1 Renewed AAROM program structure.



program. Given the stepwise and multi-year approach already taken to review and renew the AAROM program this approach will be implemented incrementally.

In November 2019, at the National AAROM meeting, an initial discussion and a scoping exercise will take place to help gain a better understanding of what basic elements can help define and assess AAROM capacity, and help layout a path forward to continue co-development over the next year. In winter 2020, Indigenous programs is planning to launch co-development activities and/or working groups to begin developing definitions, tools and implementation plans and engage AAROM departments and DFO sectors and federal Departments as required.

At the third annual National AAROM meeting, in 2020-21 fiscal year (FY), a capacity assessment and development models and tools will be presented for further feedback and outline next steps for initial implementation beginning in 2021-22 FY.

FAQ

Why is Indigenous Programs developing a capacity assessment tools and models?

DFO Evaluations found that there is currently no common understanding of capacity building for the AAROM program among recipients and program staff. Moreover, the availability of high quality and reliable data is needed to ensure that the AAROM program can measure the advancement of the capacity of recipients. The current recipient capacity assessment tool reflects the administrative abilities of recipients but, does not measure the technical capacity nor if results have been achieved.

Will the capacity assessment tool be used to increase or decrease the amount of funding our AAROM department receives?

There will be no changes to funding levels in AAROM departments contribution agreements as a result of the capacity assessment tool. Rather, the capacity assessment tool can be used to identify areas that need specific funding to help increase an AAROM departments capacity in a specific area, such as increasing capacity to access procurement opportunities.

What is the timeline to develop and implement an AAROM capacity assessment model and tools?

The capacity assessment models and tools will be developed over a two fiscal years. DFO will report back annually to the National AAROM meeting for further feedback and develop ongoing co-development processes. The initial AAROM capacity assessment and development model and tools will be finalized by the end of the 2020-21 FY with implementation occurring in 2021-22 FY.

