AAROM Fund Design

National AAROM Meeting
November 21, 2019

AAROM - PAGRAO
Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program
Programme autochtone de gestion des ressources aquatiques et océaniques

Canada

Objectives

- Continue the discussion on the AAROM Fund design and delivery

- Overview of AAROM Fund and Next Steps

- Seek input on the design of:
  - Annual funding priorities for 2020-21 (e.g., activity "streams")
  - Criteria for assessing proposals
  - Development of the Application Review Committee

- Promote discussion among AAROM departments about opportunities for collaboration

What we've heard so far

- During and after the first AAROM National Meeting, the response to the AAROM Fund has been diverse – excitement mixed with concern

- Key issues raised include:
  - A proposal driven process could foster competition rather than collaboration among AAROM departments
  - Some AAROM departments may be at a disadvantage, based on size, capacity and/or location, creating "winners and losers"
  - Will increase proposal writing workload without a guarantee of success, and if successful, will face an increase in reporting burden
  - Since plenty of funding programs are now available, need to focus on AAROM-specific capacity development, AAROM collaboration, and partnership development, including leveraging funds
  - Increase co-design, co-develop and co-delivery approach

- All important factors to consider, today and going forward, regarding the design and implementation of the AAROM Fund

Overview of AAROM Fund & Next Steps

- Annual Budget of $2.5M (regular turnover of funding/projects)

- Application/proposal-based process for single or multi-year projects/activities (2-3 years)

- National process, guidelines and criteria (i.e., transparent, predictable, equitable)

- Spectrum of activities supported (addressing different capacity levels – not just high capacity)

- Annual priority setting process during the AAROM National Meeting (what we are doing today)

- Joint application review committee with Indigenous experts

- Inaugural Request for Proposals (RFP) in January 2020 for projects starting in 2020-21

General Considerations

- What project activities would be unique to the AAROM program (i.e., not backfilling for other programs)?

- How can the AAROM fund serve as a catalyst to support ongoing capacity development for individual AAROM departments and across the network?

- How can it address immediate needs/problems, create tools and solutions, develop partnerships, and unlock other sources of funding?

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Activity Streams - Potential

Taking a thematic, priority-based approach that can evolve over time and be reviewed each year at this meeting. Some possible examples include:

Stream	Example Activity	Possible Support	Outcomes
Tools & Solutions	Indigenous Knowledge Data Management Tools	• IT infrastructure • Database software • Training	Increased capacity to collect, manage, and utilize IK at the AAROM level
Watershed Projects	Develop 10-year Watershed Plan	• Short-term field work or data analysis (fill gaps) • Development of plan • Engagement	Plan for setting priorities, communicating with communities and partners, and unlocking access to other funders and partners
Core Capacity	Succession Planning for Senior Staff	• Development of Succession Strategy • Transitional funding (e.g., double salaries)	Timely and smooth transition in leadership
	Increase RFP & Contracting Capacity	• RFP development training • Mentoring	Increased number of projects or contracts awarded