AAROM Renewal: Overview of Program Elements

National AAROM Meeting
February 5, 2019

Canada

Budget 2017

DFO received additional AAROM program funding for:

- Enhancements of existing AAROM capacity and activities
- Establishment of new AAROM departments in strategic locations to address significant gaps in AAROM network coverage

Stepwise approach to new funding over 5 years, raising the total budget from $13.1M/year to $19.9M/year (up $6.8M) in the final year (2020-21) and ongoing.

Stepwise Approach

A stepwise and multiyear approach allows for:

- A full review of the existing program in partnership with Indigenous organizations and technical experts (supported by G&C funding)
- A multi-year new entrants process that supports advancement from the planning, organizing and development leading to full operations
- The establishment of a more transparent, equitable and nationally-consistent approach to program funding and administration, including expanding co-design and co-delivery elements

…at the same time, the drive towards improvement will be ongoing (i.e., continue to listen, learn, correct, and improve).

IPR Recommendations

Recommendations in Phase One Report have dual focus:

1. Practical recommendations for the design and administration of the AAROM program
2. Broader recommendations for advancing collaboration between AAROM departments and DFO and OGDs (“Ignite Culture Change”)

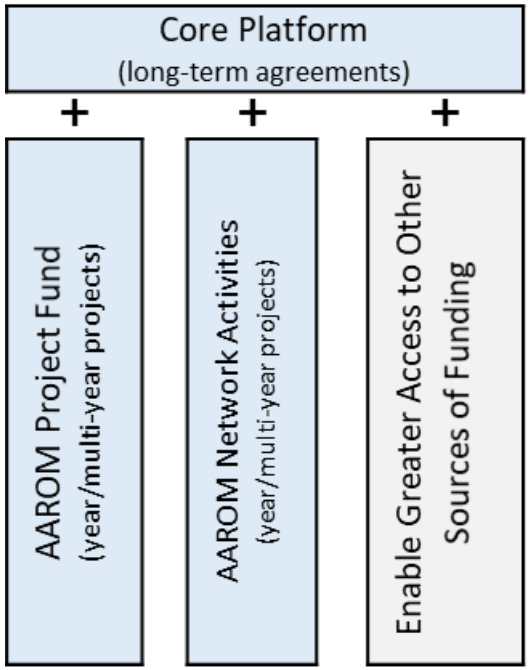
Key recommendations related to program design and renewal:

- Expand the network to geographic areas not served by a group
- Raise awareness and promote AAROM department services and network
- Ensure timely funding, annual planning cycles and consistent reporting
- Standardize contribution agreements and their terms and conditions
- Invest in Indigenous knowledge systems and enable networking opportunities among groups to learn from best practices
- Establish an Indigenous-led management committee similar to those used in the commercial programs to oversee project proposals, program delivery, and reporting

A Renewed Approach

Moving forward, a more strategic approach to AAROM funding would focus on four main objectives:

1. Develop and maintain robust AAROM departments (core platform/capacity)
2. Fund, improve and diversify project activities (funded by AAROM)
3. Support a strong network of AAROM departments (including sharing and developing capacity as well as growing co-delivery capacity)
4. Promote access to other funding



Beyond stressing the importance of new funding, IPR also made it clear that a more consistent, transparent and objective approach to program funding and funding decisions is required

AAROM Renewal Process

Budget 2017
(March 2017)

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Indigenous Program Review*
IPR Planning & Desktop Review (May to Aug 2017)
AAROM Workshops & Plenaries (Sept 2017 to Feb 2018)
Phase 1 Report & Recommendations (May 2018)
Phase 2 Report & Recommendations (Spring 2019)

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Renewal Streams
Enhancements to Existing Agreements (starting 2019-20 FY)
New Entrants (starting January 2019)
AAROM Project Fund (starting Fall 2019 for 2020-21)
AAROM Network Activities (started 2018-19)
Co-design, co-delivery (starting with IPR and ramping up)
Administrative Improvements (ongoing ramp up)
Action Plan & Scorecard (Summer/Fall 2019)

* Led by the National Indigenous Fisheries Institute.

Funding Enhancements

Overview

- Funds are limited and need to be directed strategically
- Need a clear, consistent and justifiable process for new funding (not ad hoc or case-by-case)
- No reduction in historical base funding (not including short term allotments or funding from other programs)
- Focused on core operations (e.g., funding the AAROM platform)
- Priority on addressing obvious, historical shortfalls and inequities across the network and then possibly raising the funding bar (no set increases across the AAROM network)
- Likely emphasis on core staffing (identified through IPR)
- Avoid long and overly complicated process

Does not include project activities which will be funded through the AAROM Project Fund.

How will this be implemented?

Taking a common ("portfolio") approach

- Looking at all agreements together to find benchmarks based on existing funding (e.g., medians for overall budgets and core)
- In terms of enhancements, will start with organizations that are below the benchmark, looking at options for increasing their funding and capacity to bring them up to a basic level (supported by benchmarks for basic expenditure categories)
- Then looking at options for increasing the basic benchmark (e.g., overall budget median)

Finalizing standard guidelines for DFO staff, who will follow up with you in the near future, but please continue with current negotiations for 2019-20 (don't wait)

New Entrants

Multistep and multiyear process

1. Expression of Interest (EOI) **(underway; due March 1, 2019)**
2. Capacity Development and Planning
3. Strategic Plan Submission and Review
4. Become an AAROM Department

Key considerations

- Will the proposed AAROM department fill a significant gap in the existing AAROM network and AAROM program coverage?
- Are there significant opportunities for the proposed AAROM department to serve as a platform that can deliver a variety of services, utilizing different DFO/federal/provincial programs and partnering opportunities (e.g., academia and industry)?
- Is there reasonable representation of Indigenous communities within the proposed management area (i.e., potential to deliver services to a meaningful aggregate along a watershed or ecosystem)?

AAROM Project Fund

Currently scoping

- Funding for single or multi-year projects
- Targeting $2-3M a year
- Annual call out each fall for next fiscal year with annual priorities (first call out fall 2019 for 2020-21)
- Some form of joint application review board with Indigenous experts

Looking for your thoughts and input this afternoon!

Networking

New AAROM offerings resulting from IPR recommendations

- Raise awareness and promote the AAROM group services and network
- Invest in Indigenous knowledge systems and enable networking opportunities among groups to learn from best practices

Current elements

- AAROM National Meeting (February 2019)
- Marketing & Partnership Toolkit **(to be discussed tomorrow)**
- Interchange with APC and Indigenous Programs (since June 2018)
- Mentoring Program (yet to be developed but some groups already starting to experiment)

All involve co-design and co-delivery

Co-design, co-delivery

Continuing to ramp up

- Continue to seek NIFI guidance on renewal elements
- Support long-term development of Steering Committee for National AAROM Meeting
- Bring items before AAROM departments at the National AAROM Meeting and be accountable (e.g., annual reporting)
- Build co-governance and co-delivery into AAROM New Entrants Process and Project Fund (e.g., application review board)

Renewal Streams
Administrative Improvements (ongoing ramp up)

DFO Admin Improvements

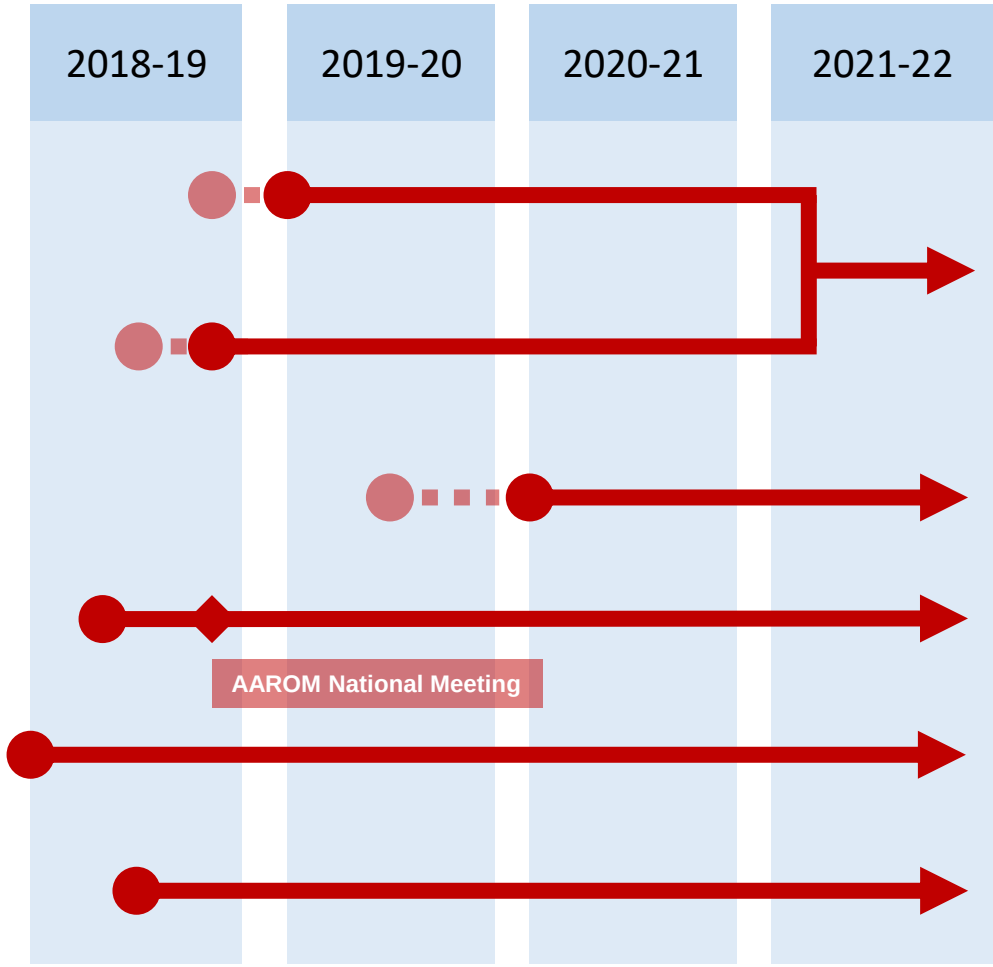
National AAROM Program Committee

- Permanent operational committee established to promote program consistency, ongoing administrative improvements, and overall AAROM renewal

Immediate priorities include

- Implementation of IPR recommendations
- Regularize program administration (e.g., consistent guidance (internal and external), staff training and capacity development, and regular annual business/funding cycle)

As part of a DFO Action Plan, which will follow the phase 2 report, we will go to DFO senior executive tables with program governance charters (spelling out standard national administration practices).

AAROM Renewal Process: Target Dates

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