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Atlantic Cod Genomics and Broodstock Development Project

Integrated GE³LS Research

Intellectual property, environmental, and public consultation issues relevant to the breeding of elite cod broodstock

GE³LS Project Leaders

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Summary

Development of elite cod broodstock will provide social and economic benefits for Canadians to the extent that intellectual property (IP) interests in this broodstock are eligible for legal protection, and use of this broodstock complies with Canadian environmental law and Canada's international obligations. Use of elite cod broodstock in particular coastal communities raises further issues regarding the obligation to consult affected public groups.

Research on GE³LS issues relevant to cod aquaculture will be conducted by working closely with the project's scientists and industry partners to provide law and policy options. The GE³LS team will develop and disseminate solution-oriented legal and policy options regarding (1) legal ownership of commercially valuable research results, (2) the status of elite cod broodstock under Canadian environmental law and Canada's international obligations, and (3) ethical and legal options regarding benefit sharing and improved methods of consultation with affected publics. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Aquaculture Management Directorate, has also committed to providing a policy analyst as an observer through all phases of the GE³LS research.