

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OYSTER GROWERS INCOME STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Program Policy: *Supporting the oyster industry in times of great difficulty in partnership with industry and government.*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Oyster Growers Income Stabilization Program is designed to provide financial stability to eligible oyster growers who experience significant revenue declines due to the unforeseen, uncontrollable factors associated with MSX and/or Dermo, or market disruptions due to the arrival of MSX and Dermo in PEI. The goal of the program is to provide a financial safety net to eligible oyster growers when their current year's aquaculture operation revenue falls below a defined historical average to support growers through this challenging period as they plan for their future.

ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

To participate in the Oyster Growers Income Stabilization Program, an applicant must be:

- **Able to provide documentation demonstrating greater than 30% loss of aquaculture-related revenue in 2025 as a result of MSX and/or Dermo;**
- **Able to provide documentation of up to 5 consecutive years of oyster growing activity in PEI including production records and tax documents;**
- A minimum of 18 years of age;
- A registered PEI company or a self-employed individual who grows oysters for financial gain;
- Holding a valid DFO issued lease or license number, a water lot, operate an oyster nursery, or have a notarized, legal sublet or rental agreement to grow oysters for financial gain;
- In good standing with applicable federal, provincial, and municipal legislation; and
- Not in default of any provincial government program obligations.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The Oyster Growers Income Stabilization Program will provide a grant based on the applicant's oyster aquaculture-related revenue losses from the applicant's current tax year, compared to the previous 5 years of revenue. **Eligible oyster aquaculture-related revenue losses include losses related to oyster sales from aquaculture production, oyster seed sales, and related oyster aquaculture revenue as a result of MSX and/or Dermo.**

The application period will be open from January 5 to January 31, 2026.

The program payment is triggered where a decline in your 2025 revenue is greater than 30% of your historical oyster aquaculture-related revenue that you report to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The program will cover 90% of your revenue decline that is beyond 30% of revenue losses.

An example of payment calculation is provided in the following table:

Olympic Average Revenue* (OA)	\$100,000
Payment Trigger (OA x 70%)	\$70,000
LESS: Program Year Revenue (2025)	\$20,000
EQUALS: Revenue Decline (RD)	\$50,000
Program Payment (RD x 90%)	\$45,000

*The Olympic Average Revenue takes your previous five years of oyster aquaculture-related revenue (e.g., sales) and removes the single highest and lowest years. The average of the remaining three years establishes the Olympic Average Revenue.

Table Notes: If you have an Olympic average of \$100,000, the starting trigger for payment would be a decline in revenue at \$70,000 or less. If you had oyster aquaculture-related revenue of \$20,000 in 2025, your revenue decline would be \$50,000, and your payment would be calculated at 90% of \$50,000. Your 2025 payment would then be \$45,000.

Eligible applicants can receive up to 50% of eligible funds as an advanced payment based on estimated oyster aquaculture revenue losses. The remaining eligible funds will be disbursed once the applicant's 2025 business income tax return has been filed and assessed by the Canada Revenue Agency, and a copy of the tax return and notice of assessment has been provided to the Department.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Oyster sales from fishing activities, oyster sales to market (from processing facilities).

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Proposal Application will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Application package is complete and all supporting documentation have been received;
- Applicant eligibility;
- Grant eligibility; and
- Clear details on how oyster inventories and product sales are recorded and reported.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CLAIM PROCESS

- Department officials may consult with the applicant to obtain clarification on details of the proposal and/or for additional information, where deemed necessary for the assessment.
- The applicant must agree to allow access to the operation by the Minister or his representative for the purpose of verification of information, if deemed necessary.
- The information provided in the completed Proposal Application will be used to assess the applicant eligibility under provincial requirements, along with any additional information that may be requested by the Department.
- In addition to the applicant requiring all necessary permits, licenses, leases, certifications and/or other authorizations that may be required depending upon the nature of the proposal, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all required, updated, approvals are submitted with the completed Proposal Application.
- **Incomplete applications will not be assessed until all required information is received.**

- **Proposal applications with false, misleading, or inaccurate information may not be considered.**
- Once the completed Proposal Application assessment is complete and if the proposal is approved by the Department, a funding agreement will be sent to the applicant specifying the amount of the grant and outline the conditions that will apply.
- **The applicant understands that if participating in the advanced payment option, the applicant will be required to return any overpayment of monies to Government once financial verifications are conducted based on the applicant's 2025 tax returns.**
- The applicant shall indemnify and hold harmless the Government of Prince Edward Island, its agents, representatives and employees from and against all claims, demands, losses, costs, damages, actions, suits or proceedings of every nature and kind whatsoever arising out of or resulting from the performance of the Work (herein called the "Claim"), provided that any such Claim is caused in whole or in part by any act, error or omission, including, but not limited to, those of negligence, of the applicant or anyone directly or indirectly employed by the applicant or anyone for whom the applicant may be liable arising out of this Program and the applicant's participation in it.

HOW TO APPLY

The application period will open on January 5, 2026 and close on January 31, 2026. A complete Proposal Application and all necessary documentation may be submitted to the attention of the **Program Officer** in two ways:

Regular Mail:

PEI Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture
 Aquaculture Division
 5th Floor, Jones Building
 11 Kent Street
 Charlottetown, PE
 C1A 1M7
 Please include the program name on the package.

Online portal system:

The online portal system can be accessed at the [Submit Application and Financial Information for Oyster Grower and Processor Support Programs](#) webpage.

****To note, applications or information related to an application submitted via email WILL NOT be accepted.****

For more information on the Oyster Growers Income Stabilization Program, please visit the [Supports for Prince Edward Island Oyster Industry](#) webpage or for questions, please contact the PEI Department of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture at oystersupports@gov.pe.ca.