

Coding Summary by Code

Test grad project

2023-11-24 1:49 AM

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Code

Codes\\Food security knowledge

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No	0.0087	1				
			1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM	

I guess food security is being able to, uh, access, you know, as an individual or a family, being able to access the food that you need on a consistent basis, that's what I would, I guess consider food security

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No	0.0303	3				
			1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM	

Food security? I guess from my perspective, I would consider food security having abundant resources under, you know, our jurisdiction that would enable us to essentially, survive really right and have the, you know, high quality food that is, you know, I guess and I don't think property I guess, under the possession of a of, you know, local Nova Scotians to supply Nova Scotians as, as I guess a first and then Canadians as a second.

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I guess not, not not relying on other provinces or countries to provide food sources for us.

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That would be just to increase the amount of licenses and leases we have within the province, farming operations, have them fully utilized in an environmental responsible and economically sustainable manner. And sharing resources, sharing the resource space I guess appropriately with other users of that marine environment that are supporting, you know, I guess our local economies.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant5_FINAL

No	0.0088	1				
			1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM	

Food security, as I understand it, would mean a predictable and stable supply of food for humans. UM, you know, a supply that is, like I say, stable, predictable and and readily available despite you know, certain threats to that that may come from a a food supply.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No		0.0220	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Ah, as I would understand it, when I think about food security would be maybe assuring that the public has access to alternatives, food sources other than maybe the ones that we are able to access that the grocery store or you know that's that's what I think about food security is, you know, more in terms when I think about it is more on the recreational side, UM, where individuals can access uh, those types of fisheries without not necessarily paying a fee to do so. Umm, you know when when I think about it too it would fall maybe on traditional practices, both indigenous and non indigenous in nature. I can say down here, especially in Southwest Nova, it's a tradition for generations for individuals to go out and access shellfish like soft shell clams, quohogs, UM for individual consumption, so that's that's what I think about it, you know, when I think about food security.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

No		0.0059	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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it is and how a person is able to, consume foods, drink fluids, to meet their nutritional needs so caloric and also all the elements that you need in your body, or or electrolytes, et cetera.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No		0.0044	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Ohh food security would be having enough food to survive I guess. Or having a reliable food source to promote, Uh healthy access to to nutrition.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.0104	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Yeah, food security is, uh, the the ability for all individuals regardless, of you know where they live, their socioeconomic status, they're social status. Uh, any characteristic of them or their community to be able to have safe, healthy, affordable access to food?

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0072	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Well, I would take a guess to mean that. It means when someone has food security means that a person I feels like they're able to provide and obtain what food they need to survive for their family and to lead a like have a healthy balanced diet.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\Food security knowledge\4P Stability

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0021	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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access the food that you need on a consistent basis

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant5_FINAL

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Food security, as I understand it, would mean a predictable and stable supply of food for humans

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

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Or having a reliable food source

Codes\\Food security knowledge\4P Access

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0066	1	1	AW	2023-11-09 2:11 PM
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I guess food security is being able to, uh, access, you know, as an individual or a family, being able to access the food that you need on a consistent basis

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-08-25_Participant5_FINAL

No		0.0031	1	1	AW	2023-11-09 2:13 PM
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readily available despite you know, certain threats to that that may come from a a food supply.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No		0.0046	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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when I think about food security would be maybe assuring that the public has access to alternatives, food sources other than maybe the ones that we are able to access that the grocery store

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

No		0.0052	1	1	AW	2023-11-09 2:10 PM
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So that's how you need to in this nutritional needs and that would be a food being food secure if you're unable to meet your your requirements then you are food insecure.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

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Or having a reliable food source to promote, Uh healthy access to to nutrition.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.0090	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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ability for all individuals regardless, of you know where they live, their socioeconomic status, they're social status. Uh, any characteristic of them or their community to be able to have safe, healthy, affordable access to food?

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

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provide and obtain

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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And so someone say in one of the communities along the Eastern Shore where there's, umm, like a, a large area that's closed, they would have to go really long distance to to harvest

Codes\\Food security knowledge\4PAvailability

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No		0.0045	1			
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I would consider food security having abundant resources under, you know, our jurisdiction that would enable us to essentially, survive

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant5_FINAL

No		0.0031	1			
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readily available despite you know, certain threats to that that may come from a a food supply.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

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meet their nutritional needs so caloric

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

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food security would be having enough food to survive I guess

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0021	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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able to provide and obtain what food they need to survive for their family

Codes\\Food security knowledge\4PUtilization

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

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and have the, you know, high quality food

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

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Umm, you know when when I think about it too it it would fall maybe on traditional practices, both indigenous and non indigenous in nature. I can say down here, especially in Southwest Nova, it's a tradition for generations for individuals to go out and access shellfish

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

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to meet their nutritional needs so caloric and also all the elements that you need in your body, or or electrolytes, et cetera.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.0016	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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community to be able to have safe, healthy

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0006	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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healthy balanced diet

Codes\\Harvest knowledge\\NB harvest freq

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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0136	2	1	AW	2023-11-08 6:31 PM
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I'm not from Nova Scotia, so I I haven't had contact with like local recreational harvesters personally.

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But I mean, you did find it. I did come across people who were harvesting, you know, for for a feed, for their family and. And a lot of the times I would hear, you know, they're they're we would get phone calls into the office and and we do actually at the Southwest New Brunswick area Office as well in at DFO uh we get calls from recreational harvesters

Codes\\Harvest knowledge\\NS harvest freq

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0848	3	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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I guess fish harvesters that I've I've met with over my career and they, you know would do it. You know, the more I guess, I don't know anyone. I don't know any of them who do it as on a commercial basis, but who would do it to kind of as a family activity or I guess what we would call recreationally, but they certainly consumed, umm, the, the the clams that they they harvested. And I guess it, you know, does that contribute to their (food security)? They may not think about it that way. They probably would have things they could substitute it with, but you know, certainly in rural Nova Scotia there is still a tradition which is probably, you know, that's declined somewhat since I started my career, but a tradition of of like wild harvest, you know, whether it's deer or. You know, people used to when I was growing up, I don't really don't, haven't heard about this much, but people would snare rabbits or even snare squirrels, and which can't be very good eating. But you know, there is a tradition of kind of what wild harvest and to contribute to to store bought food

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think so, yes, I think so, and at the same time, you know, I haven't talked to a lot of people about this, so but I I think considering the kind of extremely serious potential impacts ohm from you know from eating contaminated shelves shellfish, I think it would be a deterrent from people harvesting.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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3 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

I was in the Port Jolly area and there were and I don't know now, if that area is opened or closed, but there were many, many families that were harvesting clams there. I don't know what kind of clams they were, but like I spent about two weeks there and almost every day, so people there harvesting clams. And I don't think they were tourists. So like in some areas, this is obviously still an important part of their culture and UM, and with like with all these concerns about food costs and food security, it's like, why wouldn't we do this? Why wouldn't we make more healthy sources of food available to people? So there it's my rant.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No 0.0074 1

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

Yes, I guess that would be in relation to like clam digging. I guess in in based on your question, yes, I would. I would know that there are people that would go out and harvest wild product for, you know, human consumption.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant5_FINAL

No 0.0823 3

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

So this could be, you know, there's there's different species that could be caught recreationally, so and this is occurs all over, I'm all over the province. So for instance, you know soft shell clams. For ocean quohogs, or, you know, Bay quohogs, things like that, people go digging for clams, right? And so oftentimes, you know, our department will get a call to say, can I dig clams here, you know? And so we'll have to sort of, it's not really our job, we don't really enforce those rules. It's a federal thing, but we often deal with sort of the general public when when they have questions about things like that so.

2 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

I'm not aware of someone who relies on. You know, relies on the wild harvest of of shellfish as like a main part of their diet, you know, it's usually it's people who would do this every now and then as something, something to do or. You know, so I'm not aware really. Although I I wouldn't doubt that it exists, but I'm personally not aware of any instance where someone you know would would say that they do this, you know, every day or every week. And this is their, you know, an important supply of of food for them.

3 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

Yeah, I mean. No, that's a. That's a fair statement. Yeah, and that's simply due to when we look at like just the scale of the fisheries, you know, if we were to compare like the lobster fishery and just tonnage of that resource, that is, you know, landed, bought, sold, traded, exported, what have you. You know, you're way up here, right? And if you compare that to the number or or to the level of commercially harvested shellfish throughout the province, UM, you know when you're talking, like sort of small scale near shore or in shore or coastal areas, I'm talking like bar clams and what have you. You know, it's lobsters up here. They're like, way down here, right? And if some of if we had testing and like grew some new areas, you know I'm down here. I don't know if you can see my hand. It might.

Williamson, Adam (DFO/MPO)

I can see it, yeah.

Participant 5

It might go from here to like here, like just up a little bit like it's just it's just a smaller scale. That's that's all. That that's all not to diminish its importance to certain to some people, because that could mean a huge difference for those who are operating it right. But just on the grand scheme of things, for for Nova Scotia, it would probably be, minimal specifically to that. Now when we talk about aquaculture, that's a different story.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No		0.0284	1			
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Yes. Very common. Just from me being in my position, every spring I receive multiple phone calls from individuals asking when the recreational uh harvesting of soft shell clams is permitted. It varies depending if you live in Digby County, Yarmouth County or Shelburne County. They all have different opening times. There's different daily limits and they they have different closing times too, in the fall, so as those times near near... like for example, Yarmouth County closes on October 31st versus Digby County that closes on December 31st, so I'll get a lot of phone calls, people asking where they can go after October 31st. So anybody that lives near the Yarmouth, Digby, Shelburne County line, they have that ability to go in Digby County, once Yarmouth County closes so. Umm. Yeah, it's it's a huge traditional practice here. UM, just from my experience too probably more uh community based too. Like when I think about the Meteghan and Clare area uh, a lot more recreational activity up there than there would be, say, if I thought about Shelburne County. I guess it's more of a traditional practice for some of those communities, yeah.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

No		0.0298	2			
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In Nova Scotia, I've never. I don't think I've ever had an individual say that specifically, I have heard a folks in certain indigenous communities say that it would be a really good focus for the economic viability of the community to feed into the food security part, but they've never said that as the food secure piece. Now in New Brunswick I have so I'll stop there.

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So although I haven't heard someone tell me that for Nova Scotia that they rely on shellfish for food security itself, I have heard in individuals or members of in indigenous communities say that it is part of their of their food, social and ceremonial, where food is part of that component. So although it hasn't been set explicitly, I think it's important to just note that it is in their thought process when they're talking about foods, food, social and ceremonial. So some of the community is look at it from that angle and then we'll call it food security. But it is food for community.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No		0.0074	1			
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I think it should be based on consumption of said product, but yes, I've had experience with areas that were solely for recreational purposes and I do appreciate the importance of it here in Nova Scotia, especially for rural coastal communities.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.0129	1			
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So I often hear from indigenous communities. Uh, especially in Cape Breton that the members of their community rely on that access to uh for food, but also in some non indigenous communities. I'm aware of individuals who supplement their diets for financial reasons to gain access to shellfish in their within their communities.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

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I haven't

Codes\\Non-CSSP barriers

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0380	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Scotia has had problems getting, you know, they've started many coastal policies over the years and coastal strategies and they kind of get to certain stage and they all seem to never get finalized. But that being said, I think there are, you know, the the legislation in in this province or the the the general regulatory framework does allow for for access to the coast, and there are many places, you know, we provincial parks, even where you could go harvest shellfish, we would have... there are many places where you could access. I mean, we often hear the news in both places where people bought private land and closed off traditional access, but they're also have been... there are also many other places where you could access code, so I don't think I don't think physical access umm is a barrier. So they're they're probably still be efforts to improve it, but I don't think that's the main barrier.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

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Uh, I know here a couple of years ago we had a potential aquaculture proposal for just off of Yarmouth, near Chebogue River. And Chebogue River is a huge shellfish harvesting area, UM, probably the busiest southwest Nova, in my opinion. And this particular aquaculture proposal was for a salmon farm, and their effluent, even though the salmon farm was gonna be land based, they were gonna be taking ocean water in, going through their system, pumping it back out, which would include all their effluent, which could include pesticides could include, you know, feces from the fish themselves. You know, even though it's all being filtered, the potential was there for this stuff to get mixed in. So we don't really know what the impact of maybe pesticides and antibiotics and stuff like that might have if they washed over a shellfish bed like a natural shellfish bed, right? So. Definitely could have an impact on access, you know, recreationally, even commercially too, if we had to think about that, umm, in an area such as Chebogue River, if if those types of activities were permitted.

2	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Yeah, and even the testing, even if testing was in place, I don't even know if you know, say it was antibiotics or pesticides, UM, I don't even know if the CSSP testing protocols are in place that would detect uh, things like that, right? So I know they're they test for E coli and uh, some types of toxins. But I don't know if those tests would pick up, say if it was something that created some type of contamination related to pesticides or antibiotics, you know, so. You know, I guess the potential is there that you know there could, there could be some impact, yeah.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

No		0.0609	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Oh man. I can think of some. OK, so my role as indigenous relations and partnerships, many of the conversations that I have is with indigenous communities and I will only be able to focus on that 'cause that's what I know and I do know that indigenous people, when they're seen as getting something additional to the non indigenous population sometimes causes frustrations, anger, some perspectives will, you know, you'll say it's unfair that they get access and we don't, or something along those lines. Where in this case I don't even know if it applies because it's kind of open to everybody. So I've heard it, but I don't know if it really applies in this context. Have a big question mark there because I've heard of commercial. I've heard of the recreational and but I've heard some people say, well, they still have access to more than we do, but I don't know if it applies actually to shellfish. I know it applies to the regular like the the the fish themselves, right?

Williamson, Adam (DFO/MPO)
Umm little abster and yeah.

Participant 2

The like lobster, etcetera. So but I don't know if it applies to shellfish in this case, that's a good question. So there's potential there because I know some people do speak about that. Other than that, uh, there's probably if they don't have the resources, the tools, the cars, the. Sometimes you have to go fairly far to get what you're looking for, so if you don't have the right tools or equipment, you won't get there. Umm. The knowledge probably would be another thing. And the interest in wanting to do that, some people like clam digging is not easy, right? It's not like, ohh, it's gonna be fun today, we're gonna go clam digging. Yeah, you might have fun with the people that are there, but it's still fairly, you know, I won't say tough labor, but it does require some work. So it's not like you just grab and leave. So there's work associated with it. I don't know if that answers your question, but.

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0179	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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I don't have a lot of knowledge about like recreational licenses like I know., umm there for recreational purposes there is a limit to the number of like the the province I think sets the limit of of 100 clams per person, that this is the New Brunswick, so I'm not sure. It's probably very similar in Nova Scotia, but there's a recreational limit of 100 clams per person per harvest. So essentially per day so that amount might limit the amount of food that they'd be able to provide for their family if they had a really large family. So that's possible? Umm. Otherwise I. I can't think of anything and Yep.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\Suggested solutions

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No	0.0868	2				
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Well, I think the federal governments need to look at their airing programs, have their own internal program reviews, determine where can they divert funds from other programs and whatnot or, you know, making cuts to fund they're their own programs, right? Like, there's definitely there's mismanagement UM, from a resource perspective, within the varying organizations, umm, I can't speak to what and how I'm not involved in those organizations but you know, when it's our federal government that's running a program and then they can't, there's obviously an issue. UM, and you know, a lot of it in this at this point is some of it's, you know offloading costs and and doing contracts essentially. But I don't think contract based work is should be the way that necessarily the governments are approaching things these days because of the costs associated with hiring contracts, when this work was probably historically done internally, you know we I've done cost saving analysis where umm, you know if you have the appropriate staff and the appropriate roles, they can go out and do the work and that's their job. Whereas you know then within the government, people advance and and then you know, move on or rolls shift. But I think that's a big problem, because uh, then job descriptions changed, but I think we need to, you know, go back to: this is the job, you know, this is the role and you know, do the work internally, UM and really refine and ensure that the programs they should be covering and responsible for are being implemented appropriately, right. But I think spending money on client... there needs to be a cost savings analysis. The gap analysis done as well on by each operator. Each UM federal agency to determine you know, where they can direct funds to and resources to truly implement these programs appropriately.

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UM, so and and I guess a clear direction and processes and policies so people know how to navigate the CSSP program itself, or just understand the information available for people to go in an area like, essentially, people will say red is bad and green is good and uh no color is unclassified, but that's risky too. People may not may think that's OK. I don't know right, but I think there needs to be more education of the and outreach or, I guess I wouldn't say promotion, but yeah, just outreach to educate people in Canada on the on the program really, right, so. And that it should be it should be delivered, umm, equally across all provinces and not uh essentially.. it shouldn't be different, right? It should be uniform and it should be borne by the federal government.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No	0.0204	1				
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No. If I see any like actual next steps, I'm of the opinion that the three partners should assure that the resources are available. UM, you know when we've all said this many times in meetings that, you know, somebody could go out poaching lobster per se, UM, they're not gonna get ill from eating lobster, even though they're not permitted to to harvest it if they don't have a license. However, individuals that go and harvest shellfish, maybe in the closed area, UM, you know the risk is there, that you know, there's potential for individuals, like I said earlier, to become ill or even die from from eating contaminated shellfish. I'd uh, I think the next step was to assure that the proper funding and allocation of resources is available for this program to be, UM, you know, implemented at the highest level, right?

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I say, though they be more effectively redirected back at redelivering the program in some areas where we've stopped. UM, you know, we could strategically pick some growing areas within Nova Scotia to limit how far someone may have to travel to appease that "in my backyard" mentality that this industry is is prevalent in this industry. UM, people like to do it locally. As we talked earlier, it's a rural local kind of thing. And certain pieces of the shoreline and Nova Scotia definitely do this more than others. An area in particular I would denote would be probably the South Shore of Nova Scotia, southwestern Nova Scotia UM would be an area where I think there is a high need for recreation. We've heard recently from down around Shelburne and Barrington area.Umm, those are areas that are very keen on recreational harvest and I know they'd love to have access to more area down that way specifically.

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One point I would like to make is I'd really... my personal preference would be to UM, you know, consistently deliver this program to all stakeholders or end users. I think that's a critical piece that I've always believed. It used to be that way. I think that, you know we've tried to find solutions to keep things moving and that's why we have these ASDs and these other avenues which are useful when you have no other options. But I think you know full redelivery of the CSSP where it matters, for for all stakeholders. There's is what I would love to see, but that's a in an ideal world, and we'd need a lot of funding to accomplish that, which may or not may not be realistic. UM, but that's I'd like to. I would prefer to see the program treat all stakeholders fully equally with full delivery of the CSSP where we do deliver it. Now, that doesn't mean we have to deliver it everywhere, every inch of the shoreline and Nova Scotia. But I think if we do it strategically and uh and in some more areas, I think we'll find a good balance.

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But our attempts in the past to go to communities, you know, we've done that in the past to go out to the communities with this message of there's limited resources and we undertook the process 5 to 10 years ago to go up to communities to explain here's the situation, we as the federal government, but specifically ECCC have limited resources, there may be areas we can't test. So tell us where you do or want to or have harvested, and we'll try our best to keep those prioritized. The problem is that there wasn't a lot of attendance at those meetings. I think there once had been plans to do more in the past, we put a lot of energy into developing plans. Both with the appropriate Indigenous consultation lens and engagement lens, but also non indigenous, which does take a lot of energy and resources just to do the planning and let alone the execution of those engagement and consultations. But I don't think we've given it very, very good... anything that would even be like the college, the good old college try. It's not a legitimate attempt. So that might be actually that might be where we're kind of failing to deliver on the program as well and to ensuring food security through safe shellfish availability, is not undertaking those exercises, those priority exercises and not going out and asking people consulting with people's talking to people.

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So the program can address it by making better use of scientific knowledge and better use of information on the risk factors for toxicity or health of shellfish. For example, there should be... there is a little bit of this that goes on, but there should be an improvement to umm, you know through... to accessing and making use of information on things on pollution sources and all factors that increase the risk of contamination for shellfish. So that's like the development activities on harbors or along the coastline, you know, status of sewer systems and, you know, all of these risk factors. There's climate change, and there's harmful algal blooms and all this stuff. Things related to that the CSSP deals with and the toxicity or the health of the of the shellfish should make some better use of that information and do some analysis to prioritize areas for testing on a regular basis too. I think we could do a better job on that. Umm, improving our ability to know where people harvest shellfish under various licenses that we have, like the reporting requirements, any system in place that we can employ to know where people harvest shellfish would again help us identify risk factors and where resources should be directed for testing

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just speaking to people like actually like boots on the ground, interacting with the community members to just to know and to learn, and then for us to share that within the department to the CSSP decision makers within the department to say like you know, in this part of the province and along this part of the coastline, here's the history, and here's the current, and here's maybe the hopes of where people want to be harvesting shellfish like, you know, like, this place has a lot of clams. So people like to dig clams here, they've always dug clams. Here, though, will never be oysters picked off the shoreline. The habitat is not there, so I'll clams is the thing in this area. Clam habitat changes so they need the habitat to be protected so that the clam flats stay the way they are and they want to continue harvesting clams there. Like, that's just now the there's not a scientific study. It's just local knowledge so that local knowledge needs to be captured, and we've done different exercises in the past to do that. But it's dated. It's dated. We've done surveys like that in the past where we've gone out, we still use that data. It's probably 20 years old. We use it in the aquaculture siting process in which we interviewed communities and community members of like, where does, where do Members of this Community harvest and fish and where? Where do the cod, where do the clams live and where do they haddock live? And we haven't gone out and asked all those questions and captured them. That probably needs to be updated and. And what else? I think that's all I had in my. All I had thought about, yeah.

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Innovation is one like for we're talking collection, some of like one of the issues is the lack of testing of water testing. And I think some innovation needs to be done, technologically with our water samples are collected. And some collaborations need to be sought and built. To share resources the amongst those that have abilities and the wherewithal to collect water samples like Gee whiz, think it's not, it's really not that complicated. There's a reason why there's like water technicians and, like, cause you know, there's it can be technical, but there should be an ability for someone within the government to direct someone how to take a proper water sample. And we make regulatory decisions by people taking sediment samples and water samples that work for the same company that we're regulating, they do it with certain protocols and hey, like we accepted within a tiered regime of compliance and duplication and whatnot. And but that's part of the innovation, like maybe you know, if innovation can be tiered in that if we send some people out or equipment out to take samples that we have a little bit of doubt about, we can, if they come back with a certain degree of toxicity or certain level of concern like we can go out and send proper officials and professionals, have to take samples like there's some of that needs to be thought through, which I don't think it really is being thought and it's like, geez, we're taking water samples here, people. I don't know how much I don't... you know, it's really not that complicated. I think the innovation part was something that I wanted to mention but I think that's all for now that I can think of Adam, yeah.

Codes\\Suggested solutions\\Alternate program

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I did talk to a couple of indigenous groups at West who were implementing community monitoring programs for like their kind of subsistence or for use with, you know, for shellfish harvest that would be used within the community. I don't think there was a commercial aspect to it, but I mean have to say like I it was only a couple conversations. I'm not an expert in what they were doing, but they had they had implemented some sort of community monitoring program which gave them the confidence to to, you know, harvest and and consume products from their area. And I think there is, you know, the potential for for doing that.

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UM, but at the same time, I actually think it would be more cost effective if there was a comprehensive program. And and maybe you know, maybe there could be some areas that we like, OK, we know for sure because of because of septic issues, you know, untreated waste or whatever that we know for sure that there's there's effluent in this area that we're definitely, definitely these areas are are off the table and we're not gonna test them again unless something changes in in terms of how waste is managed in this area. And that's fine you could just remove those areas completely from the program for I don't know a decade or something and revisit them to see just to see if anything has changed and if they should be brought back in. But for you know I think for community monitoring and you know it does have potential but I think the the best thing would be to have a kind of a revamped CSSP. And and I think that would probably be the cheapest option too, rather than giving you know small amounts of money to various communities and they have to find a lab. That's not, I don't think it's very cost effective. Mm-hmm.

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And now they're essentially downloading costs to industry that unfairly... due to the fact that they are maintaining some areas, and then the next day over, they may not be in the and bearing those costs and they're essentially transferring those costs to industry or at this point

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2 AW 2023-11-14 1:30 PM

I think we have six that have gone through the program or process, but are essentially waiting approval from the national regional shellfish Committee, which would be the senior management of the CSSP program, partners DFO, CFIA in the Environment Canada, but those have been in for a number of years now, and you know it's not really... there's been minimal communication UM to industry on those applications and essentially if a recreational or commercial harvester for like clams wanted to come in to classify an area, I don't think they could do it because it's costly, really costly. And they don't have the resources and neither do like small shellfish aquaculture operators either. Like it's, you know, anywhere you have to have two years of data and you know, if you wanted to hire consultant, it's probably gonna be over, you know, 200 or \$100,000 / 2 years, which is a significant cost to an operator who's just trying to get started, right. And to a claim harvester who's not making anywhere close to that kind of money that's just a non starter like that's essentially someone with a decent job that's like essentially 2 years of salary, right? So.

3 AW 2023-11-14 1:30 PM

The costs associated with the with the sampling are a bit much for industry to bear on their own. It also creates conflict because of, you know, delivering a program in one day but not the other, where someone wants to, you know. Is that fair? No, right?

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No 0.0430 2

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

Umm, you know the next step maybe is, you know, there's been talk about UM, developing alternative ways to assure that the water quality is safe, so is that where maybe recreational users have to pay a fee? In in like just say like in terms of a license, so individuals that wanted to go harvest shellfish would have to pay maybe a \$10 fee, and then those funds are allocated towards maybe private testing regimes? I don't know. Like you know, those are options out there. Maybe what they would refer to as alternative ways of delivering the program right?

2 AW 2023-11-14 1:30 PM

Proposal put out in Shelburne County as an example. It was kind of like a pilot project and I was kind of involved in that a few years back where, uh, the three CSSP partners, DFO, CFIA, Environment Canada put out requests, uh, looking for either individuals or private groups or associations, or even industry groups to come forward with proposals on how they may be able to do the water quality testing in order to reopen some of these shellfish harvesting areas and Shelburne County. Umm, the only proposal is that we received were ones from industry. In these, there was three proponents, and those 3 proponents all have aquaculture leases through the province in Shelburne County. So their focus was more on their own operations versus the public, right? So UM didn't receive any proposals from the public at all. And I think probably the number one reason was the costs that are involved. Ohm, I know that doing water quality testing and the shellfish stock testing as well is very expensive. So, you know, especially when you get it done by a private company. So that's probably one of the reasons why we didn't receive a lot of proposals from anybody outside of industry.

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1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

The testing doesn't necessarily have to happen by government itself. I think it could be a third party with certain standards that are to be met. I don't know how to explain it more than that, but I would say there's a standard and that company or third party would have to show how they meet that when they do their testing and that the only way that areas could be open is when you know the waters are or the water in that area is deemed to be safe for consumption, is not contaminated. And I do know of 1 community in particular that is really interested in anything to do with making, umm, the economy better for their community and what they could do to use opportunities that DFO would present to them and how they could be partnering with us to do certain things, and one maybe like this and I've mentioned this in the past. And it said, uh, I don't know if I wanna mention the community, I'll leave them out, but uh, this community in particular had said, you know, anything that you can think about that we could look at investing in that cCould increase economic benefit for communities in Nova Scotia, our people increasing food security, for example, et cetera. They said that they would be very interested in partnering or finding a way to make that happen. So they've put that on the table, we've met with that community to talk about opportunities and they're always open to doing that and I know there's some other communities that are pretty proactive out there as well that if presented, they probably would consider something like that.

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The other big one is ASDs. There are three areas. There are two ASDs currently operating in Nova Scotia, and there are Alternative Service Deliveries where we have agreements with proponents for a very discrete area in Nova Scotia where they've assumed the responsibility of the required deliverables for the program. Basically, they collect the samples themselves. We train them, they collect the samples and have them analyzed at accredited laboratories and then provide us with the results and then we make regulatory decisions based on that data also.

2	AW	2023-11-14 1:30 PM
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No. It's a band aid fix to keep being able to accommodate industry's expansion, but it also increases the unlevel playing field across stakeholders as a different way because they have to pay for the work. The other two models I discussed, you know the government pays for that delivery of the CSSP or that delivery of the SWCP for Environment Canada in, in an ASD scenario, the proponents bear the costs of the sampling and the analysis to us. There is still some work on our end that is critical and it does increase our UM workload and a few of them are manageable, but once, once there's a bunch of these independent ASD's, they will become harder to manage than there's more as as the number would increase. So small numbers manageable, larger number wouldn't be.

3	AW	2023-11-14 1:30 PM
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We have two currently running and we have 6 requests in the queue, so not a ton of interest, but some. You know when we're talking about a province of size of Nova Scotia, there's probably UM, there's two functioning and and six waiting. So there would be a maybe 8 out of you know, 200 growing areas to give you some perspective roughly in Nova Scotia. Well we roughly deliver about 70, we deliver in 77, we talk sometimes about north of 100 growing areas. So this is 8 out of 100, so it's, you know, easy number would be 10 percent, 8%, you know, uh might be fair enough. So it's it's a small portion, but there are some significant ones, some serious ones pending.

4	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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The quick answer is yes. I think both would be... It would be a form of an ASD. ASD is a bit of an umbrella term of an alternative service delivery. So it's just a different way of delivering the CSSP. When it comes to recreational harvesters, though, I think we use a different term, that would be community based monitoring. It's a little bit different. In an ASD, you would be fully delivering the CSSP and said area, all the criteria. For a recreational harvester, I would suggest you still go that same route of an ASD, but there's another option available because it's sort of at your own risk. So there is the community based monitoring model which is a form of an ASD, but that's more or less, you're checking the level to see if you're comfortable with it and there's no full delivery of the CSSP. But we haven't really done any of them yet, so there it's all theory at this point.

5	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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It UM there was, but no, they just wanted the areas declassified now. The interested community groups that we've discussed and that we're aware of, just want the area declassified because they're willing to do it at their own risk rather than have to deliver or take samples to, UM, apply some sort of a standard that might apply

6	AW	2023-11-14 1:58 PM
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Scientifically, you'd be better to have some information than none, obviously. So I would agree it would be better to have something, but if it's not the true regulation is standard, then what would that be? I'd have questions as to what that standard would then be. UM, you know the way we determine an area is safe is not based off of 1 sample snapshot. For the SWCP water sampling, it's a statistical analysis of the last 15 runs or the last and the last 30 under varying governmental conditions and sampling regimes. So it's a bit more complicated than a 1 and done, when we're fully delivering the CSSP and the data sets are much stronger for environmental data. But there would be some comfort in knowing what the levels were before they harvest. That's better than having no information out at obviously, yeah.

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

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	0.1766	5	1	AW	2023-11-07 1:26 PM

Yeah, I think the program either needs to. It needs to expand its its mandate per se or its focus or there needs to be another program that could meet the needs of of local communities to harvest safe product for their own consumption. One or the other, I think there is a need within the communities. I don't know if the CSSP is the the best way. But it does. It is something that needs to be addressed, I think.

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2 AW 2023-11-13 2:04 PM

the Peskotomuhkati nation at skutik is developing a clam management plan within a small area around Saint Andrews. And so I think that that's a really good option. What they've essentially been working towards this not quite complete yet, but it's working towards designating an area and having a clam management plan in place where they're responsible for essentially, the management of the area, so that could include the, the, the monitoring of it to make sure that it's safe. Umm, the enforcement of people harvesting in their illegally or not, not illegally. And and also the management of how much product could be harvested out of there. So it's kind of a I feel like as I said previously, the CSSP program doesn't quite meet all of the needs of all Canadians and particularly recreational harvesters and indigenous communities. And so I feel it would be better if it was separated somehow that, umm, that perhaps indigenous communities could request funding or even have it as part of some of their food, social ceremonial license agreements with DFO that that they could receive funding to do their own own monitoring within some of the key areas or priority areas within their territory. And then they could even do their own monitoring and and also another kind of important part is that they could kind of moderate how much was harvested out of there as well. Because sometimes when commercial harvesters come through an area, it's like a a broad sweep like they they really take a lot of the clams out and then kind of leave an area for several years and then they'll come back to it in three years once they've grown again and do another sweep. Like that's kind of how the commercial industry works. And so they get a large amount of product and then it's kind of there's not much there for two years. So there's always talk about trying to moderate that harvest so that it's not kind of, it's almost like cutting down an entire forest and then coming back in 20 years and then cutting it again. It's more like a selective cutting is what even commercial industry harvesters would like that approach, but it's hard to manage. So I feel like that could be managed better if if the areas were managed by indigenous communities. I'm not sure about the recreational aspect of it. How? How it could be done? Because you would almost need community groups to to come together and agree and and try to get funding for it. So that might be more difficult to sustain, I guess so. So maybe the recreational aspect for food security maybe still could be covered under CSSP. But they FSC maybe could be separated a bit. That's, that's my thinking.

3 AW 2023-11-13 2:04 PM

I just feel like to to to be to have to try to maintain that level of monitoring and every area of interest for whatever the purpose it is for that area would cost a lot of money and it may not be as practical as if a indigenous community said that they because they they also, I know indigenous communities also rely on traditional knowledge and. And they may be comfortable setting up a monitoring program that meets their needs and their standards that they feel is sufficient to to make them confident in the safety of the product. And so why not? You know why not work with that, I guess. And try that, yeah.

4 AW 2023-11-14 1:30 PM

So they they've reduced their number of of sites to say I'm just making this up but say 10 sites instead of prior, there was fifty say umm and so it it does make sense if there's those other 40 areas that are no longer being monitored for CSSP export purposes there's still interest but just no commercial interest there could be a different classification system there but but the sticky part is is it would have to be decided what what level of monitoring ensures the safety of the product for human consumption right and, and so you don't necessarily want to create this tiered system where it looks like you know well: we make sure our our our shellfish is this safe for sending it to the US, but then we let our locals eat it when we're not as sure that it's safe. So we would have to kind of come up with what I'm I'm thinking that we could probably establish some Health Canada guidelines for the consumption of food like because that's what our that's what our monitoring program was based on previously before we were audited by the US we had set a standard and said that this is acceptable for for Canadians. And then we were audited by the US, and then we had to increase our monitoring level. So at some point it was acceptable, like Health Canada had determined that this was an acceptable level of sampling. So I don't see why that couldn't be readopted as for recreational purposes, it it makes sense to me.

5 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

Historically, you can look at historical information and it shows that like levels have never been high in certain areas ever. So that's a kind of a safer spot to assume that you don't have to monitor as frequently for biotoxins and then things like like heavy rainfall events. You know, we know that following heavy rainfall events that it's risky to consume shellfish. So you know, within this classification system for recreational harvesters, there could be a time frame after rain fall events where it's not harvest isn't allowed or harvest is not recommended or think there there could be some safety features put in place to make sure that it would be less risky to consume. But that would have to be agreed upon by and and you and you try to get the CSSP partners to agree upon it. And you'd also have to make sure that you know Canadians are OK with it, you know, so.

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Codes\\ThemImpactsOfNonDelivery\\Idle Capacity

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it doesn't seem to be kind of consistent with with publicly expressed aspirations for for our oceans like you, you know, the blue economy strategy, right? You know you've heard many times that we want to kind of embrace economic opportunities from our oceans. Well, here's to me like this is an obvious one where we could have, like sustainable use, umm, grow the economy system, support rural communities like it ticks so many boxes, and yet we're not doing it. So and I really don't understand why. I feel like the amount of money the government puts into some things for relatively limited impacts compared to the amount of money they could put into this to have like a comprehensive CSSP program. For example, there are other potential options probably, but if they wanted to have like a comprehensive CSSP program for all of the Maritimes, it would probably cost a fraction of say of what they put into, UM, the oceans protection plan, a very small fraction, and I think you would it would have like immediate impact like within five years and I think it would have an impact.

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If there's a diesel spill or something in in a working harbor, umm, obviously you don't you don't wanna be eating shellfish. That might, you know, accumulate the those toxins. Umm, so they're closed and there are other instances of closed areas as well and that's related to, it could be related to a lack of testing, just simply not knowing whether or not you know... Again, the the feds and this would be not so much DFO, but ECCC, federally, I'm not having the resources to test an area enough to safely say that yes, the water quality is safe and anything that you harvest from here is is OK to eat. So in those instances you could have closed areas could be perfectly good areas, but they just don't test it, don't have the resources to test it and and so.

2	AW	2023-11-08 11:08 PM
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But the feeling is that, UM, you know, really there's only a risk period of about, you know, five days or so, give or take a couple days. Umm, but for the most part he is shut down for uh, usually two weeks plus. And the reason being is because there isn't water testing that is regularly done and as a safeguard, ECCC sort of says, OK, well, we're just going to shut this down for the required amount of time just to be safe. Meanwhile, that operator is missing out on sales and missing out on providing food to consumers. Uh, so there's a challenge there and I guess the other challenge with this is well, is that there are people who are looking at doing new operations, aquaculture operations and and perfectly good areas. But if there isn't a test, if there isn't a baseline testing that in this area and a plan for regular water testing, they're not allowed to go there unless they undertake some of that uh testing.

3	AW	2023-11-08 11:08 PM
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So you could have an area that, you know, is perfectly good, uh, perfectly healthy for humans to to eat bar clams or or clams. Let's just say clams general, from an area, but if there's no water testing going on, usually the default is it's closed. You're not allowed to harvest from there, you know so. Again, without that regular water testing, I guess to be cautious, the federal government is saying, OK, well, no, you can't harvest there even though that, you know, it might be perfectly fine just in the lack of you know, in the absence of any information the the default is just for human safety sake, don't harvest there. So and and and and that would go for uh, areas that may have been closed years ago and have never been retested or that may have, that may go for areas that were just never tested and you know was never opened right so.

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I just think that more focus and more commitment needs to be put on this program. UM, it's a food safety program. And in my opinion, you know we're both aware of rising costs on everything from fuel to housing to our groceries. Doesn't matter what we do now, it's costing us more money. UM, I think more and more people are going to be looking for alternative food sources, and I think shellfish will be one of them. Umm, you know, I've witnessed even my in my own communities where families are not able to buy groceries, UH, one particular week because they've got to pay their power bill. So I think if things don't change and the costs of living keep going up as they are, I think more and more people are going to be going after those alternative food sources. And I just think that this program is super important that I don't know, maybe we should cut back funding in other areas in you know, maybe uh, uh, prioritize them on the CSSP program, right?

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When some areas are closed and we close them because we want to be on the safe side, so we air on the side of caution as opposed to knowing for sure if it is contaminated water, and then what is happening there is you have a whole section of food for people that could contribute to food security that is not there and is just closed and that food is going to waste

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And it is when I think of indigenous communities, you know, digging for shellfish or for clams, for example, has been something that some of the communities have done for years. So that would be a normal thing for them to do that and for their Government of Canada, because I know it's not just DFO here talking about CFIA, you're talking Environment Canada. You're talking to us, and there may be one more, but I know I think those are the three key ones, we have to close an area without really knowing if it should be closed because we can't test and later on test again to see if the water is now suitable to be able to be used for, you know, either drinking but mostly for a medium where our shellfish kind of live. So to me, I feel that it does impact umm food security in that sense, I don't know if that's clear enough, but if you have clarifying questions, please feel free.

				3	AW	2023-11-08 11:10 PM
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I know we have to protect people so they are, they are safe and they don't get ill from eating contaminated shellfish, right. But at the same time, if we don't have a system to be able to test the water and retest at a later time to be able to open areas when it is consumable, then we are we are not opening that area for food. That's what I find is, you know, regrettable in that sense.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.0428	1			
				1	AW	2023-11-08 11:12 PM

Some of the decisions are on the lack of uh testing that's being done by environment and Climate Change Canada. Such that you know when a rainfall closed, when a when an area has to be closed due to rainfall, uh, for emergency purposes, those areas can't be reopened, you know the decision from the three federal partners, the collective decision, uh, which is because of ECCC lack of testing is that those areas can't be reopened because the data of the water quality which impacts the health of the shellfish is too old and too dated, and so there's some the some hesitancy or lack of ability or lack of reopening of those areas. So the cause is the ECCC not in this specific example, not, you know, not being able to spend the money, not having the resources to do the water quality testing. And there are certain areas that are under those that are closed and under this situation that I described that umm, you know if the people are law abiding, UM, you know, compliant with the closure and the laws under which the area is closed for shellfish, they can't harvest those shellfish.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\ThemImpactsOfNonDelivery\\Restriction of access

Document

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0348	1			
				1	AW	2023-11-08 6:28 PM

But in rural areas there is, I think a lot of kind of hidden poverty there, like people might own their own homes but barely be able to cover the property taxes, right? Because they've the home not been in their family for generations. Right? And so they inherited or they, you know, just grew up there. And they lived there their whole lives. But they, you know, they might not have a lot of other sources of income like their whole wealth may be the house that they're living in. Umm so to be able to you know they, you know, they could have a garden, they would get what they can from the woods. And I mean that is that is changing somewhat over time. There's probably not as many people living that that way, but I think there still is, you know, some of this kind of hidden hidden poverty in in rural parts of the province. Umm.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No		0.0207	2			
				1	AW	2023-11-08 5:56 PM

We've had no new areas opened or classified that have been through the program as it historically once was operated. There have been two I can speak to, there's been two operators that have areas classified, but they're bearing the costs and there's a number of applications.

				2	AW	2023-11-07 4:37 PM
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Or, like any wild subsistence harvesting, any commercial harvesting, be it wild or farming. This program is now becoming a hindrance to any of that and increasing risk within Nova Scotia and you know, from a development perspective, it's really going to stifle and it might even stop any kind of development unless it's in an open and approved area.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No		0.0101	1			
				1	AW	2023-11-08 5:56 PM

I spent the first five years of my career, I used to be a fishery officer, I spent it in Barrington, UM, you know, I worked throughout the Barrington area and the Shelburne area, which is all within Shelburne County, and many of those areas that have been closed since 2014, are areas that I used to do patrols in and tons of complaints from the public down there of them not being able to access those areas.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No		0.0101	1			
				1	AW	2023-11-10 2:03 PM

When when it's under prohibition, there is a law in place that prohibits any activity or harvest depending... unless there's special licenses in place that it would allow an exemption. UM, areas that are unclassified, DFO wouldn't have authority to prevent or charge anybody that's harvesting outside of various uh... Under prohibition.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.0886	3			
				1	AW	2023-11-07 4:36 PM

Because, you know, instead of having so some individuals that I'm aware of don't have the financial means to to purchase food., as much as they need with money from a provider, umm, like a grocery store, or don't have access to a food bank, or to the level at which they need to maintain a healthy, fulsome diet. Access to harvesting shellfish doesn't cost as much for the amount of food they can obtain with modest equipment and really no and economic needs, no money required to go harvest shellfish. So it's a financial savings to them to go out and dig a bucket of clams or harvest some oysters along the shoreline versus going to a store and buying either the same product or something else. This so it's an economic savings.

				2	AW	2023-11-07 4:44 PM
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And in fact, some of the decisions made by the Canadian shellfish Sanitation program is actually making it harder for them to obtain. Making it harder to be secure from a food perspective, so it's hampering their ability to go out and collect safe, inexpensive shellfish.

				3	AW	2023-11-08 11:12 PM
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Williamson, Adam (DFO/MPO)

Ohh that question was just about UM yeah, it was just about, uh, speaking to the decisions that makes it harder for people to collect or harvest shellfish, the specific CSSP decisions made within the program.

Participant 8

Yeah. Umm. Just how areas in generally are divided by the CSSP program such that, essentially, the coastline is divided into certain areas mostly by the water quality testers, ECCC, probably an analysis of you know whether or not those areas could be divided up, whether they are made larger or smaller that might improve and better coverage of the current water testing regime or better prioritization of where resources could be spent for water testing. So I guess it's maybe the decision not to analyze it's kind of like, there doesn't seem to be a lot of effort in looking for alternative testing options, testing regimes, testing methodologies. There's really not much analysis that I'm aware of that's really been given any... it's due consideration. It's just had a we deal with the lack of testing in terms of closing areas or declassifying areas. It's not really much innovation that's happening and that decision not to incorporate innovation is I think, a failure to Canadians.

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0470	3			
				1	AW	2023-11-07 4:01 PM

And so if if they and and where they are lacking in resources and there isn't a known priority from commercial harvests, sometimes closures are put in place which prohibits everyone from shellfish harvesting, and that could be. And there's large portions of the shoreline within Nova Scotia that are under a closure. And so someone say in one of the communities along the Eastern Shore where there's, umm, like a, a large area that's closed, they would have to go really long distance to to harvest. Maybe in some other communities there might be some options available of open areas to recreational harvest, so they might just be able to go to the next next harbor or or or, you know within 50 kilometers. But then there's some portions of Nova Scotia where there's just there's mass closures. And so that would really limit those particular communities from being able to harvest for food purposes.

				2	AW	2023-11-08 6:31 PM
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So food, food, security and they would they would say that there's, you know, there would be complaints during certain times of the year when there there were closures and they weren't able to harvest. There'd be a lot of specific complaints about, particularly when there was an area where there was a lot of product and it was sort of one of their favorite places historically too harvest and for some reason or another, it would. It was closed, so we get a lot of complaints about that and just asking why and and and that sort of thing.

				3	AW	2023-11-07 5:05 PM
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Declassification could be an option because that would allow allow for the harvest by indigenous people for their own through social ceremonial purposes

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\ThemImpactsOfNonDelivery\Socio-cultural food security

Document

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
	0.0267	1	1	AW	2023-11-11 2:39 PM

You know, it's interesting like now that we you know we there's been a greater recognition of umm, you know, food, social and ceremonial fisheries and importance of the of, you know, wild food for indigenous peoples. But I think there hasn't been the same recognition that for a lot of rural people or, you know, even people who live in urban areas now, who who might have that tradition, that there that, you know, that is also an important or perhaps of their culture, but also, you know, perhaps of supplement supplementing other food sources. So I I don't think we've appropriately recognized that with them with their CSSP program.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
	0.0367	2	1	AW	2023-11-08 11:34 PM

UM, where individuals can access uh, those types of fisheries without not necessarily paying a fee to do so. Umm, you know when when I think about it too it it would fall maybe on traditional practices, both indigenous and non indigenous in nature. I can say down here, especially in Southwest Nova, it's a tradition for generations for individuals to go out and access shellfish like soft shell clams, quohogs, UM for individual consumption, so that's that's what I think about it, you know, when I think about food security.

2	AW	2023-11-08 11:35 PM
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It varies depending if you live in Digby County, Yarmouth County or Shelburne County. They all have different opening times. There's different daily limits and they they have different closing times too, in the fall, so as those times near near... like for example, Yarmouth County closes on October 31st versus Digby County that closes on December 31st, so I'll get a lot of phone calls, people asking where they can go after October 31st. So anybody that lives near the Yarmouth, Digby, Shelburne County line, they have that ability to go in Digby County, once Yarmouth County closes so. Umm. Yeah, it's it's a huge traditional practice here. UM, just from my experience too probably more uh community based too. Like when I think about the Meteghan and Clare area uh, a lot more recreational activity up there than there would be, say, if I thought about Shelburne County. I guess it's more of a traditional practice for some of those communities, yeah.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
	0.0323	2	1	AW	2023-11-08 11:36 PM

It's culturally significant and to to their to the the history of these areas. It's been culturally done. And for subsistence, you know, for a quality food source, they've, always sort of harvest it these areas for for that. Sometimes it's it's for social reasons too, you know, to get together. But you know, people do harvest shellfish for are subsistence in some of these rural areas, I think, which is what makes it important, and it's part of their cultural history too, you know, it's just something they always done.

2	AW	2023-11-08 11:36 PM
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As we talked earlier, it's a rural local kind of thing. And certain pieces of the shoreline and Nova Scotia definitely do this more than others. An area in particular I would denote would be probably the South Shore of Nova Scotia, southwestern Nova Scotia UM would be an area where I think there is a high need for recreation. We've heard recently from down around Shelburne and Barrington area. Umm, those are areas that are very keen on recreational harvest and I know they'd love to have access to more area down that way specifically.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\ThemeIndigenousRights\Indigenous rights

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
	0.0609	2	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM

You know, it's interesting like now that we you know we there's been a greater recognition of umm, you know, food, social and ceremonial fisheries and importance of the of, you know, wild food for indigenous peoples. But I think there hasn't been the same recognition that for a lot of rural people or, you know, even people who live in urban areas now, who who might have that tradition, that there that, you know, that is also an important or perhaps of their culture, but also, you know, perhaps of supplement supplementing other food sources. So I I don't think we've appropriately recognized that with them with their CSSP program.

2	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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I think more could be done, yeah. You know, indigenous communities have many different priorities and concerns to deal with, but you know, as time as time goes on, I think they will become more organized and realize that this is a real cap. You know the lack...Yeah, I guess the the potentially the closing off, I guess of of access especially to some some spots which were probably more traditionally used and by certain indigenous nations or indigenous communities like I I look at the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia and where there's you know long and documented history of of use and I think I'm surprised that there has not been more concern expressed to the to the regulators about the the length of time those areas have been closed and you know the potential impact on on rights really for for indigenous people.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
	0.0143	1	1	AW	2023-11-07 5:06 PM

So earlier I was referring to like non indigenous individuals. You know, they they still feel that they have that right to go harvest recreationally, but then when you flip to the Indigenous side of things, they do have the right to harvest UM for food, social and ceremonial purposes. So, not having that program fully implemented in some areas, I think definitely impacts their ability to practice their rights as well. And uh, I fear that those individuals will still go and harvest if they if they feel that they need to do so right to uh to obtain, you know, a food resource.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

No	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
	0.1552	7	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM

I have heard a folks in certain indigenous communities say that it would be a really good focus for the economic viability of the community to feed into the food security part, but they've never said that as the food secure piece.

2	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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So although I haven't heard someone tell me that for Nova Scotia that they rely on shellfish for food security itself, I have heard in individuals or members of in indigenous communities say that it is part of their of their food, social and ceremonial, where food is part of that component. So although it hasn't been set explicitly, I think it's important to just note that it is in their thought process when they're talking about foods, food, social and ceremonial. So some of the community is look at it from that angle and then we'll call it food security. But it is food for community.

3	AW	2023-11-07 5:00 PM
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I remember conversations with southwest Nova Scotia office, so the area office had brought indigenous communities together to talk about this particular issue and it was with the Mi'kmaw of Nova Scotia, and I was in the room and we did talk about how this would impact our food social ceremonial component of their harvest that is commercial. But they were mostly focused on the food, social, ceremonial and they were saying they were saying that these are things we normally used to do traditionally and maybe not all of the different shellfish that we have now, but some of it for sure and we're unable to do it now because we don't have the testing in place or not, we like indigenous communities, but we, as the Government of Canada does not, we do not have that testing in place. So we don't have a third party doing the testing, so, that food that they would have normally traditionally harvest, they can't harvest

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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4 AW 2023-11-07 5:07 PM

I do know that indigenous people, when they're seen as getting something additional to the non indigenous population sometimes causes frustrations, anger, some perspectives will, you know, you'll say it's unfair that they get access and we don't, or something along those lines. Where in this case I don't even know if it applies because it's kind of open to everybody. So I've heard it, but I don't know if it really applies in this context. Have a big question mark there because I've heard of commercial. I've heard of the recreational and but I've heard some people say, well, they still have access to more than we do, but I don't know if it applies actually to shellfish. I know it applies to the regular like the the the fish themselves, right?

5 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

And FSC is a whole like people are starting to be more knowledgeable and accepting of FSC less so moderate livelihood. So that's a yeah, that would be a big, probably a big question mark there, like, how do people really see that? And when I say people, I'm talking the non indigenous versus the, you know, indigenous people having access in that way because in, in, even in some of the conversations, early conversations about moderate livelihood, some folks internally to DFO and even externally saw it as commercial and in some other cases we don't see it necessarily as commercial. It's kind of in between commercial and food social ceremonial because it's still a right, right. So be interesting how that's gonna, yeah, evolve as a conversation down the road.

6 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

Social ceremonial is for indigenous people, for indigenous communities, so not just not all coastal communities, so just clarifying that from the get go. And I would say that based on conversations, I would say, yes, I think indigenous communities on the coast who would have access would probably want access for FSC.

7 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

so this I thinking about DFO specifically and not necessarily university where you are, but DFO as a as a whole or even Government of Canada. The thinking process for me is where do we go with reconciliation and not just reconciliation when we're talking about truth and reconciliation, and what does that mean and and what's that journey? I'm I do hope that we find a way to be able to support food insecure communities in this particular case, I'm focusing on the indigenous communities and I think shellfish can definitely be part of that. So I think it's important that the Government of Canada, even provinces, indigenous communities and coastal communities all work together to figure out how this can be done, because I think it is a really good part or piece of the puzzle for food security, I think. Anyway. It has to be, it's a protein. It you know, we know that shellfish offers protein, and there's probably some other stuff, there's, you know, probably sodium, potassium, whatever. But I've never analyzed that, so I can't tell you what's in there. I could look it up though, but I'm thinking like a protein source, it probably offers quite a bit and in in this case, when I think of food, social, ceremonial, there would be no cost and it would be additional protein for a community to consider. Umm, I think it's important in terms of a reconcile truth and reconciliation kind of agenda. So I'll add that at the very end.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No 0.0139 1

1 AW 2023-11-07 5:07 PM

I guess when I was talking about recreational, I was I was missing the FSC aspect, which is some at your own risk too, but they're allowed to go just about everywhere anyway, except areas that are under prohibition to protect the public health. So I guess, yeah, I would sort of clarify, FSC would kind of be in with recreational in terms of at your own risk which. I would prefer for them to harvest where we know it's safe and approved waters personally.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No 0.0498 1

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

So there's a conflict right off the bat, sort of. It's not something that needs to be an issue. But even having those conflicting objectives at least requires decisions that are made for CSSP by three different departments, collectively managing the CSSP program, they have to understand the each other department's main goals for shellfish. So it has to be managed as a program in the context of other things, and for us that other things is allowing, you know, easy, safe access to shellfish by Canadians. Especially Indigenous fishers and harvesters, so that it just doesn't seem that that lens is really... so what's happening I think is the CSSP program is being managed in decisions on funding by ECCC, are being made without that consideration of the other CSSP partners, being DFO. So therefore, DFO's management priority of allowing access of shellfish for Indigenous harvesters is not being considered. It's, if anything, decisions are being made that don't align with our goals to improve access for Indigenous harvesters and other harvesters, so that's an issue that's poor... just not considering all of the collaborators and the Canadian citizens as a whole, their needs for access to safe healthy shellfish. Which just doesn't seem right. It's not good.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0415	2	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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And so by them not being able to harvest, they're not meeting their cultural needs. There's like, it's like often indigenous communities. Would gather together and have a big like they would call them like like ceremonies where they would harvest a bunch of shellfish and eat and they would have, they would celebrate. Or sometimes there would be some just just different rituals that they would do with their within their indigenous communities. And that was really important to them. I know around Southwest New Brunswick is kind of where my experience is, but I understand that it does happen in Nova Scotia as well. There's these things called shell middens and their large piles of UM clamshells that can be found in various locations on beaches, and it's those areas that are really sacred to the different communities, because that meant that that's where their ancestors went and met and celebrated or had some sort of a ceremony. And years later, the clam shells are still there. So I know that communities in like the Peskotomuhkati nation at Skutik is actually mapping all of their shell midden sites, umm to find out where all of their ancestors used to have these celebrations and that so that becomes a really important sacred site to them.

2	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Declassification could be an option because that would allow allow for the harvest by indigenous people for their own through social ceremonial purposes

Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\\Decline in resourcing

Document

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0414	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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I don't think it does a good job because I think it is... It is focused on the existing footprint, I guess of the commercial fishery, at least in this region, it seems to be, And So what there's doesn't seem to be any opportunities for expansion for any, UM, it you know, for example, the the aquaculture, but not just aquaculture, but other, you know, commercial wild harvest, I think there could be other opportunities for for that. UM, if you look at the the, well, oysters, for example, in the Bras d'Or lake or lakes there, there was a concern about disease for many years, they seemed to have overcome some of those barriers. And yet, because that area was, I guess, closed or there was no commercial or limited commercial development there. I mean it's it's going to be it's like you can't go back. Even if you you deal with with other problems, you can't go forward and expand because they're no longer testing it in an area. So that seems to be to seems to be very short sighted

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No		0.0667	3	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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so it is essentially a regulatory piece, for new and developing areas that are unclassified or people want to start harvesting in, they must make application to the through the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation program. There's processes for that, but at this point it is essentially not functioning as it historically, did. The federal governments are now saying that they don't have the resources to fully implement their program appropriately.

2	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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what I can say is that they're they're saying they're relaying that they don't have the resources at this point to for them to implement the program as they once historically did.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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3 AW 2023-11-07 2:00 PM

UM, there was there's been a significant increase in area cause Nova Scotia has a lot of potential harvest or growing areas that are have shellfish resources that are underutilized. You know, Nova Scotia is looking to expand and develop a more people are people are starting to move here or you know wanting to increase their own food security within their own province. There's opportunity here, and with the opportunity you have to ensure you have the regulatory oversight and UM, I guess that's part of the challenge here is historically the CSSP program would have maintained sampling or classified areas and maintain those areas. When I entered the industry, it started to turn to them not having the resources and then offloading or transferring the the burden of the, you know, the costs to the industry or harvesters that program that they should be implementing so you know I say it started in about 2015, 2016. And you know from that point, uh, there was definitely an increase in interest. I'll speak to the aquaculture side of things, but I'm sure there's also increased interest in just wild harvests around the province and essentially, the program isn't being implemented as it was historically, right? And that's creating challenges and confusion because people don't quite understand why the federal government isn't able to implement a program that they historically did.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No 0.0479 3

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

The problem is, currently, within some of the partners, we don't have the resource allocation in the areas to properly administer that mandate.

2 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

So right now I have knowledge that ECCC is really scaling back on... it's not their commitment to the program, I think their commitment is still there, but I've been told that they've lacked the resources and personnel and possibly funding, even though no one really said that directly. I just have the suspicion that they're being cut back for some reason, UM, for their part of the program, which is really an integral part of the program because they do that water quality testing, which assures that the water quality is safe within that certain parameter that allows us to consume shellfish. That's where I see maybe the shortfall is that for some reason resources are being cut back so the program is not able to be fully delivered. And I don't think it's... I don't even know what that why that decision is. It's probably more of a management decision, you know, budget constraints is maybe what it comes down to, right?

3 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

And we've, we've always just internally here in DFO complained about being under understaffed when it's, you know, related to the program. You know, I think we should have more support. UM, I think DFO is in a good position though, when it relates to the CSSP program. UM, I think CFIA is as well. I mean, I talk to them and ECCC on a regular basis and I'm not afraid to say that even even people that are employed by ECCC are a little bit discouraged. You can tell that they're they're kind of put in a hard place and they're under a lot of stress and probably overworked at this time because, number one, they've lost personnel that haven't been replaced through retirements. Maybe people have left and went, you know, to other jobs in their positions just weren't replaced. And you know, I've been told that they've had budgetary constraints as well, so.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

No 0.0317 2

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

It does not do a good job in keeping the monitoring going. No, it may close because we know we should close. That may happen, but there's no testing that is happening anymore because of lack of resources. That's my understanding. So areas stay closed.

2 AW 2023-11-08 5:55 PM

I don't know how many years ago, so I've been with the DFO since 2009 and I remember having conversations about that in 2009. But at the time there were still, I believe, testing water samples to make sure that the water was umm, that it wasn't contaminated there was still safe to drink, or use or etcetera, but I don't remember the year exactly. It's been too long to recall that far, but I do remember conversations about that and that the program was somewhat successful at the time and they were able to open and close areas as water was tested and either deemed uh safe for consumption or not. And I remember some conversations about that for sure. The year I don't remember, and I don't know since when they've been not able to do the the testing on an ongoing basis.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No		0.1188	6			
				1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM

At the moment probably, that's a bit of a tough question because there is lots of underutilized approved waters in Nova Scotia and it's not that far from any point where you can access some. Now, is it ideally located where people would prefer to harvest? Probably not. So there could be some improvements in terms of where we delivered for recreational purposes, but I think it just restricts where, they still can because there is still lots of underutilized approved waters all across Nova Scotia UM. But I think we could improve that some, with additional resources and funding potentially. Like we don't have capacity to to improve that at the moment. But with increased funding or resource, I think it would be worthwhile.

				2	AW	2023-11-08 5:54 PM
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Yes, it has been, yes, yes. Well, I'm only speaking for Environment Canada more or less on this aspect. I'm not speaking for the resourcing in CFIA or DFO, although I know we've all had struggles, but for ECCC specifically, our budgets have been reducing for a number of years consistently. So we've been shrinking our delivery models and our funding has been shrinking along with it for since about 2011.

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For being able to expand it, yes, or continue to not cut it. Resourcing is a very critical piece. Yes, it's been identified in the horizontal evaluation and uh and specifically in Nova Scotia, that's why we're... have affected so many areas with declassification, yeah.

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Yeah, we, we we are completely as efficient and and delivering more than we should be right now. So no, there is no internal capacity at al Al. additional funding and additional resources will be required to to do anything. That's one thing about us is we're fairly... it's a fairly simple program from our aspect and a lot of degrees we just collect water samples and apply a standard and we just need more people to be able to do more areas. We can't move any faster and there's no other ways to do this work that I'm aware of that would make it any faster. UM, so it's just we need more, more resource, more people. We can either, you know we do have water quality contracts in Nova Scotia that could just be funding contracted or people resource. I think a combination of the two would be best, but that is what it would be required to to address any expansion.

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It depends like it either one is OK. I think internal works better but, you know, there's different costs associated and different timelines associated with being able to address those issues. You know, it's a lot quicker under contract, but uh, delivering things internally is cheaper over time and can gain more efficiencies over time. So I would lean towards... if I was given a choice, which one? I would pick uh people and resource that way, along with some funding, because we would need to be able to pay for these people to move around to, you know, equipment, gear, gas, whatever, because we are boots on the ground collecting water samples all over the province.

				6	AW	2023-11-08 5:54 PM
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It's been over quite a period of time. So UM government, you know, federal government priorities was a piece of it. You know, we didn't always have Justin Trudeau as our Prime Minister. We used to have, UM, Stephen Harper, who very much wasn't interested in a lot of this, with Environment Canada. So our funding was getting cut during those years as we were dealing with the recession from 2008, 2009, there was some cuts to just do the inflation and spending. The government that was in at that time also didn't prioritize the environment, so double edged sword. UM, things did stabilize a little while under a new government, but then uh, for some reason, which I'm not aware of, we just started to get less and less funds each year. There was cuts to our program by management within ECCC for various reasons that I'm not fully aware of and they varied over that time period. UM, but that is the reality that our funding has been decreasing, not increasing.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

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So the cause is the ECCC not in this specific example, not, you know, not being able to spend the money, not having the resources to do the water quality testing. And there are certain areas that are under those that are closed and under this situation that I described that umm, you know if the people are law abiding, UM, you know, compliant with the closure and the laws under which the area is closed for shellfish, they can't harvest those shellfish.

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2 AW 2023-11-10 2:03 PM

And I believe it wasn't all that long ago where we switched from monitoring areas every three years to doing it every year because of the United States food agency I think it's as a result of audits there and in order for us to maintain access to the United States market, we had to, uh, improve, increase the frequency of our monitoring, I think from every three years to every one year, which was essentially at the stroke of a pen man, a tripling of resources. Think my math is correct. Essentially tripling of resources to monitor the same areas and it probably improved the safety, you know the risk management and manage the risks even better for safety.

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No 0.0274 2

1 AW 2023-11-07 1:40 PM

Yeah, for sure, because the UM based on the resources and and I mean there's an infinite amount of uh or a finite sorry, there's a finite amount of resources for federal partners to be able to monitor and and have areas open for shellfish harvesting. And they prioritize umm, based on interest from commercial harvesters and things. So, so they. And so if they and and where they are lacking in resources and there isn't a known priority from commercial harvests, sometimes closures are put in place which prohibits everyone from shellfish harvesting

2 AW 2023-11-10 2:03 PM

Well, the the trouble with the CSSP program is that. It it, it needs to meet the the US FDA standards for export into their into their country. And so there's really, really stringent program requirements, monitoring requirements and and that sort of thing for shellfish that's going to be exported, which creates huge cost on on CSSP partners to try to meet those standards.

Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\\Interpretation of mandate

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No 0.0949 4

1 AW 2023-11-07 12:41 PM

the whole formality of the CSSP where it's targeted at commercial exports you know it targeted for commercial harvest it it is really you know it's a it's a... it does not consider kind of recreational or subsistence harvest and it did not. You know, it's interesting like now that we you know we there's been a greater recognition of umm, you know, food, social and ceremonial fisheries and importance of the of, you know, wild food for indigenous peoples. But I think there hasn't been the same recognition that for a lot of rural people or, you know, even people who live in urban areas now, who who might have that tradition, that there that, you know, that is also an important or perhaps of their culture, but also, you know, perhaps of supplement supplementing other food sources. So I I don't think we've appropriately recognized that with them with their CSSP program.

2 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

Yeah, we we have, I think other programs that you know, preps have could be interpreted to have a narrow mandate, but people have considered them more broadly. You know, I think about weather forecasting, for example. I mean if there is all kinds of different products available for that and and, and yes, if you probably look at the the Meteorological Services mandate, that could have been interpreted very narrowly, but yet they don't provide many different products and many different forms they have coverage, they have forecasting, you know, many different areas. So I guess it it's part of, you know, obviously having an expanded mandate or having you know more clear recognition that there are there are other reasons for shellfish harvest beyond commercial would would help in in getting more testing. But I also think it's partially... and, you know, lack of understanding about the the... impacts that this program is having and the way it's been interpreted on on the non commercial harvests.

3 AW 2023-11-10 1:51 PM

And maybe, maybe not so much to people on the ground, but the I think the more senior managers like I, I find it extremely puzzling that there has not been more buy in for this. Like I I think of any, you know, food safety program in this country.

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4 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

I guess they would have to maybe they need to rewrite the mandate and put more money into it both, but I I think they they should do that.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No 0.0831 4

1 AW 2023-11-07 12:40 PM

If I have to be 100% honest, which I will be to you, no, in my opinion, and I'm not afraid to say this, I've said it to CFIA and Environment Canada and to do my DFO colleagues openly in meetings that in my mind the CSSP program is guided more towards industry more than the recreational side of things. This pertains to food security, it's my opinion that since in my view the program focuses is more on the industrial side of the program like industry harvesting, it's more for the profit on that side to me it seems like they they focus their efforts more on the areas that are heavily harvested by industry versus the areas that are heavily harvested by individuals recreationally. Umm, you know where I think this is just my opinion, I think that program should be the focus should be on the benefit of all Canadians, including industry.

2 AW 2023-11-07 12:40 PM

I don't think it's a problem with the mandate, I mean. I'll be honest, I haven't read the mandate in full, but I'm aware of most of the bits and pieces. I think the way the mandate is written in the CSSP program overall, the parameters are well developed. The problem is, currently, within some of the partners, we don't have the resource allocation in the areas to properly administer that mandate. That's my opinion. It seems... I'll go back to where there's more focus on those heavily harvested areas by industry. There's more focus on those areas rather than folks in on all areas where individuals may want to have access to shellfish.

3 AW 2023-11-07 12:40 PM

So what they did was there was a project, UM, I think initiated by ECCC, which kind of ranks each area that they're shellfish, based on their activity level, so they rank it low, Uh, medium or high? This is just my opinion, but I believe that as a result of that project that occurred a few years back, a lot of areas that were ranked in that low classification for activity level were the ones that were targeted for not, not necessarily targeted, but we're the ones that may be the water quality testing stopped in those areas as it was based on a volume level of harvesting. I don't necessarily agree with that, you know, I believe that whether an area is low harvest level or high harvest level, I I think that testing should occur because the potential for harvesting is there, right, so. I suppose to answer your question it it could be more of a targeted nature on on these certain areas that that remain closed due to the lack of water quality testing.

4 AW 2023-11-07 12:40 PM

Sometimes I'm of the opinion that the program is catered towards aquaculture. Umm, you know, just in the recent past, uh, we had a massive rainfall closure that closed all the waters from Yarmouth all the way to Northern Cape Breton. And the first areas that testing occurred in were areas that had shellfish agriculture operations occurring. So within a week their are waters were tested, proven to be safe. So they're operations were reopened and harvesting was permitted to to exist again, whereas other areas remain closed for a few weeks after that before testing was done. So just my opinion, but it appears that the program could be catered towards aquaculture shellfish aquaculture more than towards even commercial clam harvesters or, you know, in leaving recreational aside, but. Yeah, I I would be of the opinion that it it may be catered more towards the aquaculture operations than anything else.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No 0.0137 2

1 AW 2023-11-07 12:00 PM

Yes, I've had that experience in in the program recently that has not been a high priority or in in this region for the program. UM, so we tend not to concern ourselves so much. It's been more at their own risk.

2 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

UM, largely yes, I would say, UM, in terms of recreational harvesters, not so much. But it is at your own risk which there is a lot of that does occur with other food sources. But yeah, outside of recreational harvesting, I would say yes.

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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

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I I don't think it it fully addresses or. Actually I I I really don't feel like it It's focuses at all, on local food security. The CSSP is mainly focused on commercial harvesting, so for the sale of of clams for for money.

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I know within the mandate it says that it's it's supposed to be able to ensure the safe food for Canadians. So from the from the safety perspective, yes, I think it should. Umm, it does in terms of commercial and export it it, it makes sure that the the clams that or or the seafood that's harvested shellfish that's harvested is safe for human consumption and for export. But it's not directly focused on safety for recreational harvesters or for food security purposes.

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And they prioritize umm, based on interest from commercial harvesters and things. So, so they. And so if if they and and where they are lacking in resources and there isn't a known priority from commercial harvests, sometimes closures are put in place which prohibits everyone from shellfish harvesting

Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\\Interpretation of mandate\\Power to influence

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0357	1			
				1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM

And maybe because the, like the the the group, you know the potential shellfish harvesters or the potential recreational shellfish harvesters or isolated communities, they they haven't, you know, they, they politically they don't have a lot of power and. I mean, perhaps it's a classic class issue. You know, with people making the decisions, they're they're the people, you know, buy their their food through the grocery store or they get through their they they don't, they don't have the mentality or they don't realize that, you know, wild harvest is still important for some people. And yeah, and has the potential... I think it also has the potential to to become more important, it could it could, you know, certainly with rising food costs. UM, it could play an important role in in making you know, places like Nova Scotia, more, more food secure.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

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And that this is kind of my own personal opinion I guess, but it it kind of goes as a DFO employee as well, but yeah. I I feel like the the shellfish industry, commercial harvesters and anyone that harvests harvest shellfish is is generally uh, well, in, in a lower economic, what's the word I'm looking for? Category, I guess. And generally speaking, you know usually a bit lower education, not necessarily politically involved compared to some of the other commercial fisheries and other fisheries like lobster, scallops and and things like that. And so I guess what I'm getting at is, umm, they a lot of the times the shellfish harvesters don't have the organizational or skills or or the skills to kind of bring their concerns forward politically to get a voice. And so sometimes they get overlooked compared to some of the other industries. It's a little bit of a, uh, they don't make as much money as, say, lobster fishermen as well. And it's really hard work and. And so I don't know. I just. I just find they sometimes don't, they they're not always a priority of government because they don't have that ability to raise their issues politically as effectively as other fisheries. Umm, so that's that's I think that that's one reason why resources are are less for that for that particular industry unfortunately. But where they are in a lower economic bracket it, it means that it's they need it even more, right? Like they don't have a they don't have a buffer. They don't have, you know, the ability to go a season without, you know, have a bad season or or that sort of thing like like other fisheries can.

Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\\Lack of consultation

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0525	1	1	AW	2023-11-10 1:34 PM
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I worked for DFO and I feel that the rules around, I guess subsistence harvest or recreational harvest or whatever you call it for both fish and shellfish are very, you know, you you have to make an effort to look into it. It's, it seems to be different from place to place and so I I think you know the complexity of the rules is definitely a barrier. I mean, you do see people like fishing for mackerel recreationally or whatever to add to their don't know, maybe they're doing it to their families food supply. I see a lot more of it lately, actually. Umm, but I don't know. You know, I think a lot of what you hear about is word of mouth. And like I've heard different people tell me different versions of the rules. So I think that that is a barrier and just, you know, the ability of information around that and and for for clamming. I think it's even more complicated because there are like there are these closed areas. Like the skull and crossbones, at certain sites, so certainly you know that would and people people don't know: is is this site closed just because there hasn't been testing here in a long time, or is it closed because there really is this a source of contamination and and people don't have that, that that level of knowledge.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

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not even able enabling advisement to industry on how to actually appropriately follow their programs and procedures.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.1966	5			
				1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM

So, you know, lack of testing of an area... Again, it's about it's managing and assessing the risk, so testing once annually or however, you know whatever the frequency and locations of testing, it's those decisions are made based on the risk. And you know, so you're essentially monitoring levels of the toxin essentially, or risk of the toxin. I'm not sure if it's very well communicated, how ECCC does that assessment. But you know whether or not they communicate at the start of every year with federal regulatory partners CSSP partners that hey, we got even less funds than last year, we want to prioritize the areas where we want to test, so that means we have to knock some areas off the map for testing and not test there. Let's do an analysis and choose to make the tough decisions and choose what areas we can't afford to test. I don't think that analysis has ever been done proactively. It certainly wasn't up until quite recently, and when it is done it's very challenging because the data that we have to prioritize areas where testing should be done is not very good data.

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But our attempts in the past to go to communities, you know, we've done that in the past to go out to the communities with this message of there's limited resources and we undertook the process 5 to 10 years ago to go up to communities to explain here's the situation, we as the federal government, but specifically ECCC have limited resources, there may be areas we can't test. So tell us where you do or want to or have harvested, and we'll try our best to keep those prioritized. The problem is that there wasn't a lot of attendance at those meetings. I think there once had been plans to do more in the past, we put a lot of energy into developing plans. Both with the appropriate Indigenous consultation lens and engagement lens, but also non indigenous, which does take a lot of energy and resources just to do the planning and let alone the execution of those engagement and consultations. But I don't think we've given it very, very good... anything that would even be like the college, the good old college try. It's not a legitimate attempt.

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So that might be actually that might be where we're kind of failing to deliver on the program as well and to ensuring food security through safe shellfish availability, is not undertaking those exercises, those priority exercises and not going out and asking people consulting with people's talking to people. And you have to have boots on the ground to know where people want to harvest or they do harvest. But it's not just a matter of signing out a survey or just walking into the community and asking, there's a lot of complexities around all of that. Like for various reasons that run the multitude of reasons why it's not as easy as it sounds to the governments credit, but we're not even trying.

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So I guess what this specifically should mean is again through a lot of effort from somebody, we have to understand where, especially Indigenous peoples, need and want to access safe shellfish and prioritize that through the CSSP program. At least be able to go to that program as a federal partner and explain, this is what we've done, this is what we've heard and this is what we recommend the CSSP program prioritize for testing. We're not doing that. We don't have a very good process to do that, and we're not barely trying.

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just speaking to people like actually like boots on the ground, interacting with the community members to just to know and to learn, and then for us to share that within the department to the CSSP decision makers within the department to say like you know, in this part of the province and along this part of the coastline, here's the history, and here's the current, and here's maybe the hopes of where people want to be harvesting shellfish like, you know, like, this place has a lot of clams. So people like to dig clams here, they've always dug clams. Here, though, will never be oysters picked off the shoreline. The habitat is not there, so I'll clams is the thing in this area. Clam habitat changes so they need the habitat to be protected so that the clam flats stay the way they are and they want to continue harvesting clams there. Like, that's just now the there's not a scientific study. It's just local knowledge so that local knowledge needs to be captured, and we've done different exercises in the past to do that. But it's dated. It's dated. We've done surveys like that in the past where we've gone out, we still use that data. It's probably 20 years old. We use it in the aquaculture siting process in which we interviewed communities and community members of like, where does, where do Members of this Community harvest and fish and where? Where do the cod, where do the clams live and where do they haddock live? And we haven't gone out and asked all those questions and captured them. That probably needs to be updated and. And what else? I think that's all I had in my. All I had thought about, yeah.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\Misalignment of priorities

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

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Well, I think there is a disconnect. You know you have the, you know, E triple C is focused on certain things, and CFIA is focusing, you know, people are kind of, it's very siloed. And so you have the people who are working, say, on, on public health or in social services they, you know, they might not even know that this program exists and that there is a, you know, that there may be an opportunity to do more wild harvest, right. So it's kind of, yeah, there's just a disconnect between between mandates like is is the job of, is the mandated DFO to make sure that, people have access, you know, all kinds of people have access to fish for for, you know, subsistence harvest? You know, probably not. DFO like manages the fisheries and.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No	0.0543	2				
			1	AW	2023-11-10 1:48 PM	

And how the program was implemented is sort of, UM, I'll say grey, unclear, due to you know it is a complicated program. It's complicated because you have three federal partners that are essentially have provide advice and have specific roles that may not always align with each other, or create challenges when trying to deliver a program of this nature. But essentially, yeah, I would say early early 2016, the program essentially has been a challenge.

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So it's really become a challenge and I guess the messaging it seems isn't clear from the partners or you know the voice of the partners, it's not really clear who is delivering, who should be delivering the messages in a timely manner is another thing you know. I know uh service delivery is a challenge, especially for this kind of work, but I think you know there could be service delivery standards with with the ability to be flexible if, umm, it is a challenging area to, you know, navigate freely or assess we'll say. UM, you know, there needs to be better management of the program and how that's done, I don't know. I know it seems the three federal partners are not even clear in their communications at times and their roles and... You know it, it is sometimes circular in nature that you know it should, they, partner will relay to another to another, there should be 1 voice in and one voice out, really, when it comes to people who, or industry or subsistence harvesters on what they who they should be talking to to get the information from, UM, so and and I guess a clear direction and processes and policies so people know how to navigate the CSSP program itself

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-22_Participant2_FINAL

No	0.0161	1				
			1	AW	2023-11-07 12:01 PM	

based on my gut and conversations, I think if commercially there was a lot of push my my gut is telling me that somehow we would figure out a way to maybe be able to test more and the commercial industry probably would get involved as well because they would have a little bit more in terms of resources. When you're talking about recreational and also when you're talking about indigenous communities who do not have a lot of resources either, then I think that kind of falls through the crack a little bit more possibly.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No	0.0317	2				
			1	AW	2023-11-07 11:53 AM	

While each department would have its own mandates, uh ultimately it is to protect public health. In a simple answer that that's what I would give, but each department has its own responsibilities that are outlined in the CSSP to to accomplish that goal of protecting the public health.

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2 AW 2023-11-07 11:53 AM

It is also, you know, from Environment Canada's perspective, that's what it's about. And from CFIA, that's largely what it's about. But from DFO's perspective, there's resource management that has to occur that is has to work alongside of the public health risk, which means access to fishery, controlling the fishery, and licensing the fishery and all those control points that are important to, to managing a fishery. So, you know, DFO has to manage the fishery side of it too, where, ECCC really is just concerned more about the classification and the public health side of classifications, because that's the whole idea behind them. You know, approved means it's safe to consume directly and our other classifications have different meanings, you know.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No 0.2018 5

1 AW 2023-11-07 4:46 PM

Just how areas in generally are divided by the CSSP program such that, essentially, the coastline is divided into certain areas mostly by the water quality testers, ECCC, probably an analysis of you know whether or not those areas could be divided up, whether they are made larger or smaller that might improve and better coverage of the current water testing regime or better prioritization of where resources could be spent for water testing. So I guess it's maybe the decision not to analyze it's kind of like, there doesn't seem to be a lot of effort in looking for alternative testing options, testing regimes, testing methodologies. There's really not much analysis that I'm aware of that's really been given any... it's due consideration. It's just had a we deal with the lack of testing in terms of closing areas or declassifying areas. It's not really much innovation that's happening and that decision not to incorporate innovation is I think, a failure to Canadians.

2 AW 2023-11-10 2:00 PM

I've never really heard of them increasing the testing, it's always just been decreasing the testing. And I think the decisions to decrease the testing had been made on what they perceived to be areas that were not actively harvested. So I mean to their credit, they, at least at some point in time and with their own knowledge, at least, and maybe that of others, while recognizing that that knowledge and information is not very strong, they probably did take into consideration things like... these certain bays are not actively harvested and they're not directing limited resources to testing those areas. You know, to their credit, maybe they've done that analysis. It's never been very well articulated if they have, it's never really been explained in detail. Which makes me highly suspicious.

3 AW 2023-11-07 11:53 AM

So yeah, so there's a problem with the CSSP program is that it was developed for market access. If not, and you can correct me if I'm wrong like it is either for just market access, but maybe even American market access. Gotta be careful because oh, I think ohh the program is decades old, I don't wanna say how many decades cause I think of something like the 50s or 60s or 1940s or something, at least in some areas. It could have started in like a small city or something like the actual testing of this. Maybe the CSSP program started as some other program. The program is primarily set up and I think, you know, managed like... the government as the Government of Canada where managing is to enable market access domestically or internationally. But DFO's responsibilities, and I mean, in some ways, the government of Canada's responsibilities is... a priority responsibility is to enable access to marine resources by coastal communities and especially Indigenous communities. But the program isn't designed for that. So we have these competing priorities. One is that there's safe food for trade purposes, but when it comes to managing the shellfish as a resource, DFO's first priority is access to Indigenous communities like Indigenous harvest is our first priority, and then commercial and then recreational.

4 AW 2023-11-13 12:52 PM

So there's a conflict right off the bat, sort of. It's not something that needs to be an issue. But even having those conflicting objectives at least requires decisions that are made for CSSP by three different departments, collectively managing the CSSP program, they have to understand the each other department's main goals for shellfish. So it has to be managed as a program in the context of other things, and for us that other things is allowing, you know, easy, safe access to shellfish by Canadians. Especially Indigenous fishers and harvesters, so that it just doesn't seem that that lens is really... so what's happening I think is the CSSP program is being managed in decisions on funding by ECCC, are being made without that consideration of the other CSSP partners, being DFO. So therefore, DFO's management priority of allowing access of shellfish for Indigenous harvesters is not being considered. It's, if anything, decisions are being made that don't align with our goals to improve access for Indigenous harvesters and other harvesters, so that's an issue that's poor... just not considering all of the collaborators and the Canadian citizens as a whole, their needs for access to safe healthy shellfish. Which just doesn't seem right. It's not good.

5 AW 2023-11-07 11:52 AM

But it's, it's not only indigenous, it's for any communities, like I say, there's that communities that need food security. Food security has, you know, should be a consideration regardless of indigeneity or not. Where do Canadians in coastal communities needing increased access for food security of shellfish, and let's prioritize those areas and, you know, cause maybe those should be prioritized over commercial interests. But the program is not designed, it's designed for commercial interests. The program is and that's, that's fine, but, that, you know, are we having that discussion? Is prioritize, you know, is it time to change that train of thought or that CSSP purpose I don't know. Or are those discussions happening? I don't know. I don't think they are.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0061	1	1	AW	2023-11-13 6:05 PM
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And so if they and and where they are lacking in resources and there isn't a known priority from commercial harvests, sometimes closures are put in place which prohibits everyone from shellfish harvesting

Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\\NationalRegional

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No		0.0523	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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I would say the not all problems is face the same challenges on the same scale. UM, due to the history of what's occurred in those provinces, you know the the nature, the just the geographic range of the province. So compare PEI is a smaller province, they have a significant historical shellfish industry that has been established. So they've been able to implement the program there. You can it's due to like the geographical range. You can travel all cover along, essentially the whole entire province within a couple hours, right? So that makes the sampling and testing required a lot easier to cover abroad, all the areas that are potentially being harvested or fished. Nova Scotia is it's a lot larger, broken up, more remote areas that people may venture into or look too harvest in or farm in, and that's just starting to increase and develop as you develop those rural areas. The risks would increase if you know the program isn't being implemented there. UM, you know also in well, you're you're looking at like Quebec, Ontario and then into like really any area that has, you know, shellfish harvesting areas. So the interior problems aren't really impacted by this, but then the West Coast is as well, right? It's a national program and it different provinces are may not saying they are, but maybe, governed differently by the representatives who run that program within the region, so then eventually they all filter up to a Ottawa but, programs and processes may be a bit different from problems to province. But it all should be equal and and implemented the same.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No		0.0164	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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I mean some of these issues, I don't think they're specific only to Nova Scotia because uh, when I was part of that alternate service delivery pilot project a few years ago, there was also the same type of police pilot projects occurring in Newfoundland and also one occurring on the Pacific Coast in British Columbia. So I think these similar issues are occurring, uh, nationally, not only regionally, but nationally as well, right? I mean, if I see Newfoundland having the same type of an issue and I see the West Coast of British Columbia having the same types of issues. Umm, so I don't think SW Nova is alone. You know, I think I think it's a national issue.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No		0.0088	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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I'd say Nova Scotia has seen a lot more of the impacts than other areas, but it has affected the whole national program, it has. But I know Nova Scotia has seen a lot of the impact from it and cuts. More than other places, but everywhere was cut. You know, part of the conversation, yes.

Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\\Open unmonitored

Document

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-11-02_Participant8_FINAL

No		0.0229	1	1	AW	2023-11-10 2:01 PM
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So I don't think environment and climate Change Canada has been forthcoming with the data to Canadians, let alone other CSSP federal partners, DFO and CFIA, on the frequency and level of testing that's being done in shellfish harvest areas, and it's at these times when areas are closed, at least in the past where it was revealed that the data had been old and there hadn't been testing in some of these areas for years. Three to five years, perhaps in some areas. I mean, it's not to say that the food the shellfish was not as safe to eat, but certainly there was less monitoring.

Codes\\ThemeOrganizationalDysfunctionality\\Staff turnover

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Files\\Information Contribution_2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No		0.0239	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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Whereas you know then within the government, people advance and and then you know, move on or rolls shift. But I think that's a big problem, because uh, then job descriptions changed, but I think we need to, you know, go back to: this is the job, you know, this is the role and you know, do the work internally, UM and really refine and ensure that the programs they should be covering and responsible for are being implemented appropriately, right. But I think spending money on client... there needs to be a cost savings analysis. The gap analysis done as well on by each operator. Each UM federal agency to determine you know, where they can direct funds to and resources to truly implement these programs appropriately.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\ThemeRisk\\Harvest safety risks

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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No	0.0971	5				
			1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM	

So on leases, people can't obviously go harvest the lease owners allowed to go harvest right. So off lease, there are resources, but there are challenges associated and risks associated with it. Obviously, SHELLI is a Canadian shellfish sanitation program, web mapping tool, I'll refer to it as, that DFO implements. It shows the areas that are safe for harvesting on classified or closed for harvesting for varying reasons, that gives direction to the general public of areas that are open or closed, or maybe at risk. But essentially there is a lot of risk associated with, umm, people going out and harvesting in varying areas, shellfish, and it can also lead to secondary risks if they're looking to just sell that product to whoever they want, be it through a permit or unpermitted right. So.

			2	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM	
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the first risk is what our waterborne issues essentially like E coli is the major risk for human health and safety. So if an area has elevated it, E coli levels due to you know rainfall events and whatnot runoff and just increase levels within the that area where shellfish consume them, they filter those E Coli you then eat them and you become very sick. That's an issue. There's heavy metal issues in some areas. It's just the nature of the water body. Essentially, it's a different, every water body is different and it needs to be tested appropriately to ensure it's safe for human health, human health and safety and consumption.

			3	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM	
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The second one is then I guess around the shell stock itself and eventually biotoxins. So there there's in the marine or brackish and freshwater areas, there's toxic algal blooms appearing types. The product can be consumed after the it's filter filtered by, filtered by the shellfish and people can also become very sick from that and die. That's essentially regulated by CFIA Umm. Environment Canada is responsible for the shell stock or sorry, the water and CFIA the the uh, shell stock, so there's varying risks.

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It's a huge risk for those people because if... an areas should be, you know, closed for because it is umm, you know not safe for human consumption. People may not know and they could become sick or even die, right? So it's it's a huge risk to Nova Scotians and well the general public, be them tourists that are coming here to Canadians, you know, anyone that comes into our province, it's essentially... or any province within Canada because it is a national program. This is a huge risk to those provinces, industries and just the Canadians or people at large.

			5	AW	2023-11-08 11:02 PM	
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At this point I don't see it developing based on the information I received from the federal partners. So essentially it is just increasing the risk to uh subsistence harvesters or any type of harvester? Or anyone that wants to get into and farming, harvesting or recreationally or commercially within Nova Scotia. So UM, at this point I see it inhibiting development or putting any subsistence harvesters at risk.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No	0.0737	4				
			1	AW	2023-11-08 5:56 PM	

You could, you know, I just look at our area, Uh, that I'm familiar with here in Southwest Nova and we keep talking about a huge closure that occurred back in 2014, which basically shut down about 75% of Shelburne County. And since that time, there's been no water quality testing done in that area, so that area remains closed. UM, because you know DFO, who is responsible for opening and closing the fisheries is not willing to take that risk involved by reopening that area without having proper water, water quality testing done to to kind of give that assurance that the shellfish is safe in that area. So you know, there's there's a problem so, yeah, I think the program is being scaled back. You know if it is budget constraints and personnel constraints that are causing that then you know I do believe that program is not being delivered at the level it should be, yeah.

			2	AW	2023-11-12 10:07 PM	
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At this time, yes. Yep, unless the area becomes what they call declassified. UM, which as you are probably aware, there is a declassification, uh project on the go right now, where they're gonna use, if my knowledge is correct, historical water quality data, which shows that the water quality is normally safe, uh to allow for the consumption of shellfish. UM, But then again, if an area is declassified, then an individual is harvesting there at their own risk, right? With no assurance that that shellfish, you know, could be unsafe, right? So you know, without testing there, we're just not going to know, right?

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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3 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

I believe that the three CSSP partners have a pretty good, uh, historical data on areas that are known to the contaminants like, especially after heavy rainfall. But even though those historical areas that may have never had water quality issues, that doesn't say that something occurs and that all of a sudden we have water quality issues in areas that are declassified. I think the potential still lies that you know, you know, there could be some big industrial development next to a shoreline that uh, you know, that comes out of the next couple of years and then all of a sudden, if there's, you know, some sort of spillage, maybe, that occurs that is undetected, right, that uh could cause shellfish to become contaminated. Right. That they're, you know, that potential is there. Maybe the risk is low, but it would, you know, the potential is still there. I've got mixed feelings myself about declassification, but, you know, but some people, I mean, some people are leaning in in support. That that declassification is, is a somewhat low risk, uh, you know what path to take I guess in these areas that don't have water quality testing.

4 AW 2023-11-07 4:23 PM

It's the only fishery where people are involved in that somebody could die from by by consuming contaminated shellfish. I've never heard of anybody dying from eating a lobster, eating a cod or haddock right. It's, you know, shellfish can hold those contaminants. So I mean it's there that's that's, that's the difference, yeah.

Files\\Information Contribution_2023-09-15_Participant7_FINAL

No 0.0271 2

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

Well, we, we always promote that they that harvest only occurs in approved waters where we heard delivering the program that's what we the the initial messaging is go where we know. But there is at your own risk which is potentially there, but I would suggest we send them to where it's already classified as approved, where we know it is safe and the program is fully delivered there, yeah.

2 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

I would say it actually it's it's a bit of a food safety risk, but I'd say it allows them access to more shoreline then it would it being classified because there are sections in Nova Scotia that are are unclassified. And as long as there's no prohibition order in place, those areas would be available at your own risk. So UM, they actually have access to more area when it's at your own risk, but it is risky for the human health side piece of it, but it allows them access to more real estate.

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No 0.0563 5

1 AW 2023-11-07 4:25 PM

So from the from the safety perspective, yes, I think it should. Umm, it does in terms of commercial and export it it, it makes sure that the the clams that or or the seafood that's harvested shellfish that's harvested is is safe for human consumption and for export. But it's not directly focused on safety for recreational harvesters or for food security purposes.

2 AW 2023-11-12 10:48 PM

I was going to say, particularly since all of these areas, a lot of what they go off of is the is the signage at the beaches and when they see a big sign that says that has a skulls and crossbones and it says contaminated do not consume umm, then that they they trust that sign I guess, yeah.

3 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

So it happens but, but yeah, it's it's, it's risky I guess whereas whereas a recreational harvester, I mean they it it's not as risky for them because you know if it's an isolated area and they know that it's not patrolled very often and it's not likely that they're gonna get actually caught digging and they only dig for an hour. You know it's, I think they'd be more willing to risk that and just get some food from themselves.

4 AW 2023-11-08 6:16 PM

Whereas a commercial harvester would be there, the entire tide more likely that they would get caught, and then they'd have to lie on their tags and it could get sampled at the facility. And if it came back bad, then that could link back to them. So I I don't think that happens that often with commercial harvesters, but with recreational harvesters, it does, I think.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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5 AW 2023-11-08 11:14 PM

I guess the risk with that is it, it would mean that the the contamination if if the area was contaminated it would be unknown with the federal partners with it being within the CSSP program, if it were monitored periodically, we would know and be able to tell indigenous communities if it was contaminated or not. So it's it's really allowing them to harvest, but harvest at their own risk. So so that that, that could be that could be a risk I guess.

Codes\\ThemeRisk\\Harvest safety risks\\Public contamination perceptions\\Public skepticism

Document

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant5_FINAL

No 0.0270 1

1 AW 2023-11-06 2:46 PM

So there's an operator I know who grows mussels and he's in Northern Cape Breton, so fairly remote. Definitely, you know, takes a while to get there so. And he's so surrounded by mountains, so if there's a heavy rainfall, you know, there is quite a lot of runoff that goes into his area where he's growing. And you know, after a heavy rain, he is basically shut down because again, the notion of pesticides, what have you, nutrients, whatever off of the land running into his and water, mussels sort of taking that in. And it's within their the mussels. So and you don't want to be eating them. UM, But the feeling is that, UM, you know, really there's only a risk period of about, you know, five days or so, give or take a couple days. Umm, but for the most part he is shut down for uh, usually two weeks plus.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No 0.0457 3

1 AW 2023-11-12 12:45 AM

And the problem now that lies is I do know that individuals are still harvesting shellfish because it's such a tradition in that area. They don't care whether it's open or closed. They'll go and harvest because they feel that it's their tradition and almost their right to be able to go access that type of food recreationally. And uh, it's still occurring even though the program, uh, right now, has those areas closed because without that, those testing results, we don't know whether the shellfish is safe or not, for human consumption.

2 AW 2023-11-12 5:12 PM

So, not having that program fully implemented in some areas, I think definitely impacts their ability to practice their rights as well. And uh, I fear that those individuals will still go and harvest if they if they feel that they need to do so right to uh to obtain, you know, a food resource. And again, there's that risk of, you know, possible, UM, you know, individuals becoming sick or ill or even death. You know, if they eat contaminated shellfish, right? Luckily, I haven't heard any instances in the last little while where individuals have gotten ill, but you know that potential does exist. You know, I think about this summer that we've had here too, with the unprecedented amounts of rainfall, which of course filter all those contaminants into our our ocean and shoreline waterways, right? UM, especially right after major rainfall event. So without all that testing that normally would occur, we're unaware whether or not those shellfish are contaminated. The only good part of it at this time is those areas not being tested are closed, right? The access is just not there, yeah.

3 AW 2023-11-12 10:07 PM

So I do, I do see even, even in the areas that you can't harvest in because they're currently prohibited, UM, I believe individuals are still harvesting shellfish in those areas, right? They're taking that risk.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

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				1	AW	2023-11-08 6:43 PM

I again, it's a little different in in New Brunswick, the majority, the mass majority, the vast majority of the time in New Brunswick, the areas were closed, that was for food safety purposes. But we would still get. Like there there was this one area, some sometimes they didn't necessarily trust the governments sampling regime or didn't think that we were doing it frequently enough to really ensure that it was still contaminated. So there was always kind of that concern as well. If we had had a sample that was they four or five months old, say thing the last time that we had been there, they were really like, well, why aren't you resampling? It could be good now and we could be harvesting so the so the frequency of our sampling was a bit of an issue too, because they thought that if we could get umm more frequent sampling to get it open sooner than they be able to harvest there. But sometimes that just wasn't either within our budget or we looked at historical trends and knew that, OK, well, if it's high at this point of the year, there's really no sense us sampling it for a period of time because it's gonna take that long for the for the toxins to get get lower, I guess so. So yeah, there were a lot of scenarios where where people were asking us to to, to sample more frequently, to try to make sure, like to get a sample that was showing non contaminated. But in terms of Nova Scotia Umm, I don't think the public or even I think the commercial industry knows that areas are closed even though there isn't. Umm, like recent monitoring data showing that it's contaminated, but in the aquaculture industry would be aware of that. But I don't think the local public or recreational harvesters are aware of that.

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I know I'm aware of some people that do chance it or risk it, or you know, especially in locations where they that are more isolated that they don't think that they'll get caught, they won't be seen harvesting.

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Sorry, I can't think of the anecdote, but it it's essentially means you shouldn't harvest clams. Between June, July, August and September, essentially because it's risky during those months, the rest of the year, it's pretty well safe no matter what the monitoring says is is that that's kind of the mentality down in our community, but but they're oftentimes locals and people that recreationally harvest, they're going off of what their family has always done or traditionally.

Codes\\ThemeRisk\\Harvest safety risks\\Public contamination perceptions\\Public unaware

Document

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-24_Participant3_FINAL

No		0.0432	1			
				1	AW	2023-11-12 12:44 AM

It's, it seems to be different from place to place and so I I think you know the complexity of the rules is definitely a barrier. I mean, you do see people like fishing for mackerel recreationally or whatever to add to their don't know, maybe they're doing it to their families food supply. I see a lot more of it lately, actually. Umm, but I don't know. You know, I think a lot of what you hear about is word of mouth. And like I've heard different people tell me different versions of the rules. So I think that that is a barrier and just, you know, the ability of information around that and and for for clamming. I think it's even more complicated because there are like there are these closed areas. Like the skull and crossbones, at certain sites, so certainly you know that would and people people don't know: is is this site closed just because there hasn't been testing here in a long time, or is it closed because there really is this a source of contamination and and people don't have that, that that level of knowledge.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Files\\Information Contribution _2023-08-25_Participant4_FINAL

No		0.0298	2	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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And then I guess the other areas are like prohibited areas that people may not be aware of. You know, if you're down around the corner, say from a municipal sewer treatment plant, for instance, right. Those are prohibited areas. There's a buffer around those areas. People may dig in those and they may not be aware, right? So those are the types of risks that I'm speaking to is unforeseen risks that people may not even be aware of, right?

				2	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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People may not even be aware of SHELLI right, the the map to inform them. And we've had areas that have been closed due to the rainfall event that are normally open for the last couple weeks, right. And you know, this is tour season or people that you know come from away and have cottages here as an example, but they always historically go dig clams on that one flat in front of their college. That might be closed right now, and it's a huge risk to them.

Files\\Information Contribution _2023-09-05_Participant6_FINAL

No		0.0356	1	1	AW	2023-11-12 12:48 AM
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The threshold down here is any any event that exceeds 75 millimeters of rain within a 24 hour period, it automatically initiates a closure of of that area. And that does include declassified areas. So I guess in a sense that would be a warning to the public because a closure notice would go out as a result of the rainfall event. So you know in the the same goes that let's just use in a.. Let's just say that a massive oil spill occurred off the coast of Yarmouth, say UM, and the shoreline became contaminated and there was clam flats or hard shell clams, you know, along that shoreline, ohm, there will definitely be a closure for contamination and it will include all areas, including declassified areas. So UM, the only issue I see with the declassified areas is the fact that if we don't have a massive rainfall event or some other type of pollution that is detected, UM, there could be events that may be undetected that would cause contamination, right? And there'd be no warning put out there to the public, you know, whereas if we had regular testing occurring for water quality, then those tests would give us results that might be used to close the area as a precaution. You know, so if you follow what I'm saying there, right, it's, you know, I just, I just believe there's a place for that program. UM and I'm a firm believer that it should exist in anywhere in any area that uh, that shellfish are available for harvesting.

Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0103	1	1	AW	2023-11-06 2:46 PM
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But in terms of Nova Scotia Umm, I don't think the public or even I think the commercial industry knows that areas are closed even though there isn't. Umm, like recent monitoring data showing that it's contaminated, but in the aquaculture industry would be aware of that. But I don't think the local public or recreational harvesters are aware of that.

Aggregate	Classification	Coverage	Number Of Coding References	Reference Number	Coded By Initials	Modified On
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Codes\\ThemeRisk\Indirect food security

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Files\\Participant1 Transcript

No		0.0225	1	1	AW	2023-11-08 5:59 PM
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Actually I I I really don't feel like it it's focuses at all, on local food security. The CSSP is mainly focused on commercial harvesting, so for the sale of of clams for for money. Which I guess money in the pocket of of local harvesters would indirectly give them food security, but directly related to food security, it it does not really it if there was a person who wanted to make sure that they could get safe shellfish for their own purposes, they couldn't really ask CSSP partners to provide that for them. They might be able to piggyback off of the commercial harvest industry and in harvest for themselves in those areas, but it's not. It's not, not necessarily by their choice. They'd have to sort of indirectly benefit from the commercial harvest.