

NB Select Committee on Climate Change

Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

August 17, 2016

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Sector Overview

- Agriculture: \$564 million farm-gate revenues and processed agri-food sales worth more than \$1 billion
- Fisheries: \$298 million in landings and about nearly \$1 billion in exports (excluding farmed seafood)
- Aquaculture: \$134 million farm-gate revenues and \$150 million in exports
- Overall contribution to GDP: about 5% of provincial GDP (excluding services-related GDP)

AAF – General Comments

- Climate change impacts could include some positive benefits:
 - Longer growing season = larger yields, more crops suited to larger parts of NB, lower livestock feed costs
 - Potentially more or new fish species
- However, climate change also increases the risk of:
 - Extreme weather events causing infrastructure damage, soil erosion, stream-bank washouts
 - Periodic droughts
 - Introduction of invasive species, pests and diseases
 - Reduced range for existing species and/or changes to ecosystems

AAF – Agriculture Adaptation Activities

- Existing efforts include:
 - FPT policy framework programming (60:40 fed:prov \$)
 - Beneficial Management Practices
 - Pollination/Hive support
 - Agri-Recovery Program
 - Studies on infrastructure vulnerability
- Future efforts may include:
 - New (2018) FPT policy framework could provide:
 - Irrigation systems
 - Climate Change components to the programming

AAF – Agriculture Mitigation Activities

- Current FPT policy framework includes:
 - Nutrient management planning
 - Minimum tillage practices
 - Windbreaks, riparian zone protection, erosion control
 - Manure storages
 - Livestock genetic improvements
 - Energy audits and technology upgrades
- Future FPT policy framework could include:
 - More precision agriculture
 - Conversion of storages to anaerobic digesters

AAF - Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Changes to the ecosystem could affect current commercial stocks and their range
- Concerns re invasive species and new or more virulent pests and diseases
- Adaptation opportunities include:
 - Hardening of federal wharf infrastructure
 - Habitat/coastal zone protection policies
- Mitigation opportunities could include support to modernize fleet and gear

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Energy and Resource Development

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Climate Change and NB Forests

- Natural Resources Division: Our Responsibilities
- Changes for the forest and its users
- The role of the forest in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions
- Adaptation for a changing climate
- Future policy considerations

Energy

- Policy considerations
 - Security of supply
 - Environmental responsibility
 - Electricity system reliability
 - Price stability
 - Regulatory oversight

- Energy Sector in New Brunswick
 - Refining capabilities
 - Natural Gas transmission and distribution
 - Electricity Generation and interconnections
 - Renewable energy and energy efficiency

Energy

- Energy policy and regulation
 - Renewable energy targets
 - Energy efficiency and DSM programming

- Future policy considerations
 - Electrification of vehicles
 - Winter space heating options
 - All fuels investments in energy efficiency and DSM
 - Renewable energy and distributed generation

Geological Surveys Branch

- The primary role of the GSB is to collect and disseminate and maintain NB's geoscience data, primarily in the fields of:
 - 1) Surficial and bedrock geology
 - 2) Economic geology (i.e., metallic and industrial minerals, and petroleum resources)
 - 3) Coastal zone erosion and sea level rise related to climate change

Questions?