







Knowledge transfer activities remained a priority for us. Internationally, we led the largest-ever Atlantic delegation to Norway and Aqua Nor and locally, we participated in New Brunswick Farm Day, leading two boat tours to a salmon farm.

October saw over 170 registrants at our annual Research, Science and Technology and Forum. Gala night during the Forum was another fun and well-attended event that raised money for Charlotte County Cancer Society. Our third annual Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Award honoured veterinarian Dr. Leighanne Hawkins for her long-time contributions to the advancement of fish health in our region. We said farewell to Allison MacKinnon as he retired after 10 years on the ACFFA Board of Directors, and we welcomed, AKVA – North America, the Center for Marine Applied Research and SD Bent Construction as new members of our Association.

Our youth education took on a new face in 2019 with the introduction of Sunny, a rare blue salmon who narrates The Farm on the Sea, a children's book about salmon farming. We are excited to be working with Sunny's wonderful creative team on French translation of the book as well as K-3 online curriculum tools based on the book that will be released in 2020.

Effective regulatory reform continues to be a priority for ACFFA, and we remain fully engaged as New Brunswick is updating its aquaculture regulations. We play an important role advocating on behalf of our sector. When the federal Liberals made an election promise to move all salmon farms to land-based closed containment in British Columbia, ACFFA spearheaded a regional campaign to educate elected officials, candidates and the public about ocean farming and land-based technologies. We know that ACFFA's cohesive voice on behalf of salmon farming on the east coast is critical to the future of this sector.

Our relationships with our national and provincial association colleagues, regulators and members proved vital when COVID hit in March. I am so proud to work with so many aquaculture professionals who are global leaders in the evolution of this sector. They acted fast to safely pivot operations so they could continue to produce healthy food during this extraordinary time. We were proud to help, support and promote this sector and its many workers who were recognized for the essential role they play in creating jobs in Atlantic Canada's coastal communities and putting a healthy sustainable protein on our tables.

As we learn to operate in a new world in 2020, we know our pride in this sector will continue to grow.

Stay well,

*Susan Farquharson*  
Executive Director  
Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association

# WHO WE ARE

The Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association (ACFFA) is an industry-funded association working on behalf of the salmon farming industry in Atlantic Canada. The ACFFA represents salmon producers in addition to a wide range of supporting companies and organizations.

Salmon farming employs over

**3000  
PEOPLE**

in our region and generates over

**\$356  
MILLION**

in our provincial economies





## OUR VISION

Atlantic Canada's finfish aquaculture industry will continue to be an innovative, competitive economic sector that is globally recognized for sustainable finfish production.

## OUR MISSION

To provide value to our members by continuing to be a strong, regional voice on behalf of the industry and by taking a leadership role in the development and implementation of strategies that maximize growth potential, advance fish health and welfare, encourage innovation, research and environmental stewardship while increasing socio-economic benefits within our communities.

## ASSOCIATION GOALS

### BUILD

Build effective structures and relationships that support the sustainable growth of the Atlantic Canadian finfish aquaculture industry

### MAINTAIN

Maintain our position as a world leader in fish health initiatives that support the production of safe, high-quality farmed finfish

### SUPPORT

Support scientific research and technological development that is industry-driven and ensures the ongoing sustainability of an innovative Atlantic Canadian finfish aquaculture industry

### INCREASE

Increase the positive awareness of Atlantic Canada's finfish farming industry

### MANAGE

Manage the Association efficiently and effectively to ensure it remains a strong, representative organization that provides value to its members



# FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT SALMON FARMING IN ATLANTIC CANADA

One of the Atlantic  
region's biggest  
economic drivers and  
agriculture-based  
exports

**4000  
DIRECT JOBS**  
that support population  
growth in coastal  
communities

**\$1 BILLION**  
in economic  
activity and  
**\$400 MILLION**  
contributed directly  
to GDP

**MORE THAN  
1200  
SMALL  
BUSINESSES  
CREATED  
OR  
SUPPORTED**

Identified as a high  
potential sector  
for sustainable  
economic growth by  
Canada's Economic  
Advisory Panel  
(Barton Report 2017)

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC**



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Managed by  
**73 PIECES**  
of regulation plus  
policies

Third party audited  
and certified for  
sustainability in all  
processes from  
egg to plate

## ADHERE TO SEVERAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES INCLUDING:

Code of Containment that follows International Guidelines for Containment set by the International Salmon Farmers Association and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).

Environmental Management Program (EMP) developed through a collaborative process with government agencies, academia and the community.

Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) that outline a multi-level approach to controlling sea lice

By almost all measures, farmed Atlantic salmon is the most sustainable large-scale animal protein

**FARMING THE OCEAN**  
Identified as one of five priorities to address climate change  
(United Nations 2019)

**BEST IN CARBON EMISSIONS, FRESHWATER USE, AND PRODUCTION SPACE EFFICIENCY**

## SCIENCE DRIVEN

Farmers work with the best researchers from the federal and provincial governments, universities and the private sector on a wide variety of projects aimed at continually strengthening and improving their industry

Low demand on arable land and most efficient feed to food conversion ratio



Not genetically modified in any way, uses no artificial dyes or growth hormones

# SUSTAINABILITY







**ATLANTIC FISH FARMERS ARE PIONEERS IN THE GLOBAL SALMON FARMING INDUSTRY AND ARE RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL LEADERS**

By 2030, the world's population is predicted to increase by another two billion. The capture fishery cannot meet the growing global demand

(FAO 2018)

**MORE THAN 50% OF ALL FISH AND SEAFOOD CONSUMED**

already originates from aquaculture and that number is increasing annually

(FAO 2018)



**80%**

of consumers polled annually in Atlantic region annually support salmon farming

Farmers operate the World's First Wild Salmon Marine Conservation Farm as part of the innovative Fundy Salmon Recover Project.

The initiative is now seeing unprecedented inner Bay of Fundy wild salmon returns.  
(fundysalmonrecovery.com)







# CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

Back by popular demand, our Charity Casino Gala celebrated the accomplishments of our members and raised money for a community cause.

Our event at the Algonquin Resort in St. Andrews raised \$2000 for the Charlotte County Cancer Society.



## THE ATLANTIC CANADA AQUACULTURE AWARD

Dr. Leighanne Hawkins of New Brunswick earned the 2019 Atlantic Canada Aquaculture Award in recognition of her long-time contributions to the advancement of fish health in our region's salmon aquaculture sector. ACFFA presented the third annual award to Dr. Hawkins at its Charity Casino Gala. Dr. Hawkins is one of the most clinically experienced veterinarians in salmon aquaculture. She graduated with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI, in 1994. Since that time, she has dedicated her skills exclusively to fish veterinary medicine in Atlantic Canada working initially as the Provincial Veterinarian in Newfoundland and then moving into that same position in New Brunswick in 1998. She then moved to the private sector to work with finfish aquaculture and worked for Maritime Veterinary Services as a practicing veterinarian, before starting in 2005 as the Fish Health Manager for Cooke Aquaculture Inc. Her 25-year career in Atlantic Canada has witnessed many novel fish health events for the region. Her calm and steady hand and application of the art of veterinary medicine has been invaluable to the Atlantic Canadian industry.



# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## THE FARM ON THE SEA

2019 marked the launch of our children's book, *The Farm on the Sea*. It tells the story of a rare blue salmon named Sunny who guides children through the stages of salmon farming. Christmas sales of *The Farm on the Sea* raised **\$4,800** for CBC's annual **Harbour Lights Campaign** that supports food banks across southern New Brunswick. Together with New Brunswick author Deborah Irvine Anderson and illustrator Lindsay Vautour, **ACFFA donated 650 copies of the book to Elementary Literacy Inc. (ELF)** to mark Family Literacy Day. Elementary Literacy Inc. is a charitable organization that manages the delivery of two volunteer reading achievement programs for struggling New Brunswick readers in grade two. Each ELF reading mentor and child who participated in the program last winter received a copy of the book. We also distributed copies to Atlantic MPs and provincial elected officials. Stay tuned for more from Sunny in the coming year!

## The Farm on the Sea



## THANK YOU TO OUR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

When the COVID-19 global pandemic hit, our sector's primary focus turned to the health and safety of employees and our communities. As we worked to support our members in those efforts, we developed videos and graphics on our social media channels to recognize and thank all essential workers in the aquaculture sector who are critical to our region's food security.



## SALMON FARM TOURS

More than 50 people – including children and teens – participated in our NB Open Farm Day salmon farm tours this year. ACFFA's Science and Technology Coordinator Betty House and Executive Director Susan Farquharson, along with the terrific staff at Island Quest Marine, hosted two tours on September 15. Participants learned a ton about salmon farming and got to enjoy some yummy smoked salmon. ACFFA donated the tour participant fees to the NB Heart and Stroke Foundation.





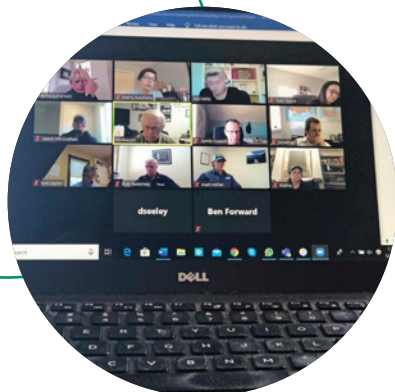


### ATLANTIC AQUACULTURE MISSION TO NORWAY AND AQUA NOR

ACFFA led the Atlantic delegation to Aqua Nor, which provided companies, regulators and governments with the opportunity to network with the support of the first Canada Booth in more than a decade. This was the largest delegation to date on an Aqua Nor mission which included a terrific Canada/Norway night with live Atlantic Canadian music as well as a Canada/Norway Innovation Seminar. Participants' feedback on the mission was overwhelmingly positive. 2019 marked the 40th anniversary of Aqua Nor. The mission ran from August 16-23.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Board of Directors gathered in early 2020 – in person before the pandemic and by Zoom after – to develop a new five-year strategy for the Association. The new plan will be finalized in 2020 and shared on our website.



# ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

### LIMEKILN BAY SERVICE CENTRE

We completed upgrades to our Limekiln Marine Facility wharf. We are now working on acquiring funds for Phase II upgrades which will include much needed repairs to both ramps. Our Wharf Strategy Committee works hard to ensure the wharf continues to provide safe access for our more than 80 users.

### ACFFA GOLF TOURNEY

We hosted our annual ACFFA Industry Golf Tournament in July. The weather was hot and so was the competition! MOWI Team 2 narrowly took first place by retrogression at 7 under par. LCR Plastics took second with Team Skretting in third. Operations Manager Tobi Taylor organized and hosted the tourney. Thank you to all the teams for taking part and donating such terrific prizes. The event raised money for the Charlotte County SPCA.

### MORE NEW MEMBERS

ACFFA welcomed new Associate Members this year: SD Bent Construction, The Center for Marine Applied Research and AKVA North America. ACFFA membership is open to any company, institution or individual engaged in growing finfish products commercially, producing feed, research or development activities, education, or providing goods or services to the finfish farming sector in Atlantic Canada. For more information on membership benefits and to apply go to our website – [atlanticfishfarmers.com](http://atlanticfishfarmers.com).





# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## FUNDY SALMON RECOVERY

2019 marked another terrific year in this historic partnership. Fundy Salmon Recovery released over 760 mature salmon to their native rivers in the inner Bay of Fundy last October. In recognition of International Year of the Salmon, Fort Folly First Nation took the lead on the official release ceremony in Elgin on the banks of the Pollett River. Leading up to the release date, Cooke Aquaculture staff cared for the fish at the World's First Wild Salmon Marine Conservation Farm in Grand Manan. ([fundysalmonrecovery.com](http://fundysalmonrecovery.com)).

## BLENDED NBCC AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS PROGRAM

The New Brunswick Community College's Aquaculture Operations course is now an accredited program. The 12-week module-based program is offered each January – March. The industry is always looking for new trained employees in all facets of their operations from hatchery to retail. ACFFA continued to work with NBCC to promote the course to both those who work in the industry and those who are new to the sector. This new course is designed to apply the knowledge acquired in the program to the real-world, with a combination of in-class learning and on-site placement with a partnering industry (if not already employed).



## #DEBRISFREEFUNDY

We continue to be participants in the Marine Debris Strategy Action Committee (MDSAC) which guides the development of a marine debris strategy in southwest New Brunswick. This multi-stakeholder committee is comprised of traditional fisher associations, aquaculture, non-governmental organizations, First Nation groups, harbour authorities, academic representatives, federal and provincial government. This committee's #DebrisFreeFundy project is making great strides at keeping debris like rope and plastic out of the Bay of Fundy. The rope receptacle on our Limekiln wharf is well used.



# RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Aquaculture is a science-based industry. Our members collaborate with academia and governments and invest significant money and resources to ensure we are continually advancing our tools and methods to grow healthy fish and continue to be environmental stewards.

## **EACH YEAR THE ACFFA MEETS WITH ITS MEMBERS TO DEVELOP AN R&D PRIORITY LIST. SOME OF THOSE FOR 2019:**

- New benthic indicators such as eDNA for use in environmental management programs, provincially and federally
- Sea lice management
- Fish welfare
- Verification of marine circulation models

## **ANNUAL RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM**

The ACFFA hosted its annual Fall Forum that brought together 170 aquaculture professionals, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders to learn, connect and discuss future research priorities. The conference, which was held in October at the Huntsman Fundy Discovery Centre in St. Andrews, included international panels on containment and sea lice as well as presentations on engaging youth in salmon farming and the Fundy Salmon Recovery Project.





# STAND UP FOR SCIENCE

ATLANTIC CANADA HAS AMONG THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF CREDENTIALLED AND EXPERIENCED AQUACULTURE RESEARCHERS IN THE WORLD.

Here is what just a few aquaculture experts say about salmon aquaculture:

“

Aquaculture is based on, and driven by, strong, innovative science. There are thousands of scientific articles published every year on aquaculture science, which are making discoveries that improve the efficiency and sustainability of aquaculture. It's a dynamic industry that relies on these scientific discoveries to make strides forward in producing healthy food and minimizing environmental impacts.”



DR. STEFANIE COLOMBO

Ph.D. (Biology), M.Sc. (Biology), B.Sc. (Marine & Freshwater Biology) | Assistant Professor and Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Aquaculture Nutrition | 10 years of university education, 13 years of working and training in aquaculture



Salmon farming was initially developed over 40 years ago as a means to produce high quality and healthy fish, and take fishing pressure off vulnerable wild populations. This science-based approach has continued throughout the responsible growth of the sector. Research, development, and innovation forms the foundation of salmon farming and also provides valuable support to wild salmon conservation efforts.”

DR. JAMEY SMITH

PhD (Aquaculture), BSc (Honours, Fishery) | 34 years involved in planning, impact assessment, and monitoring of aquatic sectors



“

FROM EGG TO PLATE, NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF ATLANTIC SALMON AQUACULTURE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY SCIENCE-BASED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. IT HAS BEEN A RICH AND VITAL PART OF ITS HISTORY AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN ITS FUTURE.”

DR. BENJAMIN S. FORWARD

BSc Biology (Honours), PhD Biochemistry | Director, Dept. Applied & Experimental Bioscience | New Brunswick Research & Productivity Council (RPC) | 14 years working in aquaculture

“Atlantic Canadian salmon farmers have adopted the most rigid standards for marine ocean farming, and are certified by credible environmental groups based on sound science principles. They base their farming on the most current science and technology available.”

CYR COUTURIER

Aquaculture Scientist, Chair MSc Sustainable Aquaculture Program | School of Fisheries, Marine Institute of Memorial University | 40 years working in aquaculture







# ADVOCACY

The ACFFA continued its active advocacy role on behalf of members, meeting regularly with regional MLAs, MPs, regulators and other stakeholders to communicate our priorities of sustainable growth, fish health, business risk management, marine vessel registrations and access to Small Craft Harbour infrastructure.





We know that ACFFA's cohesive voice on behalf of salmon farming on the east coast is critical to the future of this sector. We joined our national and provincial association colleagues in Ottawa for Aquaculture Advocacy Day in February meeting with a number of ministers, MPs and their staff. We created information packages that highlighted the innovations and impacts of our sector. When the federal Liberals made an election promise during the 2019 election to move all salmon farms to closed containment in British Columbia, we spearheaded a regional campaign to educate elected officials, candidates and the public about ocean farming and land-based technologies.

Effective regulatory reform continues to be a priority for ACFFA, and we remain fully engaged as New Brunswick is updating its aquaculture regulations. We play an important role advocating on behalf of our sector.

#### **A FEW EXAMPLES OF OUR ACTIVITIES**

##### **CANADIAN MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ACFFA continued to attend annual Canadian Marine Advisory Committee meetings and to meet with Transport Canada staff regarding the ongoing challenges aquaculture is facing operating with regulations that were not developed to manage the innovative vessels used to manage aquaculture marine farms. A request to establish an Aquaculture Working Group that would provide the forum, similar to fisheries and recreational, for discussions and solutions continues.



##### **SMALL CRAFT HARBOUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

The lack of recognized access to Small Craft Harbour wharves peaked in early 2019 with the notice from the Grand Manan Harbour Authority that aquaculture vessels could not move into North Head in 2019. As a result of several meetings with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Minister Jonathan Wilkinson as well as his staff, a steering committee was formed to address the situation. This committee acquired funds that has updated the 2014 report on Grand Manan wharves and led the development of a business plan to see a new wharf built at Woodward's Cove.

##### **MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA)**

As part of the Bay of Fundy Progressive Protection Council, ACFFA and other seafood producer/harvester organizations were successful in acquiring funds from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to lead a process in the Bay of Fundy developing strategic alternatives to the MPA process while still meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals that Canada committed to in 2017. Projects such as the Fundy Salmon Recovery are listed as examples of these alternatives that must operate without fixed boundaries to be effective.

##### **THE VOICE OF OUR MEMBERS**

**ACFFA represents its members on the following committees:**

- Aquaculture Association of Canada
- Aquaculture Collaborative Research Development Program
- Atlantic Canada Seafood Sector Export Team, Co-chair
- Atlantic Salmon Advisory Committee
- Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance Board of Directors
- Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance Industry Government Working Group
- Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance Technical Committee
- iBoF Atlantic Salmon Conservation and Recovery Team
- Huntsman Research Committee
- International Salmon Farmers Association
- SWNB Marine Debris Committee
- Musquash MPA Advisory Committee
- NB Aquaculture Containment Liaison Committee
- NB Industry Government Working Group
- NB and NS Aquaculture Environmental Coordination Committees
- North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) – Canadian Delegation
- Saint John River Management Advisory Committee

# LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

## 2019-20 ACFFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tom Taylor (Chair)** Cooke Aquaculture Inc.

**Jamie Gaskill (Vice Chair)** MOWI

**Bob Sweeney (Secretary/Treasurer)**  
Sweeney International Marine Corp.

**Bev Bacon** RDI Strategies

**Morton Benson** Benson Aquaculture

**Peter Bourque** Mitchell McConnell Insurance

**Kasha Cox** Merck Animal Health

**Ben Forward** Research and Productivity Council

**Jonathan Gagne** Enterprise Shippagan &  
International Seafood and Bait

**Jason McGrattan** Elanco Canada

**David Seeley** Skretting North America

**Matt Miller** Northeast Nutrition Inc.

## STAFF

**Susan Farquharson** Executive Director

**Tobi Taylor** Operations Manager

**Betty House**  
Science and Technology Coordinator

**Kathy Kaufield** Communications Director

## OUR MEMBERSHIP

### Salmon Producer Members

Benson Aquaculture  
Cooke Aquaculture Ltd.  
MOWI

### Feed Company Members

Northeast Nutrition  
Skretting

### Associate Members

AKVA Group North America  
Atlantic Veterinary College  
Benchmark Animal Health  
Big Falls Fish Growers Ltd.  
Cargill  
Center for Marine Applied Research  
Dartek  
Dover Fish Hatchery  
Elanco

### Enterprise Shippagan & International Seafood and Bait

Future Nets and Supplies  
GIS Gas Infusion Systems Inc.  
Global KnoVac Inc.  
Huntsman Marine Science Center  
Innovasea  
Marsh Canada Ltd.  
Merck Animal Health (Intervet Canada Corp.)  
Mitchell McConnell Insurance Ltd.  
Optimar  
PatoGen AS  
Pharmaq AS  
Phibro Animal Health Corporation  
Pro-Oceanus Systems Inc.  
RDI Strategies Ltd.  
Research and Productivity Council (RPC)  
SD Bent Construction Inc.  
Sweeney International Marine Corp.  
The Center for Aquaculture Technologies Canada  
Valores IRZC

## MEMBER BENEFITS

- Representation at all levels of government on issues of industry importance
- Regular information & updates relevant to business
- Networking opportunities to deepen business relationships and contacts
- Access to a variety of conferences, workshops, seminars and training opportunities
- Access to Limekiln Service Center wharf services
- Opportunities to collaborate on research and innovation projects
- Access to an industry-specific support system and working groups
- Company promotion on our website and social media channels
- Participation in public education & awareness initiatives

To join: [info@atlanticfishfarmers.com](mailto:info@atlanticfishfarmers.com)



A horizontal row of six square portraits of diverse individuals. From left to right: a man in a black wetsuit and scuba mask; a man in a fishing vest holding a large fish; a woman in a white lab coat; a man in a construction vest and hard hat; a woman with glasses wearing a red life vest; and a woman wearing a brown jacket and an orange knit hat.

