



Responsible Growth Global Sustainability

YEAR IN REVIEW 2016-2017



Message from the Chair

Over 300 million meals. Over 3000 jobs. Over \$350 million contributed directly to Atlantic Canada's economy.

That's what Atlantic Canadian salmon farmers produce annually. For an industry that didn't exist 40 years ago, it's quite a success story.

Our Association marks its 30th anniversary this year. The five board members who gathered at the first Board of Directors meeting of the New Brunswick Salmon Growers Association (as we were known) in St. Stephen, New Brunswick back in 1987 could not have predicted how much their new industry would evolve and grow over the next three decades.

From the beginning of the global salmon farming industry, Atlantic Canada has been a true leader. Salmon farmers and the many other varied professionals who work in our industry - engineers, veterinarians, researchers, marine biologists and scientists - are world class experts in their fields. Our industry is science-based, and our members are innovators and problem solvers who love to learn and collaborate. They are committed to protecting the ocean and over the years, our industry has made great strides in developing best practices as well as pioneering and adopting the latest innovations and technologies in farming and fish health.

We're proud of the fresh and healthy salmon we produce and know that we have an important role to play in feeding the world's growing population.

Our industry would not be where it is today without the collective efforts of the members and staff of this Association. Those who attended that first meeting 30 years ago understood the value and importance of aquaculture professionals working together to build a sustainable industry. They knew that if we wanted to continue to be global salmon farming pioneers, we needed an Association that would continue to lead change, build effective structures, infrastructure and relationships as well as support scientific research, technological development and other policies toward responsible growth.

As we look back over the past three decades, and in this report, at the year that has passed, our industry can be proud of our continued steps toward sustainable and responsible growth. We also recognize the significant potential that exists for our industry to continue to revitalize our region's economy and coastal communities. As always, we remain committed to being global salmon farming leaders.

We have a proud history and a bright future.

Larry Ingalls
Chair

Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association



Message from the Executive Director

Whirlwind. That's what comes to mind when I think back over my first full year as Executive Director of this Association. So, yes, it's been busy, but also tremendously interesting and rewarding.

As I reflect back on my transition into this new role, I can say that I'm proud to work in an industry where local people are producing healthy food with a minimal ecological footprint. I'm proud to work with so many aquaculture professionals who are global leaders in the evolution of this sector and who are creating jobs in Atlantic Canada's coastal communities too. Even though salmon farming is an important industry where I live in New Brunswick, I'm grateful for the support

I received from both my national and international colleagues as well as my board members as I learned about this vibrant sector.

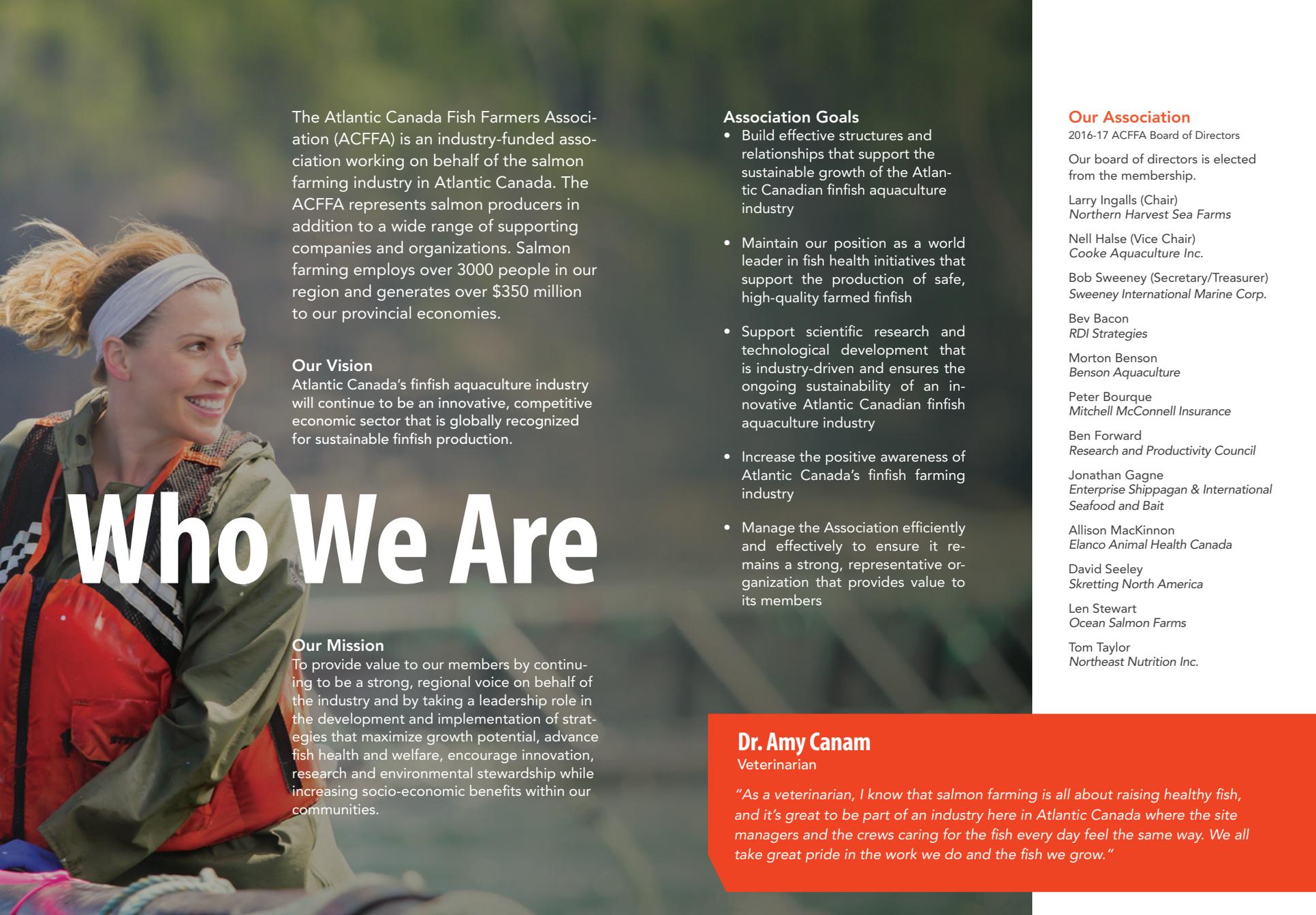
The Association has worked hard this year to continue to be a strong voice on behalf of our industry and to take a leadership role in strategies that support responsible growth and global sustainability, advance fish health and welfare and encourage innovation and research.

We're incredibly pleased with the progress made this year toward a national Aquaculture Act which will modernize how Canada views, regulates and enables the growth of our industry.

Some highlights for me this year include getting to know the ACFFA members and welcoming several new members. So many outreach activities come to mind, but participating in the Fundy Salmon Recovery project that saw more than 600 mature adult wild salmon returned to their native rivers definitely stands out. Our Association also served as the project proponent representing the four Atlantic provinces for Seafood Expo North America (SENA) 2017. In that role we worked with a great team that developed a clean, new Canadian brand that put all the Atlantic provinces and their exhibitors under one recognizable Atlantic pavilion design.

In the coming year, we'll be doing a bit of looking back as our Association celebrates its 30th anniversary. We're busy making plans to mark the occasion in grand style! Indeed, our industry has come a long way in 30 years and I, for one, am excited to see what the future will bring.

Susan Farquharson
Executive Director
Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association



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 \$350 million to 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.

Who We Are

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 effective structures and relationships that support the sustainable growth of the Atlantic Canadian finfish aquaculture industry
- Maintain our position as a world leader in fish health initiatives that support the production of safe, high-quality farmed finfish
- Support scientific research and technological development that is industry-driven and ensures the ongoing sustainability of an innovative Atlantic Canadian finfish aquaculture industry
- Increase the positive awareness of Atlantic Canada's finfish farming industry
- Manage the Association efficiently and effectively to ensure it remains a strong, representative organization that provides value to its members

Our Association

2016-17 ACFFA Board of Directors

Our board of directors is elected from the membership.

Larry Ingalls (Chair)
Northern Harvest Sea Farms

Nell Halse (Vice Chair)
Cooke Aquaculture Inc.

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

Bev Bacon
RDI Strategies

Morton Benson
Benson Aquaculture

Peter Bourque
Mitchell McConnell Insurance

Ben Forward
Research and Productivity Council

Jonathan Gagne
Enterprise Shippagan & International Seafood and Bait

Allison MacKinnon
Elanco Animal Health Canada

David Seeley
Skretting North America

Len Stewart
Ocean Salmon Farms

Tom Taylor
Northeast Nutrition Inc.

Dr. Amy Canam

Veterinarian

"As a veterinarian, I know that salmon farming is all about raising healthy fish, and it's great to be part of an industry here in Atlantic Canada where the site managers and the crews caring for the fish every day feel the same way. We all take great pride in the work we do and the fish we grow."

Who We Are

ACFFA Members

Our members are leaders in environmental stewardship and part of the social fabric of their communities.

Salmon Producer Members

Benson Aquaculture
Cooke Aquaculture Ltd.
Northern Harvest Sea Farms
Ocean Salmon Farms

Feed Company Members

Northeast Nutrition
Skretting

Associate Members

Amirix
Aqua Pharma Inc.
Atlantic Veterinary College
Big Falls Fish Growers Ltd.
Center for Aquaculture Technologies
Dartek
Don Atkinson Trucking
Downeast Plastics Ltd.
Dover Fish Hatchery
Elanco Animal Health Canada
Enterprise Shippagan & International Seafood and Bait
EWOS Canada Ltd.
Future Nets and Supplies
Gas Infusion Systems Inc.

Global KnoVac Inc.
Huntsman Marine Science Center
Marsh Canada Ltd.
Merck Animal Health
Merlin Fish Farms
Mitchell McConnell Insurance Ltd.
Ocean Trout Farms Inc.
Pharmaq AS
Phibro Animal Health Corporation
RDI Strategies Ltd.
Research and Productivity Council (RPC)
Sweeney International Marine Corp.

ACFFA Staff

The ACFFA is staffed by a dedicated team of full-time, part-time and contract individuals.

Susan Farquharson
Executive Director

Tobi Taylor
Operations Manager

Betty House
Research and Development Coordinator

Kathy Kaufield
Communications Director

Jim Hanley
Wharf Manager



62% of food fish will come from aquaculture by 2030

Global Aquaculture Alliance

Our Atlantic Industry at a Glance

OVER
300
MILLION MEALS
of farmed salmon are
locally grown every
year in
Atlantic Canada.

THAT CREATES
OVER
3,000
DIRECT JOBS
right here at home.

AND
CONTRIBUTES
\$350
MILLION
directly to our
economy.

- Farmed salmon is the biggest agriculture-based export in Atlantic Canada and one of our region's biggest economic drivers.
- Atlantic Canadian fish farms on average produce 50 per cent of Canada's farmed salmon.
- Approximately 51 per cent of direct industry jobs are held by individuals 39 years of age or younger and 30 per cent between 40 and 49 – for a total of 81 per cent of employees under age 49.
- Our industry includes ocean farms, processing plants, hatcheries, feed plants, cage and equipment manufacturers, research facilities, and a range of service and supply companies including environmental management, diving, engineering, maintenance and transportation.
- More than 50 per cent of all fish and seafood consumed already originates from aquaculture and that number is increasing annually.
- As the global population grows, so does the need for healthy, sustainable protein like farmed Atlantic salmon.

Environmental Stewardship

Projects

Fundy Salmon Recovery

The ACFFA continued its involvement in this groundbreaking initiative that is making significant strides to help save the endangered Inner Bay of Fundy wild salmon. This past year saw an area off the coast of Grand Manan designated as the world's first wild salmon marine conservation farm. Project partners returned more than 600 mature adult salmon from that farm to their native river in Fundy National Park or the Pollett River for the Fort Folly Habitat Recovery Program. The Fundy Salmon Recovery project (fundysalmonrecovery.com) is featured as part of the Striking Balance documentary series (narrated by Blue Rodeo's Jim Cuddy) on Canada's UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (strikingbalance.com).

Tracking Tidal Currents

A partnership between the ACFFA, the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) and Fundy High School is helping to gather important information about tidal currents in the Bay of Fundy. With materials provided by the DAAF, Fundy High School students have constructed drogues, or floatation devices. Each drogue has a GPS unit on it that sends a signal to a satellite, which then delivers the signal to a software program. The data collected will help fish farmers and government make important management decisions regarding fish health, as well as assist experts to track potential oil spills.

Real Time Monitoring

The ACFFA has continued to provide leadership in the development and coordination of R&D activities that support the salmon farming sector in Atlantic Canada. Ten projects are now in various stages of completion, including genomic benchmarking, alternative feeds, real time monitoring infrastructure and the data services of the NERACOOS (Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems) via Dalhousie University partnership.

Community Education and Outreach

New Global Report on Land Based Farms

The ACFFA led the development of a new report that shows the salmon farming industry continues to lead the way in the use of land based farming systems. Released by the International Salmon Farmers' Association (ISFA), [The Evolution of Land Based Atlantic Salmon Farms](#) highlights the history and the current state of land based farms for Atlantic salmon. The report reviews available studies and information on land based Atlantic salmon farms from around the world, the current state of knowledge and technology as well as the challenges that have to be overcome as these systems continue to evolve. Copies of the report are available at salmonfarming.org.



Community Education and Outreach



In Our Schools

Our outreach into classrooms continued this year, with ACFFA's Research and Development Coordinator Betty House visiting about 100 children at New Maryland Elementary School to give them a Salmon Farming 101 lesson. She also talked about salmon farming and global aquaculture with 68 high school students who toured the Huntsman Fundy Discovery Aquarium as part of the SHAD enrichment program for students who excel in math and science. Our [salmon farming activity sheet](#) for kids is available for download from our website..

Recruit, Train and Retain: A Labour Development Program

The ACFFA has continued to facilitate career awareness programs and help create training and education programs that support the labour force development necessary to grow the fish farming industry. Based on industry feedback, the Association developed a proposal for a learning program that is responsive to the sector's evolving needs and would support the attraction, training and retention of a labour force in remote locations. The ACFFA is also working with Fundy High School to incorporate an aquaculture elective(s) in 2017 to introduce students to the opportunities in the industry as it has advanced. The New Brunswick Community College has played a pivotal role in supporting this initiative.



Advocacy

The ACFFA continued its active advocacy role on behalf of members, meeting regularly with regional MLAs, MPs, regulators and other stakeholders.





A few examples of our activities

Containment

Established the New Brunswick Containment Liaison Committee and now taking the lead on promoting a Pan Atlantic Code of Containment.

ISA Management

Ongoing advocacy for the adoption of a Pan Atlantic Code for ISA Management and Control. An Atlantic Fish Health Policy has been initiated by New Brunswick, including veterinarians from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Small Craft Harbour Policy

Ongoing advocacy for changes to Small Craft Harbour policy to include aquaculture as a user group.

Fish Health

Ongoing advocacy for an integrated pest management plan for sea lice that includes access to a variety of products and tools. Negotiated new two-year access to Fish iTrends database used by industry for sea lice monitoring and decision making.



ACFFA Executive Director Susan Farquharson; the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard; and Ruth Salmon, Executive Director of the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance.

Regulatory Reform

National Aquaculture Act

The ACFFA continued to actively support the creation of a national Aquaculture Act, which would modernize how Canada views, regulates and enables the growth of our industry. Rather than being regulated under a 150-year-old Fisheries Act, the Aquaculture Act would recognize our industry as a farming activity – consistent with the approach of other leading jurisdictions around the world. We envision that a national Act would set clear, consistent standards for aquaculture farming across the country, allow for much greater federal-provincial coordination in how our industry is managed, simplify cross-provincial operations and focus attention on creating sound, science-based rules. To this end, we worked with our national association, meeting with a wide range of stakeholders, elected officials and provincial industry colleagues on this file and in support of programs and policies that will contribute to the responsible growth of our sector.

Pan Atlantic Working Group: Aquaculture Activities Regulation (AAR)

The ACFFA facilitated and hosted two Pan Atlantic Aquaculture Activities Regulation (AAR) workshops to follow up on the status of the monitoring requirements and to make further recommendations to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This resulted in the development of a Working Group who will meet regularly to discuss an effective implementation of the AAR to support sustainable and responsible growth of the industry. Our members were 100 per cent compliant with the AAR requirements in the first year of implementation.

Research



Cooke Aquaculture's new warm water bath to help manage sea lice



New investment by Northern Harvest in selective broodstock development

Aquaculture is a science based industry. Our members collaborate with academia and government 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.

Two notable projects the ACFFA has led on behalf of the industry are:

- A multi-year Bay Management Area (BMA) study will add new data to current models that were used to design the BMA system. The results will guide decisions on how the current BMA structure could be restructured to further optimize fish health and industry's sustainable growth.
- Lobster Survey – the multi-year project studied the lobster population under and around salmon farms near Grand Manan. Dr. Jon Grant, NSERC-Cooke Industrial Research Chair in Sustainable Aquaculture at Dalhousie University is in the final stages of preparing a peer reviewed paper for publication in a scientific journal.

Dr. Amber Garber

Scientific Director at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre

"The Atlantic Canadian aquaculture industry is a seamless integration of expertise and continuous innovation that produces a premium product for our dinner tables."

Events



Nell Halse (ACFFA Board VP); Jean Finn (Deputy Minister, NB Dept of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries); Sadie Perron (Asst. Deputy Minister, NB Dept Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries) and Susan Farquharson, (ACFFA Executive Director).



Salmon Farm Tour

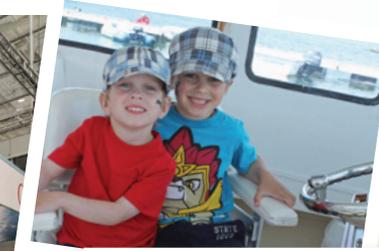
The ACFFA once again hosted a salmon farm tour as part of Bay of Fundy Seafood Week. Twenty people took part in the tour, led by ACFFA's Betty House and Cooke Aquaculture's Chuck Brown. Monies raised by the tour were donated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Seafood Expo North America 2017

As the proponent representing the four Atlantic provinces for Seafood Expo North America (SENA) this year in Boston, the ACFFA led the development of a new Atlantic pavilion design, incorporating a Canadian brand for the Atlantic provinces and their exhibitors. The new design garnered rave reviews from exhibitors and delegates.

Annual Research, Science and Technology Forum

The ACFFA hosted its annual fall conference that brought together over 130 aquaculture professionals, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders to learn, connect and discuss future collaborative research priorities. The conference, held October 26-27 at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews, included sessions about emerging research and technology development in a variety of areas including, fish health, sea lice management, environmental monitoring and the exciting work occurring with fish genetics and broodstock development.



International Salmon Farmers Association meeting in Boston.

Social Media for Seafood

The ACFFA hosted a free Social Media for Seafood Lunch and Learn Workshop that provided industry participants with an overview of social media best practices focusing on food transformation, salmon (other fish) products, food trends, accessing new audiences and increasing sales. A second full-day session is being planned for later this year. Stay tuned!

Membership Drive

The ACFFA updated its Associate membership structure and fees and actively recruited new members this year. 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, go to our website at atlanticfishfarmers.com.



Team that led the development of the new Atlantic pavilion at Seafood Expo North America.



acffa

Atlantic Canada
Fish Farmers Association

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