Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association

NEWSLETTER | Fall 2018

Communications and Outreach

ENGAGING YOUTH

Plans are underway for ACFFA to mark 2019's International Year of the Salmon by creating a children's book about salmon farming. The book will explain how salmon farms operate through an engaging narrative tale that will use both photography and illustration. We envision this as significant legacy project for salmon farming in Atlantic Canada and around the world. It will be aimed at Grade 2-3 level readers in English and French.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

ACFFA marked World Oceans Day on June 8 by joining in the celebrations at the Huntsman Marine Science Centre/Fundy Discovery Aquarium. We hosted an information booth to educate children about salmon farming and the preservation of our oceans. We were pleased to be present to help the Huntsman mark the opening of its new park, outdoor classroom and saltwater supply system.

SALMON FARM TOURS

We can't remember the last time we had such perfect weather for our NB Open Farm Day salmon farm tour! ACFFA's Science and Technology Coordinator, Betty House, along with the terrific staff at Island Quest Marine, hosted a full tour on September 16. Participants learned a ton about salmon farming and got to enjoy some yummy smoked salmon. Bonus: we saw a ton of porpoises! All proceeds from the tour were donated to the NB Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Educating youth on salmon aquaculture is important! On June 14, ACFFA assisted Cooke Aquaculture to host 70 young students from Princess Elizabeth School in Saint John. They were able to beachcomb and eat their lunches in front of a farm site on Deer Island while Betty talked to them about the farm and how it works. Each student was sent home with their beach finds and an aquaculture focused activity book.

Other News

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ACFFA continued to advocate on behalf of our members for regulatory reforms to address the numerous gaps affecting the sustainable growth of the industry. These include areas of business risk management, vessel registration and fish health tools. In September our submission to the Treasury Board Secretariat, conducting a Federal regulatory review, outlined a number of specific issues and made recommendations to address each.

LIMEKILN BAY SERVICE CENTRE

In 2017 we established a Wharf Strategy Committee to develop a plan to manage and upgrade the Limekiln Bay Service Centre. The committee works to ensure the wharf upgrades occur so that the 80 users can continue to have safe and secure access to the facility.

OUR MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

ACFFA welcomed three new members in 2018. Our 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.

Tel: 506-755-3526 | info@atlanticfishfarmers.com | atlanticfishfarmers.com

acffa Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association

NEWSLETTER | Fall 2018

Projects

ATLANTIC FISHERIES FUND BUOY PROJECT

We're moving forward with our exciting real-time monitoring buoy project after receiving funding from the Atlantic Fisheries Fund this summer. This project which will see a buoy with a suite of sensors fabricated, purchased and deployed at a designated location within the Bay of Fundy. The data will be processed and made available through the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) and Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS). This technology will give our farmers access to real-time environmental data on everything from waves and currents to temperature, nutrients, salinity and oxygen in the Bay of Fundy. This information will help our farmers make more informed decisions that are best for growing healthy fish. The first buoy will be placed in the lower Passamaquoddy in February 2019.

FUNDY SALMON RECOVERY (FSR) PROJECT

2018 marked another historic year for this ground-breaking initiative that is making significant strides to help save the endangered inner Bay of Fundy wild salmon. Counts to date indicate a 29-year high in salmon returns in one of our partner rivers. We are proud partners in this project that returned over 770 mature salmon to their native rivers in the inner Bay of Fundy this October. 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).

BLENDED NBCC SALMONID AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The New Brunswick Community College developed a 12-week salmonid aquaculture program that rolled out in January 2018. Subjects range from technical knowledge and skills such as salmonid biology and husbandry, the aquaculture production cycle, feeding and nutrition regimes, regulations and policy to important soft skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication skills enabling graduates to be upwardly mobile in their jobs. This 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) that ACFFA will coordinate. ACFFA is working with NBCC to present another program in January 2019.

TRACKING TIDAL CURRENTS

Along with our partners at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the NB Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries, we're finishing the third and last year of our Aquaculture Collaborative Research and Development Program (ACRDP) project that uses GPS tracked surface drifters to gather information about water exchange between farms. The project saw new drifter releases in Aquaculture Bay Management Area (ABMA) 1, 3c and 6.

MIGRATION OF ATLANTIC SALMON POST-SMOLTS

ACFFA collaborated with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to conduct a pilot project in Passamaquoddy Bay (New Brunswick, Canada) this summer to provide information on Atlantic salmon post-smolts - their migration routes out of the Passamaquoddy Bay, the speed at which they move out of the bay, their survival rates in the estuary and in the ocean, and whether there is any interaction with salmon aquaculture. DFO implanted acoustic tags in 60 salmon smolts of wild origin that had been reared in substrate ponds at the Mactaquac Biodiversity Facility and released them below the dam in the Magaguadevic Basin. Their migration and survival was monitored with three receivers placed in the Magaguadevic Basin and estuary, two outside the mouth of the estuary, 18 at all the exit points of Passamaquoddy Bay, three at active salmon aquaculture sites, and one at an inactive salmon aquaculture site. Results will be discussed at the ACFFA forum.