

Economic Development (to Jan 09)/Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Nova Scotia's aquaculture sector will get a major financial boost to support development, improve the climate for investment and increase competitiveness, the province announced today, Nov. 27.

In partnership with the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will invest \$2.5 million in the aquaculture sector over the next three years. The funds will be provided through the Community Development Trust Fund, which was established to help communities and workers hard hit by economic challenges.

"Aquaculture has tremendous growth potential in Nova Scotia," said Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Ron Chisholm. "The province is well positioned to seize this opportunity because of its natural marine assets, educated workforce, and generations of fisheries experience."

The department will use the funding to identify sites and areas of the coast with potential for aquaculture development. It will also help expand the industry through innovative projects and create an opportunity to access federal funding through cost-shared aquaculture development.

"This investment will create opportunities and jobs in rural coastal communities throughout the province by improving Nova Scotia's ability to compete in this expanding industry," said Economic Development Minister Angus MacIsaac. "With \$53 million in farm gate sales last year, aquaculture has become a significant and sustainable resource based industry for Nova Scotia."

Aquaculture produces nearly half the world's seafood consumed by people. Global demand for fish will reach 150 million tonnes by 2030 and Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry will play a growing role in meeting that demand, with a potential to double sales in the next few years.

For more information visit www.gov.ns.ca/fish/aquaculture/cdt .

For more information on the Community Development Trust in Nova Scotia visit www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cdtrust .

Fisheries and Aquaculture

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NOTE: A list of the projects and companies that received funding follows this release.

Aquaculture operations and projects across Nova Scotia are developing new products, improving production and boosting quality, because of funding from the province.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Sterling Belliveau announced today, Sept. 26, \$793,499 in funding for Nova Scotia aquaculture operators and projects to boost capabilities. The investment is part of \$2.5 million in aquaculture funding from the Community Development Trust Fund.

"With 330 sites throughout Nova Scotia, the aquaculture industry provides jobs in our coastal communities and has great potential to grow," said Mr. Belliveau. "These sites provide a variety of high-quality shellfish, marine plants, and fish to local, national and international markets."

The Community Development Trust Fund is a \$34.9-million program established in 2008 by the federal government to help communities and sectors experiencing economic challenges.

"This funding is assisting in research, quality development, production and communication initiatives," said Mr. Belliveau. "The support of these projects will ensure aquaculture continues to grow within the province and provide secure jobs in our communities."

The priorities of the trust fund, are to enhance sustainable prosperity; diversify economic and trade opportunities; improve productivity, innovation and training; assist communities with transition planning; and help workers facing adjustment challenges.

More information on the Nova Scotia fund is available at www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cdtrust .

FOR BROADCAST USE:

Funding announced today (September 26th) will allow aquaculture operations and projects across Nova Scotia to improve production, quality and public confidence.

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Projects receiving funding are:

- Acadian Seaplants Limited, of Dartmouth, for a research project titled: Efficacy maintenance in seaweed functional food products.
- Atlantic Aqua Farms Partnership of Guysborough, to develop processing technology for tunicate removal from blue mussel lines.
- Atlantic Canada Eels, of Springhill, Cumberland Co., to help American eel grow-out and commercialization.
- Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia, to develop an Eider duck electronic monitoring and mitigation technology to avoid predation on blue mussel lines.
- Bay Enterprises Ltd./AquaDelights Seafoods Ltd. of Malagash, Cumberland Co., and Chance Harbour, Pictou Co., help produce bay scallop seed for commercial scale growing.
- Dunphy's Oysters of Dingwall, Victoria Co., to help develop an upweller and floating bag system for oysters.
- Dynamic Systems Analysis Ltd, of Halifax, to assess the potential of conventional finfish aquaculture technology for high-energy (offshore) operations using time-domain simulation.
- Eel Lake Oyster Farm Ltd. of Ste. Anne-Du-Ruisseau, Yarmouth Co., to help produce American oysters using floating oyster bag technology.
- Innovative Fisheries Products of Belliveau Cove, Digby Co., to help culture-based enhancement and management of soft-shell clam beds in western Nova Scotia.
- Robert Livingstone of Coxheath, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, to help build an oyster spat collection raft.
- LURA Consulting of Halifax, to create a protocol that guides department and industry communications to build public confidence.
- Mabou Harbour Shellfish Producers Association of Mabou, Inverness Co., to apply screw anchor technology on suspended oyster gear.
- SeaPerfect Cultivation of Richmond County, to sort sea scallop spat using a mechanical spat sorter.
- Stantec Development of Halifax, to create a roadmap for investment in Nova Scotia to help aquaculture expand in a progressive and sustainable manner.