



PEIAA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Prince Edward Island
**AQUACULTURE
ALLIANCE**



a year's overview

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020 will forever be remembered around the world as “that” year: the year that had such an impact on all our lives. After two years as President of the PEIAA, I can once again say without hesitation that this industry is full of some of the most hard-working, passionate, innovative, and driven people in Atlantic Canada! And I would be remiss if I didn’t also include adaptive!

This can be seen in how quickly each of the aquaculture sectors, mussels, oysters, and finfish, immediately adapted to the changing circumstances forced upon them. Like developing new ways to reach customers, such as via direct “door-to-door” delivery and targeting retail markets and home consumers via social media, just as a few examples.

The Alliance team had to adapt as well, and swiftly moved to working from home, and adapted to the work patterns that these changes brought. From April onwards they have been busy keeping us, their members, up to date about any COVID support programs and initiatives and developed a Standard Operating Procedure toolkit for all members to enable us to operate safely and effectively under the new public health guidelines. At the same time, they have been communicating and advocating with government stakeholders about the types of support the industry needed. I definitely want to thank the team for their hard work!

As usual the Alliance has been involved with several projects over this year, including the ongoing Oyster Infrastructure and Training Program, funded by the Atlantic Fisheries Fund. The Oyster Enhancement Fund was a direct response to the market crash caused by COVID in the oyster sector. With a very tight deadline your Alliance team organised the purchase and distribution of over four million oysters, clearing some much-needed space in growers cages and putting some welcome funds into their pockets. Other projects include organic certification for mussel growers, and a program to replace older Styrofoam buoys with new, environmentally friendly hard plastic buoys.

Hosted at the Mill River Resort in early 2020, the PEI Oyster Aquaculture Business Conference focused on more work-related rather than scientific topics, such as OH&S, HR and business planning.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

These types of issues are impacting our sector more and more, workforce availability has become a top priority. Recognising that, the Alliance engaged CollaboVantage Consultants to review and update the 2014 Workforce Report. This has been ongoing throughout 2020 and I am sure many of you have participated in this process, either responding to surveys or taking part in focus groups. The new PEI Aquaculture Industry Workforce Strategy is now ready to be implemented and to assist all members with the HR and workforce issues moving forwards.

The annual Golf Tournament once again hosted at Glasgow Hills was initially cancelled due to Public Health restrictions. Luckily it was able to go ahead later in the summer and was once again a HUGE success! I would like to thank all participants and sponsors for making this event so enjoyable. Sadly, I was unable to make it this year having just had a baby, but this year you can bet I'll be back! What a wonderful venue!

This last year was a significant challenge for the PEI Aquaculture sector, and there is no doubt that we will continue to face new challenges in the upcoming year. As we look towards 2021 it is even more important that we maintain our unified voice in the importance of the sector to PEI, our transparency in how we operate the most sustainable food production industry on the planet, and our outreach in promoting our industry and educating the next generation of Aquaculturists.

Stay safe and healthy out there, and please know that our job at the Alliance is to speak on behalf of and advocate for the members. Remember - we work for you and welcome any opportunity to improve.

Very Best for 2021!!

Laura Braden
PEIAA President





The Government of Prince Edward Island supports sustainable growth and innovation in aquaculture, and we aim to support and grow the sector through collaboration, innovation, technology adoption, environmental sustainability, and market development.

Over the past year, our government introduced new programs to counteract some of the impacts from COVID 19, such as the Oyster Enhancement Fund, the PEI Oyster and Mussel Promotional Plan, the Aquaculture Product Development Program, PEI Mussel Retail Promotional Support Initiative, the Fisheries Emergency Loan Program, and Fisheries Interest Relief Program. All of these programs were identified as areas of need through collaboration from the Aquaculture Alliance and industry.

As we enter 2021, we will continue to administer the Research and Innovation Growth Program (RIG), Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program (FACTAP), the Aquaculture Futures Program, and the Oyster & Mussel Monitoring Programs to ensure sustainable growth and development in the aquaculture industry.

We value the leadership that the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance provides to the industry, and we look forward to continuing our partnership on the following projects:

- Providing core funding for the operations of the Alliance
- Introducing a pilot program to replace polystyrene buoys with more durable and environmentally sustainable plastic buoys
- Providing funding for a program to improve Public Trust of the aquaculture sector
- Providing funding for mental health support program available to Alliance members
- Providing funding for members of the mussel industry to achieve organic certification
- Funding to support the Alliance to hold its Annual General Meetings
- Funding support for projects through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund

Last year was a reminder of how important the aquaculture industry is for our province by providing over \$60M in economic value and over 1,500 jobs. Potential for innovation and growth in the aquaculture industry is exciting, and the Government of Prince Edward Island is looking forward to furthering our relationship with the Aquaculture Alliance and industry to reach these goals in 2021.

Best wishes to all of you in the coming year,



Jamie Fox, Minister
Fisheries and Communities



THANK YOU TO OUR
SUPPORTING MEMBERS!

GAUDET'S

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Go Deep
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The RAPTECH logo graphic consists of a stylized molecular structure with a central white circle connected to several smaller blue circles by thin grey lines, resembling a network or a chemical molecule.

a year's overview

CULTURED MUSSEL GROWERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020 brought some unexpected challenges! Wintertime looked fairly normal, ice harvesting was going well, demand was steady, and it even looked like there may have been a slight shortage in the year to come...and then March hit.

Due to the pandemic closing the majority of restaurants and food service, border closures and travel restrictions, there was a large decline in the market, with many uncertainties as to how things were going to develop.

Regular annual events such as the Beach Clean Up and PEI International Shellfish Festival were forced to cancel. The PEIAA Golf tournament was cancelled, but then was able to go ahead later in the year, with a near record for attendance. Public Health restrictions forced some changes to how the day went, with a lot less chances for networking. But, once the weather cleared up, everyone had a great time. Thank you to all the sponsors and funders who help make them possible.

Thank you as well for the continued support for the association from all Mussel Growers and Processors, as well as the efforts of the PEIAA staff. Special thanks go out to them for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to our Federal and Provincial government partners for their support and communication on the industry's priorities through this difficult time.

Shane Gillis
President, Cultured Mussel Growers Association



a year's overview

ISLAND OYSTER GROWERS GROUP PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Twenty-twenty marked the start of a new decade, and last years President's Report expressed immense excitement for what the future would bring. Shortly thereafter, the corona virus emerged and brought with it a tsunami that we could not have predicted and no one was prepared for.

Oyster farmers are well suited to weathering storms and adapting to challenges, however a global pandemic is one that we have never experienced before. Each one of us have been impacted, yet the full scope is still unknown and each operation may feel the effects differently, even for years to come.

We owe the staff of the Aquaculture Alliance tremendous gratitude for the support they have provided through the pandemic. From helping us try to answer questions of what challenges would arise from Covid-19 when we ourselves didn't even know, to navigating changing relief programs; Peter, Denna, and Mel altered their work schedules to do their jobs from home, organizing online platforms for virtual meetings and developing SOPs for best practices in our return to the water, they worked tirelessly to support us though the pandemic while remaining focused on their everyday roles. They even got a little dirty, and I cannot thank them enough for their contributions.

Thank you as well to the Provincial and Federal governments for their continued support of our industry. It is with this support that the Alliance was able to administer a purchasing program that allowed farmers to enhance wild oyster beds, while freeing up space in their overstocked growout bags and earning a small amount of revenue as a result. The Alliance continued with the Oyster Infrastructure and Training Program, secured funding to reduce Styrofoam usage, and has moved forward with a public trust campaign that will help to tell our story and promote our fantastic industry.

a year's overview

ISLAND OYSTER GROWERS GROUP PRESIDENT'S REPORT

All storms do pass and I am confident the markets will return to be stronger than ever. While the light at the end of the tunnel appears in the distance, we cannot be complacent and now more than ever must recognize the importance of being lean in our operations and that a strong, unified voice acting on our behalf will ensure that our unique challenges are recognized and addressed with other stakeholders.

This year our structure is changing to recognize that the IOGG represents the largest proportion of Alliance members and we have an excellent opportunity to help shape this voice. Like oysters, our group becomes stronger the more we put into it, and I encourage everyone to consider how you can help to deepen our cup.

Thanks to the board, those serving on committees, and to all our members for your continued support of the industry and our group.

Sincerely,

Jesse Fortune
President, Island Oyster Growers Group





a year's overview

FINFISH ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The aquaculture industry continues to be a thriving, growing industry on PEI, and although small, the finfish sector continues to make an impact by providing jobs and contributing overall to the Island economy.

2020 was a challenging year for all Islanders. Finfish growers are essential workers and facilities continued to operate; however, we were all impacted. Companies had to establish more biosecurity protocols, new work schedules, deal with supply issues, increasing costs, and declining markets. In spite of all of this, we did see growth in the industry.

Mowi Canada East continued to operate in PEI during 2020. Production included smolts for sea cage grow out at the RAS facility located on the Cardigan site, along with egg production at the two broodstock facilities, Cardigan and Dover. These 2 brood sites are the lone supplier of eggs for MCE in Atlantic Canada.

Production targets for both sides of the operation were met in 2020, along with the expansion of the broodstock program. A realignment of the roles and responsibilities related to this program lead to a small increase in production at the Cardigan brood site in order to accommodate the desire to conduct most of this program inhouse.

AquaBounty continues to operate their three RAS facilities, focusing on egg production and growout; harvest is scheduled for Q2 2021. The company is currently working on increasing its egg production capacity to prepare for Farm #3 expansion in the US.

Halibut PEI continues with its broodstock development and milt strategy. A Genetic Overview Report was completed by CATC to lay the groundwork for improving brood selection going forward. In a year marked by radical changes in the marketplace, HPEI continues to increase hatchery larval success and optimize weaning/post-weaning systems.

The Center for Aquaculture Technologies (CATC) had a very exciting year with many changes. The company purchased a new site in Victoria and they have hired 38 additional employees across their Canadian and US operations. CATC's new Feed Technology Center has installed the new feed extruder lines and conducted their first feeding trial with feed produced in-house in November 2020. CATC seen an overall 198% increase in growth during the past year; some of the highlights include the development of three new disease models and two species-specific high-density SNP panels.



a year's overview

FINFISH ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ocean Trout Canada, focusing on production of large Steelhead Trout, using a “fully integrated platform encompassing hatchery facilities, geographically diverse grow-out systems, and an export ready fish processing plant”. In 2019, their Brookvale facility imported a new strain of steelhead eggs – Riverance and the new strain is performing extremely well. Although transfers to seawater were delayed in 2020, the company will be importing eggs again in January 2021 and will be transferring smolts to seawater in the fall.

The Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery continues fulfilling their contract requirements with the Province for salmon and trout. This year 4 new tanks were installed outside to quadruple their derby fishing trout capacity.

The Finfish Association continued communications with various regulatory bodies regarding fish health certification requirements and changes, including our Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Department, CFIA, and our DFO Introduction and Transfer Committee.

The Province is still in the process of discussing a Provincial Aquaculture Act which will enable the Department to give Aquaculture facilities licenses to operate. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans continues to hold consultations regarding the development of an Aquaculture Act; more discussions will be held around any changes that may incur to existing regulations as the Act is developed. A draft Code of Practice for Farmed Salmonids has been developed and industry was invited to share their feedback on the document.

We want to thank our small but powerful team at the Aquaculture Alliance for their hard work and dedication and we would like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2021!

Dawn Runighan
President, PEI Finfish Association



2020

ALLIANCE ANNUAL ACTIVITY UPDATE

Hello from the Aquaculture Alliance Team, Denna Keating, Director of Finance and Operations, Peter Warris, Director of Projects and Industry Liaison, Mel Pasher, Program Officer, and Callie McAulay, Communications Assistant.



2020 was an unprecedented year with COVID-19, which cancelled many of our regular annual events.

In this report we will briefly review the issues that were worked on and highlight some the activities we participated in over this year.

The PEI Aquaculture Alliance (PEIAA) is a non-for-profit organization representing PEI farmed mussels, oysters and finfish. As a proactive, unified voice, we advocate on behalf of the aquaculture industry of PEI, communicate information (current issues, opportunities etc.) to our members, develop missions, projects, training, workshops, funding opportunities, and promote the industry through public engagement and education.

The Alliance continues to rely on the support and enthusiastic participation of all our members to continue as an effective representative of the PEI aquaculture industry; addressing the issues that impact you, communicating your priorities to research partners, and advocating on your behalf with both Provincial and Federal Government.

PROJECTS

We secured \$3.68M in project funding this year, which is more than double we did last year of \$1.57M. This is largely due to the OIT funding from the Atlantic Fisheries Fund Project (\$2.5M), the Oyster Enhancement Fund (\$921k), EPS Buoy Replacement Program (\$69.5k), Labour Market Partnerships (\$31.5k), and Earning Public Trust in PEI Aquaculture (\$40k). Some of these funding programs will carry over into next fiscal.

Oyster Aquaculture Infrastructure and Training (OIT) Program

This \$4.8 million dollar program continues to accept and process applications. The program has reviewed 147 applications totalling 3.5 million in committed funding, and has \$1.3 million in funding remaining.

Oyster Enhancement Fund

The Oyster Enhancement Fund (OEF) was a one-time emergency response to the disruption of key seafood markets. The OEF was designed to enhance commercially fished oyster beds, develop a new oyster bed, and improve spat collection and water quality in strategic areas in PEI.

The OEF purchased choice grade, cocktail-sized (2 – 3 inches) or market-sized (> 3 inches) oysters from PEI water-column (i.e., off-bottom) oyster growers to support the oyster aquaculture industry by reducing the surplus of cultured oysters and making room for future crops.

The OEF was administered through the PEI Aquaculture Alliance (PEIAA), which established the project framework, steering committees, application guidelines, purchase and delivery schedule, I&T applications for transfers, and audit protocols; the Alliance also undertook the auditing of deliveries.

In total the OEF purchased an estimated 3.9 million 2-3 inch and 118,492 3+ inch oysters from 53 growers to a value of \$821,756. These were spread in fourteen different areas across PEI, including a new bed in St Peter's Bay and the broodstock reserve in Bideford.

Public Trust

The Alliance continues to communicate with the general public about the Island aquaculture industry. The public trust project intends to develop a more structured campaign focused on all three sectors of the industry, its' farmers, and all the Islanders who work in or provide support to the sector (e.g., farm employees, truckers, processors, retailers, fabricators).



As part of this project two complimentary strategies have been developed, one focused on the PEI Aquaculture Alliance, the other, the Farmers of the Sea campaign itself, which will be separate from the Alliance. There is an opportunity for us to really upgrade our communications and redirect the focus towards our members, whilst the public facing communication shifts towards the Farmers of the Sea Campaign website. This campaign will really focus in on the people involved in the industry and their stories, while at the same time providing a communication portal for education about some key messages such as the sectors impact on employment, the rural economy of PEI, environmental sustainability, local/culinary excellence, production of safe and nutritious food, and the innovative nature of the sector.

PEI Aquaculture Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Replacement Program

The purpose of the PEI EPS Replacement Program is to assist the PEI shellfish aquaculture industry to replace, and dispose of, current, actively used EPS (“Styrofoam”™) floatation with newer, environmentally friendly, hard plastic alternatives.

The program was open to all PEI Leaseholders and contributed up to 75% towards the purchase of hard plastic floatation and disposal cost of EPS floatation removed from active use, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per applicant. There were ten successful applications that used the initial program funds. A further batch of applications were accepted and reviewed, and fortunately we were successful in obtaining further funding to support many of these at a 50% contribution.

Moving forwards we hope to develop a longer term strategy for the replacement and disposal of EPS floatation and are actively engaged in discussions with the Federal and Provincial governments, and Island Waste Management.



Organic Certification for Shellfish Growers

The Alliance was successful in securing funding to engage a local consultant to assist six independent mussel growers in developing Organic Plans with the future intention of securing certification against the Canadian Organic Aquaculture Standards.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Measuring the Carbon Offsets of Prince Edward Island Mussel and Oyster Aquaculture

We have been successful in obtaining funding from the PEI Climate Challenge Fund to undertake a project to calculate the carbon footprint of PEI mussel and oyster aquaculture. Carbon off-setting is the idea that greenhouse gas producing and reducing actions can be balanced to create an overall zero growth in greenhouse gases. Shellfish such as oysters and mussels play a role as sinks by sequestering carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. The oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Shellfish extract carbon dioxide from the water to produce their shells.

By calculating the amount of greenhouse gases sequestered and released by production activities, the shellfish aquaculture industry on PEI can understand their sustainability performance, establish a baseline of emissions prior to taking on greenhouse gas emission reduction projects, and prepare for participation in carbon trading or credit systems.

This project will utilize three trained carbon accountants to calculate the different sources and sinks of carbon for a model mussel and oyster producer. The model produced will then be “ground-truthed” using an actual PEI mussel and oyster farm operation. This information will then be up-scaled to produce an understanding and calculation for the PEI mussel and oyster aquaculture sectors.

Strengthening the PEI Aquaculture Industry Workforce

The overarching objective of this project is to support the PEI aquaculture industry in ensuring it has the right workforce to meet immediate and emerging needs through the implementation of key elements of the PEI Aquaculture Industry Workforce Strategy Action Plan.

The project will achieve three specific objectives:

1. Improve labour market intelligence and tools for the PEI aquaculture industry.
2. Enhance employers' ability to recruit and retain suitable and skilled employees.
3. Increase employer-driven training opportunities for new and existing employees.

We have submitted an application for funding to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and hope to hear if we have been successful by Summer 2021.



EVENTS

While some of our usual annual activities managed to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic there were many others that were not held. As mentioned earlier the Alliance AGM was cancelled in April of 2020. The Skills PEI Job Fairs, National Indigenous People's Day, PEI International Shellfish Festival, and Farm Day in the City were also cancelled. We look forward to resuming our involvement in these events in 2021 if and when it is judged safe to do so.



2020 Alliance Member Golf Tournament

Although the tournament was initially cancelled, we were so happy to be able to organize the event for early September, only a bit later in the year than usual. Apparently, everyone was eager to get out and enjoy themselves as we had a record-breaking number of teams registered.

Tournament Winners:

1st Place- East Cape Oyster Company

2nd Place- Cooke Insurance

3rd Place- Oyster Growers

4th Place- Atlantic Aqua Farms

Most Honest Team- Sweet Select

PEI Oyster Aquaculture Business Conference

The Alliance hosted this two-day conference event in January. Thank you to all our industry sponsors, especially our title sponsor RAP Technologies, our trade show exhibitors and to all the delegates that attended. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, such as business planning, occupational health and safety, alternative income generators and human resources.

Shoreline Clean-Up Event

We decided to cancel the Annual Shoreline Cleanup event for this year; the current public health restrictions make it impractical to organize any coordinated group activities. However, we had all the necessary permits for individual growers to go out and clean the various bays and estuaries throughout the province where aquaculture is practised. Island Waste Management Corporation (IWMC) once again generously agreed to waive disposal fees for material collected.

In 2021 we hope to take a more coordinated approach to shoreline clean ups across the Island. Starting with the Annual Shoreline Clean Up week in May we want to see leaseholders from one end of the Island to the other get out and participate! This is especially important as we raise the profile of the aquaculture sector with the public.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS

PEI Shellfish Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (SAMAC)

Formerly known as the Lease Management Board (LMB) SAMAC is the principal forum for industry and both levels of government to discuss ongoing leasing and other issues impacting the shellfish aquaculture industry. The Cultured Mussel Growers Association (CMGA) and the Island Oyster Growers Group (IOGG) each have two representatives on the committee, as well as one from the Alliance. This committee meets on a quarterly basis.

PEI Shellfish Working Group

The PEI Shellfish Working Group (SWG) is focused on Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP) issues, including waste-water treatment plants (WWTP) and related infrastructure, water quality monitoring and harvest area classifications. Membership includes both Federal and Provincial CSSP partners and also municipalities across the Island. Both the CMGA and IOGG have one rep, as well as the Alliance. This WG meets twice a year, spring and fall.

PEI International Shellfish Festival - <https://peishellfish.com>

As a joint effort of the PEI Aquaculture Alliance and the PEI Shellfish Association, the PEI International Shellfish Festival is organized by an active board and under the project management of Versatile Management Group. The PEI Aquaculture Alliance has 1 voting and 1 non-voting seat on the Board. The board meets periodically in the off-season, and monthly to bi-weekly as the festival activities ramp up in late summer.

Team Seafood Advisory Committee - www.teamseafood.ca

The PEI Aquaculture Alliance joined the Team Seafood Advisory Committee in 2020 after receiving approval to include aquaculture growers as part of the student bursary program. This is a collaboration of the PEI Aquaculture Alliance, PEI Seafood Processors, and the PEI Agriculture Sector Council (Farm Team), along with Skills PEI. The program is under the project management of Policy Intel.

Introductions & Transfers, Tunicate Advisory Committee

The Introductions & Transfers, Tunicate Advisory Committee (I&T, TAC) is being revived after several years due to the recent spread of vase tunicate into new waters. Currently both the CMGA and IOGG boards will be invited to participate, though this may be reduced to one or more reps from each board in the future. The TAC is a forum for industry to provide their opinion about how shellfish product movements between bays and estuaries should be limited or controlled, by the I&T Committee itself.

PEI Agriculture Awareness Committee / Agriculture in the Classroom

- www.peiagsc.ca/awareness

We are truly fortunate to be invited to sit on this committee, which is a well-established group with the mandate to educate the general public, and especially school age children, about their local agriculture industry. Our participation in events such as Open Farm Day and Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month (CALM) helps to introduce aquaculture as a normal farming activity, different from our terrestrial cousins in many ways but also with a lot in common.

MEMBERSHIPS

Canadian Aquaculture Industry Association (CAIA) - www.aquaculture.ca

CAIA is our industry association at the national level and helps to promote and advocate for all the different sectors on the industry with the Federal government in Ottawa and support the Provincial associations in their efforts. The Alliance currently has a seat on the CAIA board for 2020-21.

Canadian Organics Seafood Association (COSA)

- www.canadianorganicseafood.com

COSA is a relatively new association, with members from across the country in both the aquaculture and processing sectors. Since the Canadian Organic Aquaculture Standards became part of the Safe Food for Canadians Act there is a lot more focus on Organic production. COSA communicates with organic producers and associations with organic members and helps coordinate feedback on issues impacting them.

PEI Business Women's Association (PEIBWA) - <https://peibwa.org>

PEIBWA is a network of women entrepreneurs and business professionals from across PEI. PEIBWA's membership represents women at all stages of their careers and businesses - from start-up entrepreneurs, established business owners, and mid-career business professionals, to dynamic rural entrepreneurs, newcomers launching their businesses, students, and more.

Canadian Centre for Food Integrity (CCFI) - www.foodintegrity.ca

Consumers are more interested in how their food is grown, processed and brought to market than ever before. The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity helps our food system ensure it is doing the right things to build trust by providing research, resources, training and dialogue.

The Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization made up of business and professional people sharing a common goal: the economic development of the capital region. With close to 1,000 members, the chamber reflects a diverse network of small, medium and large businesses from almost every industry sector and business profession.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletters

This year we switched from the usual e-mailed pdf format to using MailChimp. This application allows organisations to manage their contact database and will track subscribers interest in the articles contained in each issue. Moving forwards, we hope to produce a monthly issue.

New Online Membership Portal

We are excited to announce our new online membership portal is now live and ready to accept membership applications for 2021! Simply go to the Alliance website, www.aquaculturepei.com, and select Membership, then Become a Member from the top menu, and fill out the form.

List Job Ads on the Alliance's Website

The Alliance is centralizing aquaculture jobs to one site and have set up an Employment section on our website. If you are currently posting job ads or will be in the future, please send them to us and we can post them to the Employment Page of our new website and share them on social media to help with the recruiting efforts.

Alliance Membership Fees for 2021

The new ranked category model was presented and approved by all three sector Associations at their respective annual general meetings and will be implemented by January 1st, 2021, at the latest.

We accept a number of payment methods (credit, cheque, cash) and hope to have an online payment option, with automatic annual renewal, available soon.

HUMAN RESOURCES & LABOUR

Team Seafood Bursary Program

The program was expanded to include aquaculture operations in 2020, a direct response to our requests on behalf of our members. The bursary amounts were also doubled for this year to encourage participation during the pandemic.

PEI Aquaculture Industry Workforce Strategy

The PEI Aquaculture Alliance retained CollaboVantage Consultants to provide support to the PEI aquaculture industry to address the labour force and human resources challenges they currently face, including:

- Updating and confirming the relevance of the recommendations of the report from 2014 – “A Labour Market Analysis and Strategy Development Supporting the Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Sector.”
- Identifying new workforce and human resources issues within the industry and suggesting ways to address these issues.
- Prioritizing issues and developing an action plan to address the issues.
- Leading the implementation of activities of the action plan.

We now have a newly developed PEI Aquaculture Industry Workforce Strategy.

Aquaculture Farm Assistance Program

The Alliance is proud to provide the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), a service that provides confidential, professional counselling services to aquaculture members and their families. The program recognizes that some problems and obstacles can affect home life and work performance. When this happens, help may be required in resolving these problems through the assistance of a trained professional counsellor. Members and their immediate family qualify for this service.

ACTIVITIES

Aquatic Invasive Species + Signage

The unfortunate news that the vase tunicae (*Ciona intestinalis*) had spread to two new areas last year has led to a renewed attention on the topic of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). In the past the Alliance has developed a number of different education and awareness materials, many of which are still available on our website (www.aquaculturepei.com/invasive.php). One of these was the signage that was put up at nearly every harbour, wharf and yacht club on the Island. Many of these signs are now faded and in need of replacement. The funding program that formerly developed this type of material is now long expired, happily Fisheries and Oceans Canada have taken on this task and we expect to have all new signage for harbours etc. this Spring.



THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

We also had some feedback from our members, volunteers on their local Harbour Authority, who had encountered difficulties in explaining the requirements for boat cleaning to some visitors. DFO have responded to this by having some of the Clean Drain Dry (<https://canadainvasives.ca/programs/clean-drain-dry>) campaign materials translated into several different languages. These will be available to Alliance members and other groups in the near future.

ACTIVITIES

Open House for Red Cross Disaster Relief

The Alliance hosted 2 open houses in January and February to assist industry members with applications for the Red Cross Disaster Relief from Hurricane Dorian. Thank you to the staff from the PEI branch of the Red Cross for attending both open houses and helping our members submit their applications.

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) / Agriculture Sector Council / Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month

The Alliance team was proud to have aquaculture on the Open Farm Day map this summer, and we thank Raspberry Point Oyster Co. for hosting this virtual visit. We participated in Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month event at the Eastlink Centre in March for the first time. We introduced aquaculture as a new topic to 900 grade 3 students and their teachers across PEI.

We presented a slide show and explained the 3 different sectors that make up PEI aquaculture. We also provided teachers with learning materials to use in their classrooms.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Our three sectors held their annual general meetings in the first quarter of the year; we were lucky to have these events finished before COVID was a problem, but unfortunately the Alliance AGM had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Thank you to the PEI Department of Fisheries and Communities for their continued support for these events.

CAIA AGM and Government Roundtable

The Canadian Aquaculture Industry Association's (CAIA) AGM was combined with three Industry – Government roundtable meetings. Thank you to PEI DFC for travel funding for Peter Warris, Director of Projects and Industry Liaison, and Dr. Laura Braden, President, PEI Finfish Association, to attend.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID-19 SOP Toolkit

All Island businesses need to develop an operational plan during the COVID-19 pandemic. The toolkit is designed to help all PEI Aquaculturists, it contains a set of template SOPs that each grower can adapt to their unique requirements, a guide to assessing the risks specific to each part of their operation, as well as a number of useful posters and handouts, and links to further information.

We would like to thank all our members who have generously contributed their own SOP documents to help in the creation of this toolkit.

COVID-19 Businesses Support Program Summary

The Alliance has produced a summary of some of the Business support programs that have been announced by Federal and Provincial governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Alliance has been providing industry feedback on COVID-19 Programs, including two formal letters to DFO and ACOA.

ALLIANCE SUPPLIER MEMBERS

Supporting Members

Gaudet's Engine Repair - www.gaudetsenginerepair.com

Go Deep International Inc. - <https://godeepintl.com>

Quartermaster Marine - www.quartermastermarine.com

RAP Technologies Inc. - <http://raptechs.com>

Tier 2 Supplier Members

Bio Food Tech - www.biofoodtech.ca

Cooke Insurance Group - www.cooke.ca

Diversified Divers Inc. - www.diversquarters.com

Entreprises Shippagan Ltd. - www.entship.ca

Tier 1 Supplier Members

Atlantic Fish Specialties - <http://www.cookeseafood.com/tag/atlantic-fish-specialties/>

Bouctouche Bay Industries - <https://www.bbigroup.ca>

Bradley Handrahan Chartered Professional Accountants - www.bhcpa.ca

Cascumpec Seed Oyster - www.facebook.com/cascumpec.seedoyster

Centre for Aquaculture Technologies Canada - www.aquatechcenter.com

Compass Aquaculture Solutions Limited - www.compassaq.com

Dennis Motors - www.dennismotors.ca

East Coast Accounting Solutions - www.eastcoastaccounting.ca

Farm Credit Canada - www.fcc.ca

Gemini Screen Print & Embroidery - www.geminipei.com

Grandview Welding Ltd. - www.grandviewwelding.ca

Marine Source - www.marinesource.ca

Maritime Paper Products - www.maritimepaper.com

McInnes Cooper - www.mcinnescooper.com

Mermaid Marine Products - www.mermaidmarine.com

Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI - <https://mcpei.ca>

ALLIANCE SUPPLIER MEMBERS

Tier 1 Supplier Members Cont.

Mitchell McConnell Insurance - www.mitchellmcconnell.com

MRSB Group - www.mrsbgroup.com

Native Council of PEI - <https://ncpei.com>

Oyster Apparel - www.facebook.com/oyster.apparel

Oyster Cage Commander - www.oystercagecommander.com

Oyster Tracker - www.oystertracker.com

OysterGro Aqua Farming System - www.oystergro.com

Peake & McInnis Ltd. - www.peake-mcinnis.com

PEI Bag Company - www.peibag.com

Rainbow Net & Rigging - www.rainbownetrigging.com

Spartan Industrial Marine - www.spartanmarine.ca

Sunwell Technologies Inc.- www.sunwell.com

Sustain Aqua - www.sustainaqua.ca

Sweeney International Marine Corp - www.simcorp.ca

TnT Marketing Inc. - <https://www.tnttrainingsolutions.com>

Vericatch - <https://vericatch.com>

Thank you to all our supplier members for your continued support!