



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Aquaculture Industries Participate in Shoreline Cleanup

The PEI Aquaculture Alliance and its members in the Mussel, Oyster and Finfish industries are once again launching their annual initiative to encourage all leaseholders to help clean up the Island's shores for the month of May.

During Shoreline Cleanup Month, Alliance members will be scouring the bays, estuaries and shorelines of PEI to clean up garbage.

"While we know the garbage seen along PEI's shores doesn't come from one specific industry or sector, we recognize that aquaculture operations can contribute to the problem and we want to be part of the solution," said Peter Warris, Director of Projects and Industry Liaison with the PEI Aquaculture Alliance. "Our members have been working to reduce any waste produced, and this shoreline cleanup is just another way we hope to improve and protect our environment and beautiful Island coastline."

The Aquaculture Alliance is working in collaboration with Island Nature Trust and the PEI Watershed groups through the Watershed Alliance to ensure waterways and sensitive environmental areas are protected and remain undisturbed during the cleanup, especially the nesting areas of Piping Plovers, the endangered shorebird that nests on the open sand between the highwater mark and the dune.

"The shore is a critical part of our island heritage. We all must do our part to protect it," said Shannon Mader, Island Nature Trust. "It is wonderful to see industry and members of the community getting involved in the removal of waste and the conservation of this ecosystem."

Those participating in the cleanup will have shoreline and trail permits for any vehicles needed to pick up large waste, such as discarded tires, and will refer to the Piping Plover nesting map and information provided by Island Nature Trust. As an added caution, the Alliance will notify the Trust before any work begins.

"Keeping our shoreline ecosystems healthy is important to our member groups and we welcome the opportunity to partner with industry and other conservation partners on this initiative," said Mike Durant, PEI Watershed Alliance.

The Aquaculture Alliance members are asking the public to notify them of any shoreline property that needs attention, and whether the members can have permission to access it via private property.

“Our members are responsible stewards of the sea and shore and that’s really what’s at the heart of all of this,” Warris said. “We all have a vested interest in taking care of our Island and the water around it. We encourage others to consider participating in the shoreline cleanup with us, but we ask that they stick to publicly accessible areas, avoid plover territory and, when in doubt, check in with the Island Nature Trust before you begin.”

If you are involved in PEI Aquaculture and would like to participate, please contact rd@aquaculturepei.com or call 902-626-9031.

For more information about PEI Aquaculture Alliance, visit: <https://www.aquaculturepei.com>

To learn more about Island Nature Trust, visit: <https://islandnaturetrust.ca>

For details on the PEI Watershed Alliance, visit: <https://peiwatershedalliance.org>

Have photos of your beach or shoreline cleanup efforts? Share them using #ShorelineCleanUpPEI or email communications@aquaculturepei.com

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Submitted photo.

Cutlines: Pictured are representatives of the PEI Aquaculture Alliance and volunteers from the Environmental Applied Science Technology program at Holland College after they cleaned up debris in the area of Gaspereaux and Launching in 2019. This year, the PEI Aquaculture Alliance is expanding its initiative and launching a month-long clean-up effort.

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