



January Newsletter

Scotian Pride Summary of Events

Vol 2, Issue 1

January 2011

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Scotian Pride Conference and Annual Tradeshow

The stormy conditions during Scotian Pride proved that the conference must go on, with over 150 participants taking part in the two day event. A total of 12 tradeshow exhibitors exhibited their products and companies from food processing technology to scientific equipment to educational opportunities.

The AANS President, Paul Merlin kicked off the conference by welcoming the keynote speakers, presenters and participants to Scotian Pride. Mr. Jim Boudreau, Ministerial Assistant with Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) gave an opening greeting to the audience and presented Robin Stuart with the Aquaculturist of the Year Award. Congratulations Robin! Mr. Gus van Helvoort, Regional Director with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans spoke on the need for a single voice in aquaculture. Dr. Paul LaFleche, Deputy Minister with NSDFA discussed the process and need for the soon to be announced Provincial Aquaculture Strategy.

We had three remarkable keynote speakers: Vivian



Krause from British Columbia, Canada, Gavin Gibbons with the National Fisheries Institute from Washington, USA and Dr. Martin Jaffa, Callander McDowell from England, UK. Ms. Krause's talk focused on the demarketing of farmed fish, particularly in western Canada. Representatives from the [Financial Post](#) and [Vancouver Sun](#) conducted an interview with Ms. Karuse on her work; to view the articles please click on the newspaper names. Mr. Gibbon's discussed the angle that organizations should take to challenge media on stories that are based on poor scientific evidence. While Dr. Jaffa highlighted the importance of understanding the market demand in order to meet consumer's needs. These presentations prompted lively discussions with the industry.

In addition to our keynote speakers we had excellent presentations delivered by individuals from various groups and organizations. Several important key points were raised during the conference on what the aquaculture industry in Canada (and the world) is facing. Some of these key points included raising awareness about organizations attempting to demarket the industry, that the industry in Atlantic Canada desires the demarketing issue to be tackled from a National perspective, and to be critical of scientific studies.

If you have any comments or suggestions on what we can do differently for next year's conference we would love to hear from you. Please email Danielle Goodfellow at dgoodfellowaans@eastlink.ca or call (902) 422-6234.

Oyster Development Workshop

On January 26, 2011 a day long oyster development workshop was held at the Harbourfront Marriott Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A total of 80 people attended the event and over 20% of the participants were industry representatives.



Guest speakers and participants were from all Atlantic Provinces.

The workshop was broken down into three main themes: business development, culturing techniques and technologies and oyster health. The business development session covered marketing products and business, improving Atlantic Canada's shellfish industry, federal regulations and policies and information on Nova Scotia's provincial licenses and leases. A comparison between culturing techniques and how to control boring sponges was discussed in the culturing techniques and technologies session. Finally, topics on MSX, malpeque, introductions and transfers committee and environmental factors affecting oyster health were presented.

Authorized copies of the presentations are available on our website and the proceedings from the workshop will be available by early March. Please visit: <http://www.aansonline.ca/> for more information.

AANS AGM

The number of members in attendance for this year's AGM was impressive. A new Board of Directors was elected to fill the following positions: President (Paul Merlin), Vice President (Robin Stuart), Treasurer (Brian Blanchard) and Secretary (Doug



Bertram). The Board is anticipating another productive and successful year. A special welcome to the newest members who have joined the association; we look forward to collaborating with you on industry initiatives.

Sip n' Shuck

The Sip n' Shuck event just keeps getting better every year! The event was held at the Delta Halifax and was a huge success. There were over 225 people in attendance, with a great turn out from the conference guests. The



The decadent local aquaculture products were paired with delicious Nova Scotia wines. Thank you to the Jeff Goodspeed Trio for creating a warm welcoming atmosphere. A special thanks to all our members who supplied product for the event, the Delta for all their hard work, to the contributing partners and to everyone in attendance.

Mussel Certification Project

This project was initiated early in January. The purpose is to bring the Nova Scotia mussel sector together to work collaboratively to determine the needs and challenges for the industry in order to achieve certification. To date the group has met on two occasions; their input is critical



towards developing the roadmap to determine if adopting certification is feasible. A final report will be completed and available by March 31, 2011

NSAC Career Fair

On January 12th, the AANS set up an information booth in the Nova Scotia Agricultural College's annual job fair. It was great to see so many students interested in pursuing a career in aquaculture. The association could be playing a much greater role in matching graduates from programs such as the one at NSAC with potential employers. It is our plan to include either a career opportunities section in our newsletter or potentially in our new website. Any suggestions that you might have in this regard would be very much appreciated.
