



33 Years of Representing the Nova Scotia Aquaculture Industry  
Farm fresh seafood, 52 weeks of the year!

# March Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2011

## In This Issue

[Aquaculture Outreach Program](#)

[Meeting With Minister Belliveau](#)

[Demonstration Farm Project](#)

[Meeting at Indian Point Marine Farms](#)

[Mussel Certification Project](#)

[Small Mussel Project](#)

[Finfish Organic Certification Project](#)

[Oyster Sector Working Group Meeting](#)

[Blact From The](#)

## Meeting With Minister Belliveau



The AANS Board of Directors met with Minister Sterling Belliveau, Deputy Minister Paul LaFleche, and the Aquaculture Director, Marshall Giles to discuss the future of provincial aquaculture funding in Nova Scotia. The Board wanted the Minister to understand how beneficial his department's funding initiatives have been over the past three years and how this sort of funding is critical to the successful development of the aquaculture industry. It was explained that these funding programs were completely financed through a one time investment from Ottawa and that once that money was spent at the end of March that would be it for those funds. Unless a similar investment was made by Ottawa in the future, funding programs such as the ones we have seen in the last few years will not be possible. They did mention however that the Nova Scotia Department of Economic and Rural Development and Tourism is offering assistance to small and medium sized business in Nova Scotia through specific programs. Our next step is to sit down with this department to get an idea of what programs might be available to the aquaculture industry.

[Past](#)



### Aquaculture Outreach Program



As we move into spring we are planning this summers Outreach program. We have received the resumes and will be interviewing students in the coming weeks. The Program runs from early May to the end of August.

Please prepare to come out and get involved talking to the public when the display comes to your area!

More details to

## Demonstration Farm Project

We were very pleased to find out in March that ACOA was coming onboard to support our demonstration farm project. The other major partners in this project are the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and



AANS industry members. This project is a big part of our ongoing public confidence initiative, which when complete will allow anyone with access to the internet to make a virtual visit of a working aquaculture farm through the AANS webpage. Part of the project includes rebuilding the AANS webpage and adding new content that better describes our industry and people in it. Many AANS members have already opened up their operations for filming and photography and I would encourage anyone else that would like to participate or has ideas on getting our message out there to please let us know.

## Meeting at Indian Point Marine Farms

Peter Darnell, owner and operator of Indian Point Marine Farms very kindly invited Bruce down to a meeting on his farm on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with senior bureaucrats from various federal government departments that were participating in a case study of the CFIA as part of a program they were taking in the Canada School of Public Service. This gave us an opportunity to highlight some of our industry's concerns regarding the CFIA, but more importantly it provided us with an opportunity to have a meaningful discussion with senior federal civil servants about the benefits of aquaculture and some of the many challenges that we are facing as an industry.



dates and locations but if you have any questions please email Cassie Benjamin at [aans@eastlink.ca](mailto:aans@eastlink.ca) or call (902)422-6234

## Mussel Certification Project

This project brought the mussel sector in Nova Scotia together to discuss the challenges the industry is facing around certification. Unlike the MSC in the wild fishery, it is difficult for aquaculturalists to know which certification body will prevail. The report layouts the challenges and breaks down options for the mussel sector with regards to certification. The report suggests for the mussel sector to apply the AANS Codes of Practice (shellfish section) along with CAIAs Environmental Management Systems Framework and Logbook to their operations. By implementing these two documents into their operations, mussel growers in Nova Scotia will be prepared to achieve certification if desirable. To review the content covered in the report, please click on Mussel Certification Project.

---

## Small Mussel Project

Industry representatives, consumers and chefs were surveyed to compare small mussels (between 40-50 mm) with market size mussels (>50 mm). Overall the appearance, texture and taste were liked by those

who sampled small mussels. Both consumers and chefs agreed that they would purchase small mussels as seasonal product could envision them accompanying a main dish or be used in soups and chowders. The technology exists to process small mussels and growers in Nova Scotia are interested in profiting from small mussels which are currently being sorted as waste. To read the full report, please click on Small Mussel Project report.



## Finfish Organic Certification Project

The purpose of this project is to investigate whether or not it would be feasible for finfish grower in Nova Scotia to adopt organic certification. The first meeting involved discussing the content and delivery of the market survey. A second meeting will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the results of the market survey analysis. Future work includes comparing organic standards from different countries and conducting a cost benefit analysis. The final report from this project will be available May 31, 2011.

---

## Oyster Sector Working Group Meeting

Following the momentum generated by the oyster development workshop in January, the AANS hosted its first Oyster Sector Working Group meeting on March 30, 2011 in Truro. Nolan d'Eon from Eel Lake Oyster Farms has volunteered to co-chair the meetings along with Bruce Hancock and Danielle Goodfellow. Thank you Nolan!



The first meeting focused on validating the priorities that were identified by industry at the workshop. Common priorities throughout the oyster sector in Nova Scotia included having lease renewals set at a minimum of 10 years and lobbying Federal Government to reform the regulations and make them grower friendly. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please email Danielle Goodfellow at [dgoodfellowaans@eastlink.ca](mailto:dgoodfellowaans@eastlink.ca)

To obtain a copy of the proceedings from the Oyster Development Workshop, please

[click here.](#)

---

## Blast From The Past



Robin Stuart and Cyril Boudreau,  
year unknown

---

Thank you for your continued support of the AANS!

**Sincerely,**  
AANS Staff