

Aquaculture and Fisheries Opportunities Summit

Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries

September 7, 2017

Aquaculture and Fisheries 2015 Summit Summary

- Shediac, November 5, 2015
- Over 40 participants across all sectors of industry: from producers and fishers to processors, wholesalers and exporters
- Participants' top opportunities identified were arranged into 6 sectors:
 - 1) Infrastructure
 - 2) Labour Strategy
 - 3) Value Added
 - 4) Resource Management
 - 5) Growth in Specific Industries
 - 6) Markets and Export

WHAT WE HEARD THAT WE DID NOT DO

- New wharf and industrial park for mussel producers
 - *Our focus at this time is on the expansion of the oyster sector*
- Expand fisheries for redfish, hake, striped bass and seals.
 - *New fisheries and expansion of quotas is a DFO mandate and will take additional time*

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Infrastructure

What we heard:

- Improve infrastructure for transportation, processing and productivity improvement.
- Infrastructure, policies, laws that protect the long term health of our waters

What have we done since:

- Significant investments in Bas-Caraquet, Shippagan and Grand Manan Marine Service Centers.
- Investments in automation for our lobster processing sectors eg. Processing efficiencies and new, innovative engineering designs for value-added processing.
- Partnering with Federal government to look at legislative framework for aquaculture

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Labour Strategy

What we heard:

- Increase technology to reduce dependence on workers for hard-to-fill positions.
- Better communicate career opportunities in industry.
- Increase the cap allotment in the current PNP Program.
- Reform the Foreign Worker Program to address the seasonality of fisheries and aquaculture.

What have we done since:

- Worked with PETL to develop a Provincial Action Plan for addressing labour challenges.
- Advocated with the Federal government to assist processors in the short term with Temporary Foreign Workers Program.

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Value Added

What we heard:

- Process products to be more user friendly for consumer markets (secondary processing).
- Educate global consumers about the quality of NB products.
- Use 100% of the sea products through by-product development and a zero-waste mentality.

What have we done since:

- Supported projects to develop new product lines
- Put in place a Bioeconomy Priority Delivery Unit led by BioNB and DAAF.
- Bioeconomy charter mandated under the PDU, aimed at developing an inventory of available biomass for inward investment.

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Resource Management

What we heard:

- Protect the health of the waters and fish populations through sound policy, laws and allocation.
- Stabilize lucrative fisheries through seeding, R&D, and predation.

What have we done since:

- Completion of a one year Fisheries Renewal Framework and associated work plan for 2017-2018.
- Continual advocacy with the Federal government on behalf of our fisheries

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Growth in Specific Industries

What we heard:

- Opportunities are seen in industries such as oysters, redfish, hake, striped bass, seals, eels and algae (wild).

What have we done since:

- Establishment of a new Business Growth Branch within DAAF to focus on economic development of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors.
- Renewal of a 5 year Shellfish Aquaculture Development Strategy (to be launched this fall) – Priority given to oyster aquaculture.
- Socio Economic Study of Shellfish Aquaculture Industry (final report submitted this spring).
- Technical workshops for growers and employees offered (eg. shellfish health workshops, BAP Certification)
- Revision of Freshwater Rainbow Trout Policy undertaken.

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Markets and Export

What we heard:

- Target markets for premium sale and foster trade agreements such as CETA and TransAtlantic.

What have we done since:

- Local Food and Beverages Strategy launched in October 2016.

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Going forward

Areas of focus for opportunities:

- Increase production
- Increase export and domestic sales
 - Food safety and traceability
 - Market penetration (value added opportunities; distinguish NB products; improve branding; maximize advantage of new trade agreements)
 - Cross-promotion of products
- Foster business development
 - Opportunity focused approach (“SWAT team”)
 - Programs to fit current business growth
 - Employment opportunities / Approach to recruitment and retention in industries
 - Regulation - Responsible governance (regulatory reviews, collaboration with federal and provincial governments)
- Engagement of First Nations

Thank You.

Questions?