

# Newsletter

## Aboriginal Aquaculture Association

New staff at the AAA  
Aboriginal Business Technical Experts hired

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## Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative

The Aboriginal Aquaculture Association is pleased to announce the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative (AACI). It is a new program funded through the Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development Strategic Partnership Initiative. It is being launched with the objective of supporting Aboriginal communities and entrepreneurs from across Canada with economic development in the aquaculture sector.

Currently more than 48 Aboriginal groups from across Canada have developed aquaculture business ventures and partnerships. This has resulted in new job creation and skills development and as a result has increased the wealth and prosperity in the rural and coastal communities providing both social and economic benefits.

An increasing number of Aboriginal communities and entrepreneurs are exploring economic development opportunities in this sector. Aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector in the world. It currently provides 50% of the fish and seafood produces consumed on a global basis.

With access to sites suitable for shellfish or finfish farming, Aboriginal communities are well positioned to participate in, and benefit from, potential growth in Canada's aquaculture sector.

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## AAA Expands Service area, Western Canada & the North

Regional Business Teams are established in three regions of the country staffed by five Aquaculture Business Technical Experts (ABTE). These five ABTE's have been hired nationally as part of the Aboriginal Aquaculture in Canada Initiative.

Ulnooweg Business Development Group Incorporated have two ABTE's, providing service to communities in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. Waubetek Business Development Corporation has one ABTE serving Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The AAA have two ABTEs to provide service not only to B.C. but also Alberta and the North including N.W.T., Yukon and Nunavut.

Chief Richard Harry, Executive Director for the AAA "There is tremendous interest by First Nations to look to aquaculture to create economic development opportunities for our communities. We have seen positive examples of First Nation communities who have embraced aquaculture and established successful businesses. This gives us hope. It is an exciting time for the Association, it is going to be busy in 2014."

The new staff at the Association is ready to provide assistance to First Nation communities and entrepreneurs. The Association warmly welcomes Jennifer Woodland and David Stirling.

## Quick Facts AAA Expanded Area



The AAA will now be working with First Nations and entrepreneurs from B.C., Alberta, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Number of First Nations in BC	198
Number of First Nations in Alberta	48
Number of First Nations in Yukon	18
Number of First Nations in N.W.T.	26
Nunavut Central Government	1

I am originally from Newfoundland and moved to Vancouver Island in 2003 to begin work in the aquaculture field. My involvement with aquaculture has been multi-faceted as I have worked within industry, academia, and as a consultant. My career focus has been on environmental management, regulatory affairs, standards based certification, and aquaculture development. I currently sit on the board of directors for the Aquaculture Association of Canada.

In the past decade, my family has become aware of our Mi'kmaq heritage and I self-identify as a member of the Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation. This ancestral connection has influenced my direction when working on aquaculture projects with First Nations throughout coastal British Columbia. It has also increased my awareness of the issues facing development in Aboriginal communities.

Examples of career projects include successful completion of the following:

- Guided members of the aquaculture industry to successful standards based certification.
- Completed an environmental assessment on the use of a mechanical shellfish harvester for use by shellfish growers in British Columbia.
- Directed population studies on eulachon with First Nations in coastal British Columbia.

## David Stirling



## Jennifer Woodland

We are pleased to welcome Jennifer Woodland to the Association. With over 15 years aquaculture experience Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Memorial University of Newfoundland as well as a Graduate Diploma in Aquaculture from the Marine Institute. In 1998 Jennifer began an exciting career with Heritage Salmon Ltd. in B.C., starting out on the farms evolving into the Safety Manager and eventually assuming the role of Lease and Environmental Manager - First Nations & Government Relations. In 2008 she relocated back to her home province of Newfoundland as Environmental Compliance and Regulatory Affairs Manager with Cold Ocean Salmon Ltd. During her 6 years there she worked closely with government in developing new regulations for the industry and expanding the aquaculture business bringing economic growth to the south coast of the province. She was an active board member of the Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association (NAIA) since 2009 and has served as President of the association for the last 3 years. Jennifer will be returning to their home in Campbell River with her husband Damon and two little girls Anastasia and Charlotte. Jennifer says "I am very proud of the work we have accomplished in Newfoundland – in particular being a part of the economic turnaround of several rural communities. I am beyond excited to have an opportunity to return to BC – a place I love –and work with the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association to develop new and environmentally sustainable opportunities for First Nations communities in aquaculture".



# Seasons Greetings

The Board and Staff of the  
Association wish you and your  
families

Merry Christmas and a Happy  
and Healthy New Year.



## CONTACT US

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