



## NEWS RELEASE

### THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY SURPASSES QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS IN 2016

**March 16, 2017 - St. John's** – In 2016, the Newfoundland and Labrador aquaculture industry exceeded all previous production volumes and market values. Total aquaculture production in 2016 was 28,622 tonnes, representing a 25.5 per cent increase the previous year. The growth was primarily a result of increased Atlantic salmon production.

Total market value for the industry reached a record high in 2016; totaling \$276 million, compared to \$161 million in 2015. The rise in market value was primarily due to increased Atlantic salmon production, stronger market prices, and favourable exchange rates.

“Through dedication and determination, hard-working Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have achieved the highest levels of production of premium farmed seafood in our province’s history”, said Mark Lane, Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Aquaculture Industry Association. “As responsible farmers of the sea, we are proud that our industry is now worth more than \$275 MILLION; contributing significantly to the economy of this province and the country, creating jobs and revitalizing rural coastal communities.”

Market prices for fresh, live mussels remained relatively stable in 2016, with some minor fluctuations due to exchange rates.

#### BACKGROUND

*From the Seafood Industry – Year in Review 2016, Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.*

[http://www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca/publications/pdf/SYIR\\_2016.pdf](http://www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca/publications/pdf/SYIR_2016.pdf)

## **SALMONIDS**

Atlantic salmon is the major commercial salmonid species in the province. A limited amount of steelhead trout is also produced. In 2016, there were 88 commercial salmonid site licences, covering a combined area of 2,500 hectares.

In 2016, salmonid production increased significantly to 25,411 tonnes, valued at \$263 million. This represents a 29.1 per cent increase in production volume and a 76.9 per cent rise in market value compared to 2015.

## **SHELLFISH**

In Newfoundland and Labrador, the blue mussel is the main commercial shell fish aquaculture species. Shell fish production in 2016 was on par with the previous year; however, the production value rose slightly as a result of favourable exchange rates. Production volume for shell fish was 3,211 tonnes, representing a 2.6 per cent change over 2015. Market value was up 5.6 per cent to \$13.6 million.

In 2016, there were 53 commercial shell fish site licences that covered a combined area of 4,403 hectares.

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