



**For Immediate Release:**

## **Industry Applauds Provincial Investment in Support of Newfoundland's Aquaculture Sector**

**Ottawa, ON – July 15, 2011** – The province of Newfoundland and Labrador celebrated the official opening of its \$8.8 million Centre for Aquaculture Health and Development in St. Alban's on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.

As the national industry association representing Canadian aquaculture operators, feed companies and suppliers, the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA) congratulates the provincial government in taking action to foster the growth and development of this industry.

"We are extremely pleased with the support of our industry demonstrated through the opening of this state-of-the-art facility," commented Ruth Salmon, CAIA Executive Director. "The Newfoundland government has clearly recognized the social and economic value of our local aquaculture companies and the critical role of science and innovation in future industry sustainability."

"Newfoundland is demonstrating strong leadership in the development of this important agri-food production sector, which impacts not only the province, but Canada and the world," she added. "Global human population is growing, per capita demand for seafood is increasing, and our over-stressed oceans can't keep up. The farming of fish, shellfish and sea plants is playing a growing role in meeting the demand for healthy protein."

"Aquaculture generates \$2.1 billion annually for the Canadian economy but given our vast potential, our contribution to global production remains small," said Salmon. "Commitment from provincial governments such as this communicates clear support of the aquaculture industry which helps cultivate the sort of stable and supportive environment that attracts investment to revitalize Canada's coastal and rural communities."

The Centre for Aquaculture Health and Development will focus on fish health and clinical research to grow the aquaculture industry with a focus on aquatic diagnostics, marine biosecurity and energy conservation for the long-term preservation and protection of the province's aquaculture resources.

Newfoundland's aquaculture industry has been growing and in 2009 accounted for about 12 percent of Canada's total production value. In 2010, production in the province rose 12.7 percent, from 13,627 tons in 2009 to 15,360 tons in 2010, valued at \$116 million.

As the voice of Canada's aquaculture industry, the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA) represents aquaculture operators, feed companies and suppliers, as well as provincial finfish and shellfish aquaculture associations. To learn more visit [www.aquaculture.ca](http://www.aquaculture.ca).

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