

Coaster News

Record Year for Aquaculture in the Province

Provincial Fisheries Minister Darin King says 2011 was another record year for the aquaculture industry in the province.

King addressed delegates of the Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association (NAIA) conference in Gander this week.

“Newfoundland and Labrador’s aquaculture industry is growing rapidly,” King said. “This conference provided me with the opportunity to connect with suppliers and producers after a very positive year of cooperation between all stakeholders. Over the next few days, my officials will also take the opportunity to discuss the growth and future of this vital industry for rural parts of our province with those directly involved.”



A Newfoundland mussel farm. — NAIA file photo

A news release notes that in 2011, the Newfoundland and Labrador aquaculture industry continued to grow in terms of production and market value. Production rose 12.4 per cent, from 15,360 tonnes in 2010 to 17,264 tonnes in 2011. This growth was facilitated by the continued expansion of the salmonid sector and a rebounding mussel sector. The total market value increased from \$118 million in 2010 to \$120 million in 2011.

The conference provides a valuable networking venue for producers, suppliers, government and academia, with more than 250 provincial, national and international delegates in attendance this year. “The aquaculture industry throughout Newfoundland and Labrador is playing a significant role in our rural economy,” said Miranda Pryor, executive director of NAIA.

“Followed by a positive year in the industry, we have a record number of students, community leaders, industry representatives, and many others in attendance at the NAIA conference. We will celebrate how far we've come and plan for the year ahead. Aquaculture has a bright future in Newfoundland and Labrador and we look forward to growing our future together.”

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