



**CANADIAN  
AQUACULTURE**  
INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

ALLIANCE DE L'INDUSTRIE  
**CANADIENNE DE  
L'AQUACULTURE**

*Farming Canadian waters with care.  
Faire l'élevage en milieu aquatique canadienne avec soin.*

June 7, 2023

Hon. Joyce Murray  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian  
Coast Guard  
Government of Canada  
200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Hon. Derrick Bragg  
Minister of Fisheries and Land Resources  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Hon. Bloyce Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Government of Prince Edward Island  
1 Kent Street, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Hon. Steve Craig  
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Government of Nova Scotia  
PO Box 2223, Halifax, NS B3J 3C4

Hon. Margaret Johnson  
Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and  
Fisheries  
Government of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

L'honorable Andre Lamontagne  
Ministère de l'agriculture, pêcheries et  
alimentation  
Gouvernement du Québec  
200, chemin Sainte-Foy, Québec, QC G1R 4X6

Hon. Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
99 Wellesley St. West, Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Hon. Derek Johnson  
Minister of Agriculture  
Government of Manitoba  
450 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Hon. Dana Skoropad  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Saskatchewan  
2405 Legislative Drive, Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Hon. Nate Horner  
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural  
Economic Development  
Government of Alberta  
10800 - 97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Hon. Nathan Cullen  
Minister of Lands, Water and Resource  
Stewardship  
Government of British Columbia  
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Hon. Joanna Quassa  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut  
P.O. Box 1000 Station 200, Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Hon. Nils Clarke  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Yukon  
PO Box 2703 (V-3A), Whitehorse, YK Y1A 2C6

Hon. Shane Thompson  
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of Northwest Territories  
PO Box 130, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9



Dear Ministers,

We understand that the next meeting of the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) is expected to take place at the end of June in Ottawa.

The Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance, on behalf of its producer, supplier and association members across Canada, would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your work to support and champion sustainable aquaculture development across Canada.

We all recognize the incredible potential this country has to farm seafood. While there are bright spots of development and support, unfortunately overall the country's production and employment in our sector is falling. This is due to the unprecedented situation with the BC salmon farming sector. This is happening while other nations move ahead with expanding their aquaculture production with bold goals for growth.

We want to be able to invest and continually innovate to improve our product, strengthen the communities in which we work and continue to grow the trust of Canadians. Already several of our salmon farming companies are recognized as global leaders in sustainable food production (cf. Collier-FAIRR Index for animal proteins, with positions #1 and #2 being held by companies in Canada).

But we need the strong and clear support of governments who recognize that aquaculture is the future of reliable, secure, sustainable and affordable supply of seafood and job creation in rural, coastal and Indigenous communities across Canada. And we need a strong and reliable regulatory framework for investment that provides clear goals and stability so that companies can trust that their long-term investments will be respected.

For your June CCFAM meeting, we would ask you to consider action and agreement on several key items:

- 1) **STABILITY AND CERTAINTY FOR SALMON FARMING SECTOR IN BC:** A successful transition in BC requires a clear regulatory framework that will attract investment for innovation and provides the flexibility that allows First Nations to determine how they want to proceed within their territory, and licence holders to work with those Nations to determine which technology or approach best aligns with the Nation's vision and unique marine conditions. The current approach of shutting farms against the wishes of BC's rightsholder Nations and against departmental science advice deeply undermines investor confidence in Canada's aquaculture sector and has implications for investment in all resource-related business sectors.

We ask that CCFAM Ministers support the call for a whole-of-government approach to develop a BC transition plan that attracts investment and advances the development of new tools and technology, allowing Canada to become a global leader in innovative aquaculture. Where scientific evidence, properly evaluated through government science processes, indicates a need for practice changes (for example for enhanced environmental performance), we ask that governments move in a clear and intentional way to set new and reasonable performance targets based on this science advice. Companies should then be given the opportunity to innovate and change practices in a reasonable period of time to achieve these goals.



- 2) **CSSP:** That the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program (CSSP), that has not received any new funding or programmatic review and improvement for over 20 years, be a priority for program improvement and funding so that shellfish farmers can open new sites, expand production and grow successfully.
- 3) **BRM FOR SHELLFISH:** The experience of Hurricane Fiona is yet another example of the need for a BRM program for shellfish in particular but for all Small Medium Enterprise (SME) aquaculture producers in general. Companies facing increasing risks from extreme weather or other factors deeply undermine the potential for long-term growth and development of the sector. The United States Department of Agriculture recently extended its business risk programs for all aquaculture producers, putting our Canadian producers at a competitive disadvantage.
- 4) **AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA AS FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT BODY:** We would ask CCFAM to make a recommendation that while DFO retain federal regulatory and science oversight over the aquaculture sector, that AAFC be given the explicit role of being the federal economic development body for aquaculture, similar to the division between AAFC and CFIA, or NRCAN and the NEB. DFO's proper, legal role is conservation of wild fish, and it cannot properly deliver support for the economic development of the seafood farming sector. Canada's flatline in production for twenty years and now production decline of the sector points clearly to this need. Ongoing criticism of DFO's perceived dual role by critics is undermining overall trust in DFO. This must change.

Aquaculture is the future of sustainable, reliable and secure supply of seafood for Canada. With the right signals and framework, the sector can and will flourish in Canada.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues, and we would be very happy to discuss these or other issues in more detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Timothy Kennedy  
President & CEO

CC:

- Ken McDonald, MP, Chair, House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans
- Hon. Fabian Manning, Chair, Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans
- Clifford Small, MP, Shadow Critic for the Fisheries and Oceans
- CCFAM Strategic Management Committee
- Allie Chalke, Deputy Director Policy, Prime Minister's Office
- Glenn Purves, Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance Canada
- Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association
- PEI Aquaculture Alliance
- Aquaculture Association of Nova Scotia
- Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association



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- Ontario Aquaculture Association
- BC Shellfish Growers Association
- BC Salmon Farmers Association