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Gail Shea announced CAD 637,600 in funds for the BC aquaculture industry. (Photo: Gail Shea)

BC aquaculture sector gets USD 608,000



CANADA

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Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Gail Shea has announced a fund worth CAD 637,678 (USD 607,857) for the innovation and sustainability of British Columbia's (BC) aquaculture industry.

"This investment supports the BC aquaculture industry in developing projects that are more innovative, sustainable and competitive in the international aquaculture playing field," she said.

"I am pleased by the range of projects in this province that are receiving funding under DFO's Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Programme (AIMAP). It demonstrates the scope and potential of the industry, its focus on environmental stewardship, and the economic benefits it offers to coastal communities," Shea continued.

Four finfish and two aquaculture shellfish projects in BC will benefit from federal support through the programme. These projects aim to develop the knowledge and technologies now being implemented by the province's aquaculture industry.

"Our government supports the development of a vibrant and sustainable Canadian aquaculture industry that contributes to the economies of rural, coastal and First Nations communities," stated Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Member of Parliament for Campbell River John Duncan. "Campbell River is just one community in BC that sees the benefits of this industry firsthand."

The Government of Canada offers support to the aquaculture industry through AIMAP by helping the sector grow and adopt management methods and technologies that augment the its economic and environmental functioning. The results of all AIMAP projects, including this one, will be shared with the country's entire aquaculture industry to help expand Canada's role as an international player in the production of sustainable seafood.

Sablefish Canada Inc has received CAD 200,000 (USD 190,647) to increase environmental and energy efficiency in sablefish aquaculture, Target Marine Hatcheries Ltd got CAD 162,000 (USD 154,424) to further Canada's sturgeon freshwater aquaculture sector and Mama'omas Enterprises Inc received nearly CAD 49,800 (USD 47,471) to pilot an aquaculture plant meant to show the technical viability of raising full-sized salmon in a closed containment, land-based, water re-circulating aquaculture facility.

The fourth finfish project belongs to [Microtek International Inc](#), which was awarded over

CAD 36,438 (USD 34,734) to validate and test an injectible sea lice vaccine to prevent infection in farmed salmon.

For oysters, Odyssey Shellfish Ltd received CAD 100,000 (USD 95,323) in funding for a commercial-scale deepwater holding and pre-harvest finishing system and Evening Cove Oysters will use more than CAD 89,440 (USD 85,257) to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of shellfish aquaculture nurseries.

AIMAP's funding supports recipients in the planning, management and completion of aquaculture projects to boost the Canadian aquaculture industry's productivity, economic capability, environmental responsibility and potential. This federal backing also powers investments from various public and private sector sources, encouraging collaboration in the country's aquaculture industry and minimising the duplication of effort.

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