



Aquaculture Canada^{OM} 2012
Have You Registered?
There is still time!

Aquaculture Canada^{OM} 2012, “New Frontiers: Bridging Technology and Economic Growth” in Charlottetown, PEI, will take place May 27th-30th, 2012. This year’s conference promises to build on our tradition of providing Canada’s most comprehensive agenda of aquaculture science and technology presentations, thought-provoking keynote and plenary speakers, sessions with particular appeal to industry managers and producers, and, as always, a social agenda featuring the Annual Joe Brown Student BBQ and Silent Auction, our Gala Banquet, and a traditional PEI lobster cold plate at Peakes Quay Pub.

Please see our website for program details www.aquacultureassociation.ca.

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Executive Director Report



Four months in and still lots to learn! I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to you all and provide an update on plans and activities for the upcoming period.

This update will be a regular feature of the Watermark – a way to keep all members connected, informed and engaged as we develop and implement strategies and make the AAC even more relevant and beneficial to you.

I would also like to encourage you to contact me with any questions or suggestions on how we can better serve you. You can contact me anytime at gail.ryan@bellaliant.net or Catriona or Candace at the home office at AAC@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

During the past few months your association has developed a new three year strategic plan. The focus of the plan is building member value and long term financial sustainability. We will be providing a summary and highlights from the plan at the Annual General Meeting during the

conference, and through additional communications for those who are unable to attend.

We recently completed a membership survey and were pleased with the participation rate. Again, this survey was conducted to see how we are doing and gather your input for future programs and services. This edition of the Watermark contains the survey results.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible in Charlottetown at the end of May. I hope to learn from you and from our excellent slate of speakers at AC12.

Since December, I have learned that the Aquaculture community is a small and cooperative one. Thank you so much to those who have taken me by the hand so far and have been so open and willing to get me up to speed on the issues and environment we all face. This openness and spirit of collaboration is one of our biggest assets and opportunities - working together I feel that together we can lead the industry forward and achieve its maximum potential.

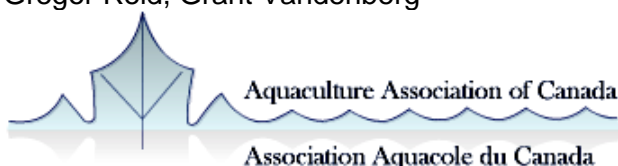
The AAC will soon celebrate its 30th Anniversary. We are now laying the groundwork for the next 30 years. Please support your association and be an active participant in setting that foundation.

Watermark Production and Editing

Gail Ryan

AAC Board of Directors

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2012 Membership Survey Results

The membership survey was conducted over a two month period earlier this year using an online survey tool. The response rate was approximately 21%, or 119 responses.

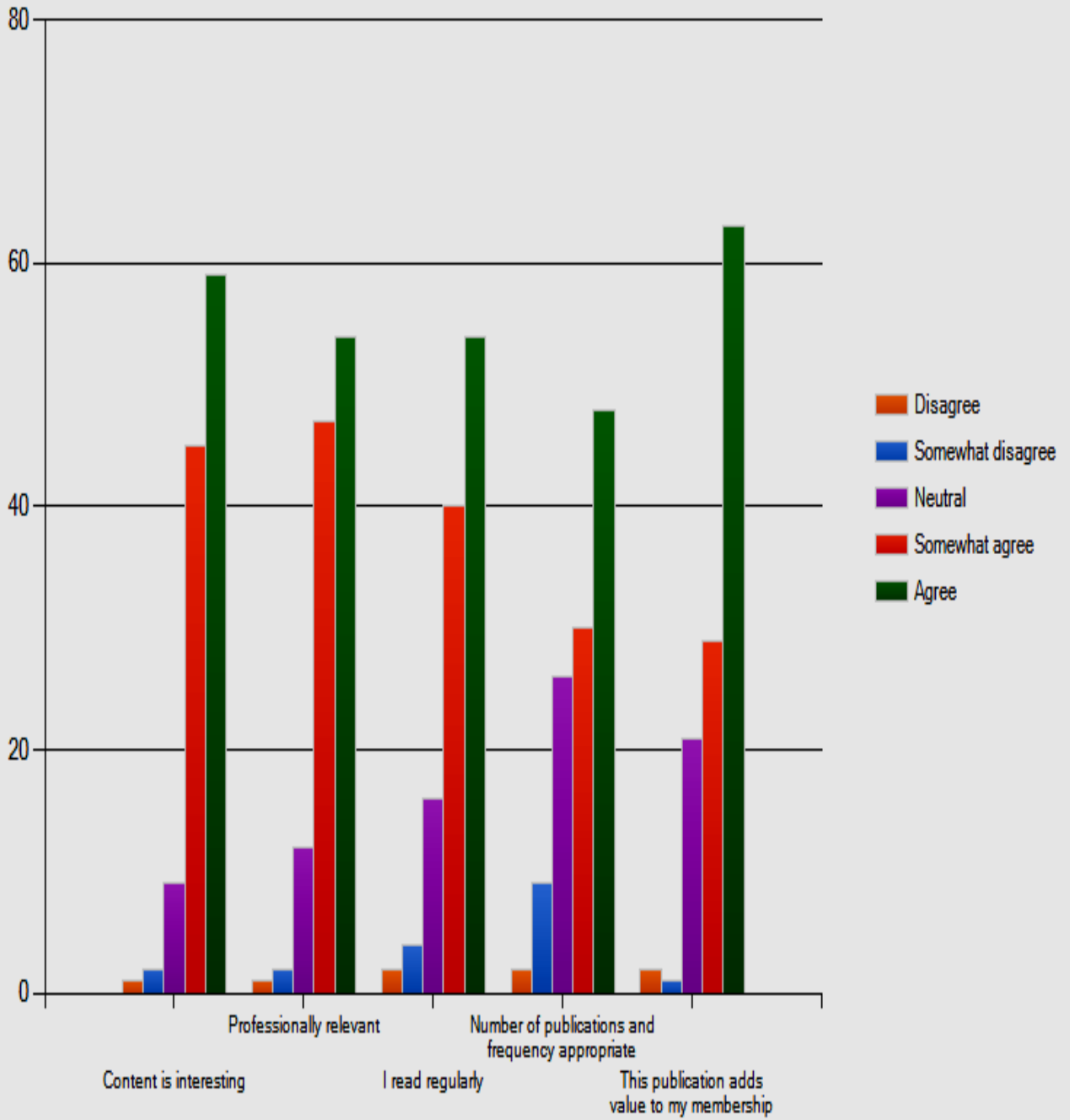
The following is a summary of responses. Please contact the AAC office if you would like a more detailed summary of the survey responses.

- 89% of members are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their AAC membership
- 81.9% of members say the cost of AAC membership is appropriate for the value they derive from it
- 75.6% of members agreed or Somewhat Agreed that the cost of Aquaculture Canada^{OM} is appropriate for the value they derive from it
- 98.3% of members would recommend membership in the AAC to a colleague
- 96.6% of members plan to renew their membership

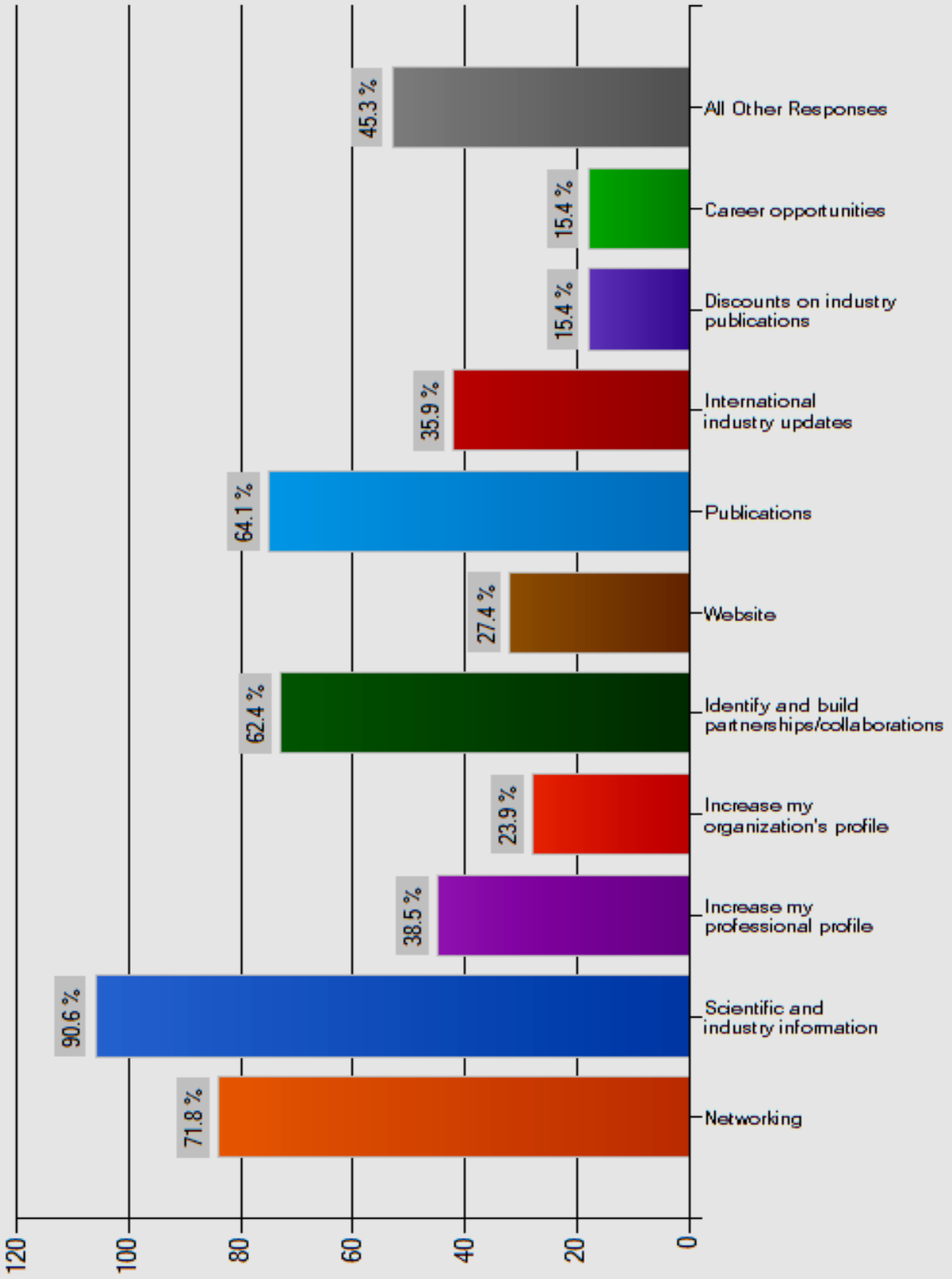
Membership Category Composition:

Individual members	63.2%
Organizational members	23.1%
Student Members	7.7
Retired members	6%

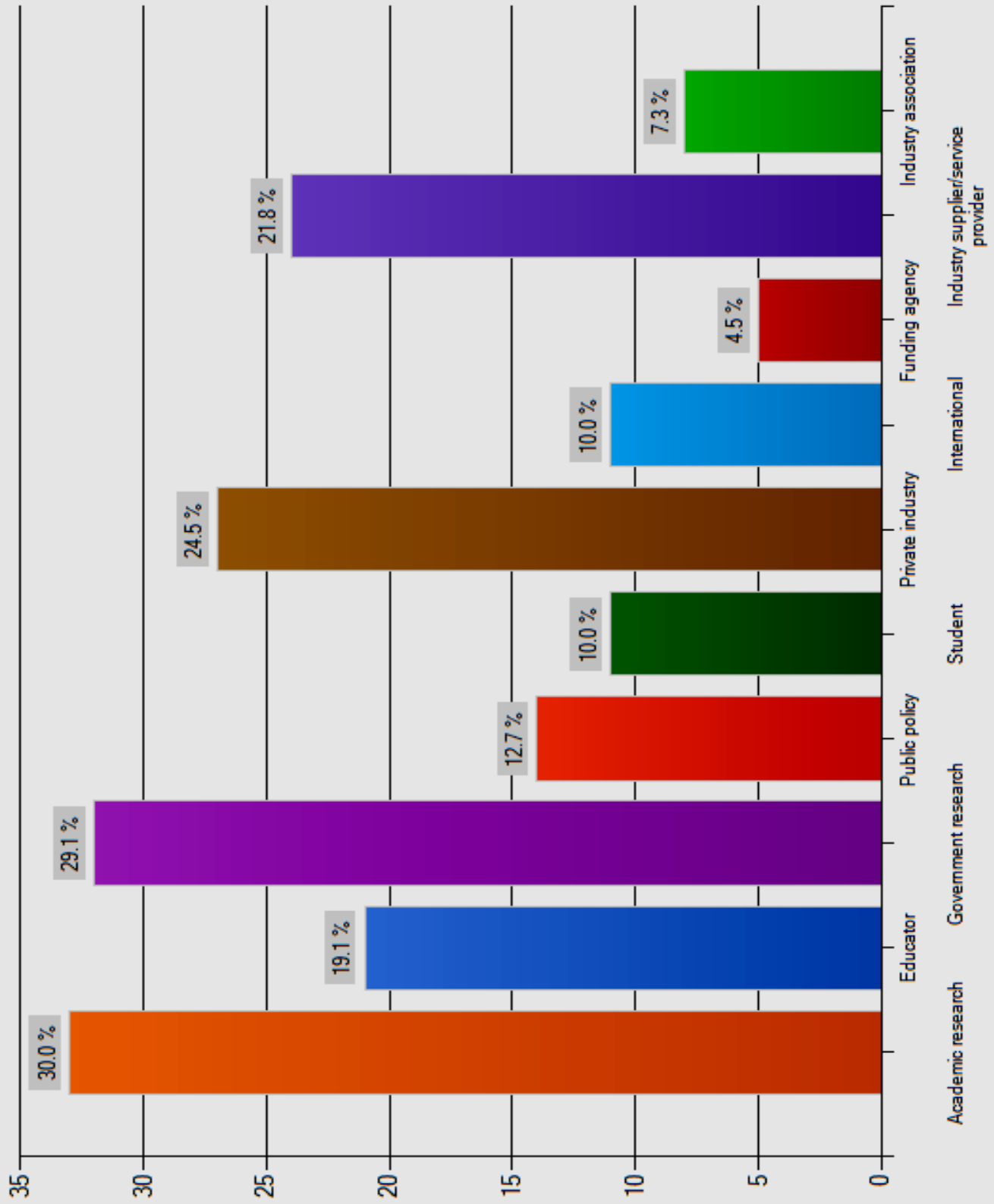
Please indicate to what extent you agree with the statements below about the Association's publication the Bulletin:



Please select which of the following AAC membership benefits that are important to you.
(Click all that apply)



What role do you play in the Aquaculture industry? (Click all that apply)



Note: Respondents could choose more than one role



Salmon Aquaculture Research Database

The Salmon Aquaculture Research Database was developed under contract by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). This Microsoft Excel spreadsheet database provides a list of references, keywords and article summaries for any identified related to salmon aquaculture. CART and the Marine Institute at Memorial University are the main contributors to the database and CAIA is the main producer.

The AAC has just completed revisions to this database and it is housed on the AAC website. The database is currently updated to include all current literature and is searchable by key words and author. Please see the database at www.aquacultureassociation.ca

NBCC Aquaculture Student Earns AquaFair Award



NBCC Aquaculture student Katelyn McLaughlin is the 2012 AquaFair Award recipient.

On February 16, 2012, NBCC Aquaculture student Katelyn McLaughlin was recognized for her academic achievements and commitment to the

aquaculture industry. Katelyn has grown up in the seaside village of Beaver Harbour, NB, and it is this closeness to the ocean that made her realize that she wanted a career where she could work on the water. Katelyn also has an interest in chemistry and enjoys the variety of learning activities that are part of the aquaculture program at NBCC. When asked why she chose the program, Katelyn said “I would enjoy pairing my interests with my newly learned skills to work in an aquaculture career.” In addition to her academic responsibilities, Katelyn was chosen by her instructors to take on the important role of Student Representative on NBCC’s Animal Care Committee.

Call for Photos, Stories and Perspectives on the AAC’s Upcoming 30th Anniversary

We will soon be hitting the Big 3 – 0!

The Aquaculture Association of Canada will be celebrating its 30th birthday in 2014 and we are planning a celebration.

Do you have some special memories of your association? Do you have any photos depicting our history? Want to show how your colleagues have aged?

If you have anything to share please send your images and stories along to be included in our celebration plans. Send to gail.ryan@bellaliant.net



Member Profile

This is part of a series of profiles of our members. If you would like to learn more or avail of a profile opportunity, please call the AAC office at ph: 506-529-4766 fax: 506-529-4609 e-mail: aac@df-mpo.gc.ca



Photo credits: Cyr Couturier

**Cyr Couturier, Research Scientist & Chair
Aquaculture Programs
School of Fisheries
Marine Institute of Memorial University**

AAC: Where did you grow up?

I haven't..... I was born in Montréal, moved to Québec city for grade school, and then Labrador City during my formative years in the early 1970's (and they WERE formative). After high school, moved to the coast in Atlantic Canada and have been here since.

AAC: Why did you choose the field of aquaculture research?

In the 1970s I was enthralled by Jacques Cousteau and the world of marine biology. The whole concept of protecting the oceans was at

the forefront. While doing my degree in marine biology at UNB in the late 1970s there was evidence the world's fisheries were in serious jeopardy, and at the same time I was introduced to the world of aquaculture as a possible means for social, economic and environmental sustainability for communities. This opened the possibility of using my interest in marine biology for aquaculture purposes, and my first job when I finished my undergraduate degree was in shellfish aquaculture research and development in New Brunswick in the spring of 1980. I have been engaged in aquaculture R and D, education and training since then.

AAC: You have a big presence in the industry. You have mentored many of those currently engaged in the industry. Who mentored you?

Not sure there was one person to be honest. I would say a large mixture of scientists, past and present, as well as industry folks have influenced my career in a positive fashion. Names that come to mind include: Dr. Arnie Sutterlin (MUN, retired), Dr. Shawn Robinson (DFO), Dr. Neil Bourne (DFO, retired), Dr. Sandy Shumway (UCon), Dr. Dave Aiken (DFO, retired), Terry Mills (mussel farmer), Dr. Bev Bacon (RDI Strategies), Doug and Jennifer Caines (scallop and salmon farmers), Nell Halse (salmon farmer), Susan Waddy (DFO), Ruth Salmon (CAIA executive director), Dr. Jay Parsons (DFO), Dr. Andrew Boghen (UdeM, retired), Dr. Gary Newkirk (DAL, retired) and almost anyone in the aquaculture industry across the globe.

There are many more names that I cannot think of right now. The bottom line is that every one of these people has inspired me in some fashion to do my best to find solutions for the sector whether by research, development, education or training, and for this I am grateful.

AAC: Aquaculture in Developing Nations seems to be a focus of yours. What have we been able to teach them and what have we learned from them?

Any work I do in developing nations is by invitation. The request is always to help them find solutions to their aquaculture goals, whether it be in training, education, R and D, or

provide a strategic plan and implementation plan for an aquaculture and small business development association in a small region of Vietnam, one of the world's largest producers of farmed seafood where 97% of the farms are mom and pop operations. The associations were created and implemented shortly thereafter and from what I can discern, providing some support for farmers in extension, best practices, advocacy (as far as it can in a socialist country). What I learn from all of these experiences is much, much more than I can provide, namely how 90% of the world's population actually lives outside of the 10% of the world's population in developed and rich North America and Europe. Aquaculture is seen in all of these areas primarily as a source of healthy, sustainable food, of cash crops for improving livelihoods, and for improving the overall wellbeing of people.

AAC: What do you see as the number one myth about aquaculture?

Generally speaking, that aquaculture is unsustainable from a social, economic and environmental perspective. Nothing could be further from the truth in my experience, and in my opinion.

AAC: Why did you become a member of AAC?

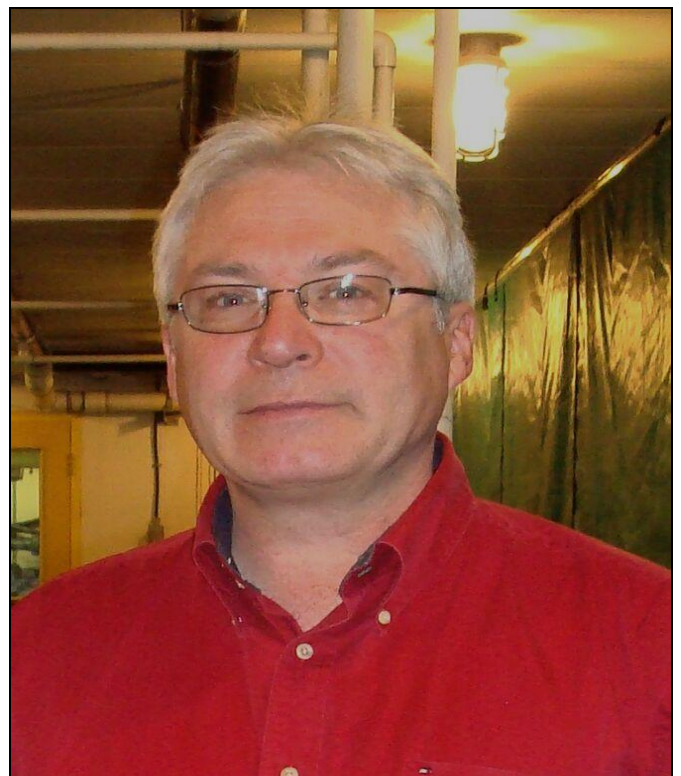
I became a member of AAC in late 1984 or early 1985 right after its inception, while I was a graduate student at Dalhousie University. AAC provided me with the opportunity to network with other students, researchers and educators, and industry via its annual conferences, and its publications. I have attended every annual conference since, and probably the only member that has made every single meeting!

AAC: What benefit of membership do you value most?

The annual conference for me is perhaps the most valued benefit. As well, the opportunity to engage more fully with folks from academia, government and industry all together on aspects related to science of aquaculture and training in aquaculture. This is an area AAC should focus more upon as it is in its core mandate.

AAC: Do you think we can learn much in Canada from successful international jurisdictions? If so, where in particular?

Of course we can learn from these folks. Just look at China, Spain, Norway, Chile, New Zealand, Vietnam, Brazil or India. About 30 years ago Canada was one of the top 5 or 6 seafood producing nations on the planet well ahead of all but perhaps Spain in the foregoing list (from farmed and wild seafood sources)...we now rank around 25th and are losing ground every day, for a variety of reasons. This does not make much sense given we have one of the longest coastlines in the world. What is different? All of these countries have supportive, and mostly modern regulatory frameworks for fish farming, prioritized and sufficient public and private research support for development, education and training, the political will and support for aquaculture, and the general public believes in aquaculture as a means to improve livelihoods of their nation's people. Canada lags behind in almost all of these areas, except the public support. Our fisheries have not increased in volume in decades and our aquaculture production has remained staid for over a decade, while many other countries race past us in the global seafood production scheme of things.



AAC: What advice do you have for students hoping to enter the research/aquaculture field?

For the research side of aquaculture, there are many issues the industry needs to find solutions to enable it to remain competitive and sustainable in Canada, so there is a good demand for dedicated research professionals in industry, government and academia in my view. The question is whether there is sufficient public support for the research questions from funding agencies. For the production side, well the industry has stabilized in most parts of the country, owing to regulatory constraints but if it does or does not grow in the future, there will always be a need for highly skilled and innovative people on the farms across the country...so there are lots of career opportunities there, and in fact, there is a shortage now and the foreseeable future of skilled industry folks...so much so, we are importing them from other countries in some areas of the country to meet the shortfall. On a more global scale, there are opportunities for research, development and farming all across the world in aquaculture, so students, don't despair the only limitation is yourself, and in what you want to do with your life.

AAC: How many Twitter followers do you have? How many are you following?

I have 340 followers on Twitter (@aquacanada) and fewer on @canadianmussels. I follow about 350.

AAC: What is your favourite seafood dish?

A combination seafood platter of fresh seafood (or a bouillabaisse) including lobster, oysters, mussels, scallops, Atlantic salmon and steelhead trout (the latter 4 items being of the farmed variety). Actually, I like seafood of almost every kind, so it is hard to choose one dish to be honest.

AAC: Where will you retire?

Is this a trick question?

If I do, it will be near the ocean, possibly in a warmer climate (though we are warming up just fine these days).

AAC: What was your last "Aha! Moment"?

Don't recall...probably when I figured out why a certain aspect of the industry was going in this or that direction in the market place. I enjoy trying to piece the puzzle together and finding areas when I can provide a possible solution to a perceived problem.

AAC: How long do you go after waking up before checking your mobile/email?

1-5 minutes.

AAC: What would you be doing if not a research scientist?

I would be more engaged in aquaculture education and training than currently, as well as aquaculture development around the world. If not that, I might just be operating my own farm somewhere.

AAC: Where was your last holiday?

New York City, Fredericton, NB and Charlottetown, PEI.

AAC: Dog or cat?

I do not own a pet. We have a cat at home.

AAC: Where do you see yourself professionally in 10 years?

Since I am still very young (but with a few grey hairs, and retirement age has been deferred by 2 years by the federal government) I still see myself teaching undergraduate and graduate students, as well as conducting applied research for the aquaculture industry in 10 years.

Of course, I will still be engaged in aquaculture development in Canada but hopefully also around the planet as I enjoy this aspect of my career as well.

AAC: Do you have a personal motto or favourite saying?

"Lead by example" or "If you are not part of the solution, then you ARE part of the problem"