

REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS/ASSOCIATIONS

- BC Salmon Farmers Association (BCSFA), www.salmonfarmers.org
- Aboriginal Aquaculture Association, www.aboriginalaquaculture.com
- Freshwater Aquaculture Association of BC
- Land Based Aquaculture Association of Western Canada
- Pacific Organic Seafood Association, www.pacificorganicseafood.com

INDUSTRY DESCRIPTION

- Many of BC's finfish aquaculture companies are vertically integrated; operating hatcheries, grow-out facilities and processing plants.
- BC is the largest producer of farmed salmon in Canada. Canada is the 4th largest producer of farmed salmon in the world, after Norway, Chile and the UK.
- 96% of finfish aquaculture production is Atlantic salmon farmed in marine net pens. Chinook, coho and sablefish are also grown in sea water whereas sockeye, trout, sturgeon, Arctic char, tilapia and some coho are grown in freshwater systems.
- Modern ocean-based salmon farms are now designed with a production capacity of 3,000 tonnes (average) per two-year cycle.
- Currently there are 126 marine finfish licences with an estimated 60-70 are in operation at any one time.
- The typical area of a marine finfish farm lease is 41 hectares. In 2016, a total 5,145 hectares of Crown Land was allocated for production on BC finfish farms, or 0.1 % of available coastal waters within one km of shore.

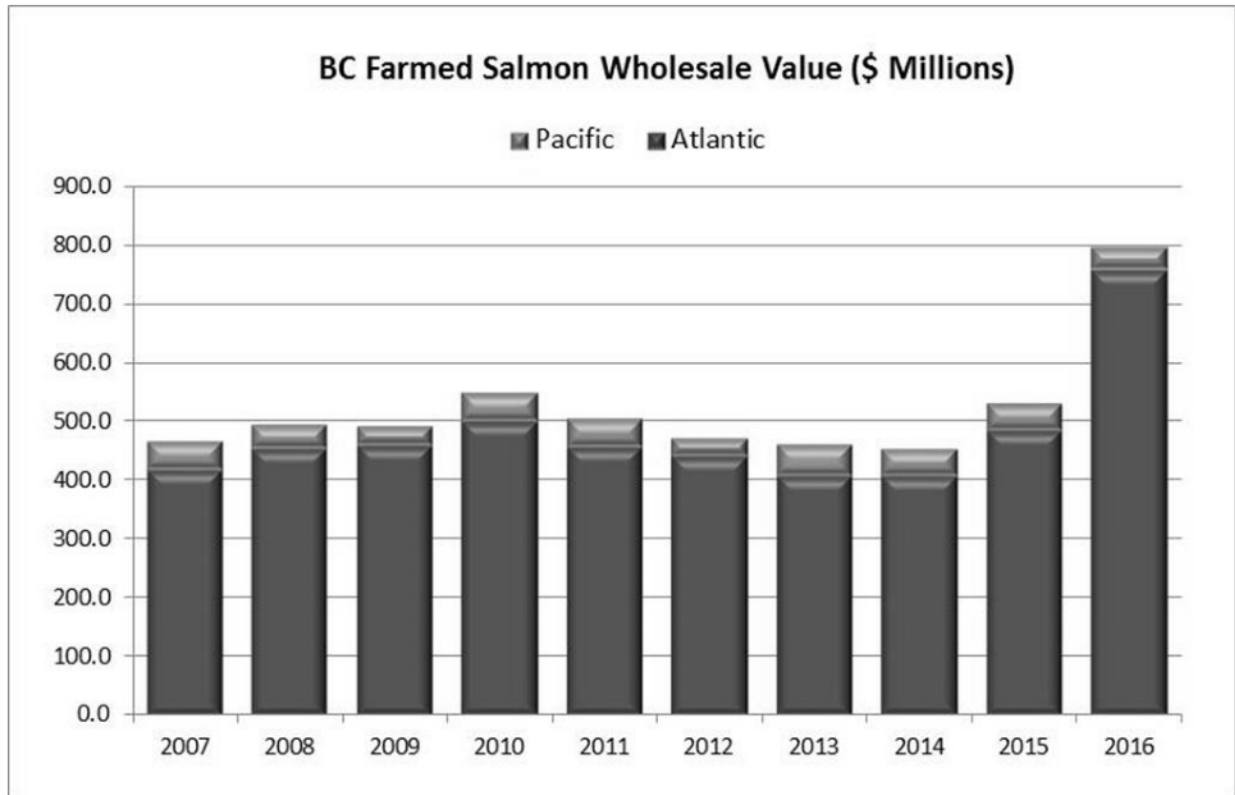
FIRST NATIONS

- Salmon farms are currently located in the traditional territories of at least 28 First Nations (taking into account overlap of territories), with 20 economic and social partnerships in place with BC salmon farmers.
- 78% of BC salmon production comes from areas covered by partnerships with First Nations.
- First Nations communities provide approximately 30% of the workforce on the farms of BC's four largest salmon farming companies.
- Innovations being actively pursued by First Nations include a certification program for Aboriginal Principles for Sustainable Aquaculture and the production of market-size Atlantic salmon in land-based recirculating systems at a commercial scale.

STATISTICS

- In 2016, the wholesale value of farmed salmon was \$796.6 million, amounting to 46% of the total wholesale value of all BC seafood products. Farmed Atlantic salmon is BC's number one seafood species in terms of wholesale value and is the provinces top agricultural export in terms of value.
- Emerging species, including trout, sablefish, Arctic char, sturgeon (including caviar) and tilapia had a wholesale value of approximately \$31 million in 2016.

- Direct employment in all aquaculture sectors is around 1,800 Full Time Equivalents (FTE), mostly in rural coastal communities, with many jobs being held by women and First Nations.



MARKETS

- The top markets were the US, Japan and China. The top BC finfish aquaculture export in 2016 was farmed Atlantic salmon at \$524.2 million.
- BC also exported \$20.0 million in farmed chinook salmon, \$0.5 million in farmed trout and \$0.2 million in farmed coho salmon in 2016.
- Participation in international tradeshow is very important for BC's finfish aquaculture industry, as a large proportion of sales are to foreign markets. BC seafood is served in approximately two billion meals annually in more than 80 countries.

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

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MINISTRY ALLOCATION

Full Time Equivalents

1 FTE Industry Specialist, Aquaculture & Seafood, as well as support from Inter-governmental relations, licencing, and food safety, Processing Specialist, and Regional Agrologist Network.

AREAS FOR FOCUS 2018/19

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