

# PEI Aquaculture Alliance

Executive Director: Matt Sullivan



# What is aquaculture?

- Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, shellfish and even plants.
- The term aquaculture refers to the cultivation of both marine and freshwater species and can range from land-based to open-ocean production.

# PEI Aquaculture Alliance

The Prince Edward Island Aquaculture Alliance (PEIAA) is a non-profit organization, established in January 1998, as an umbrella organization representing:

- the PEI Cultured Mussel Growers Association
- the Island Oyster Growers Group
- the PEI Finfish Association.



# PEI Mussels

Mussel production on PEI is a year round activity and **employs more than 1,500 people annually**. In 2015, Prince Edward Island's aquaculture industry paid approximately **\$11 million in salaries, wages, and employer contributions**.

- PEI mussels are farmed using the longline system in 19 coastal areas.
- PEI's annual mussel exports total approximately \$40 million.



Mussel crew are tying new mussel socks filled with mussel seed onto a long line where they will grow for at least another year.



# PEI Oysters

- In 2015, the PEI oyster industry fished and grew approximately **7.5 million pounds of oysters at a value of \$12.8 million**.
- PEI cultured oysters are sold domestically in Quebec, Ontario, or exported to USA and other international markets.
- There are approximately **7,100 acres leased for oyster production** with more than 580 lease holders, with approx. 1,475 acres in suspended culture and 6,000 bottom culture.



Oyster growers routinely flip their oyster cages out of the water to reduce biofouling.



# PEI Farmed Finfish

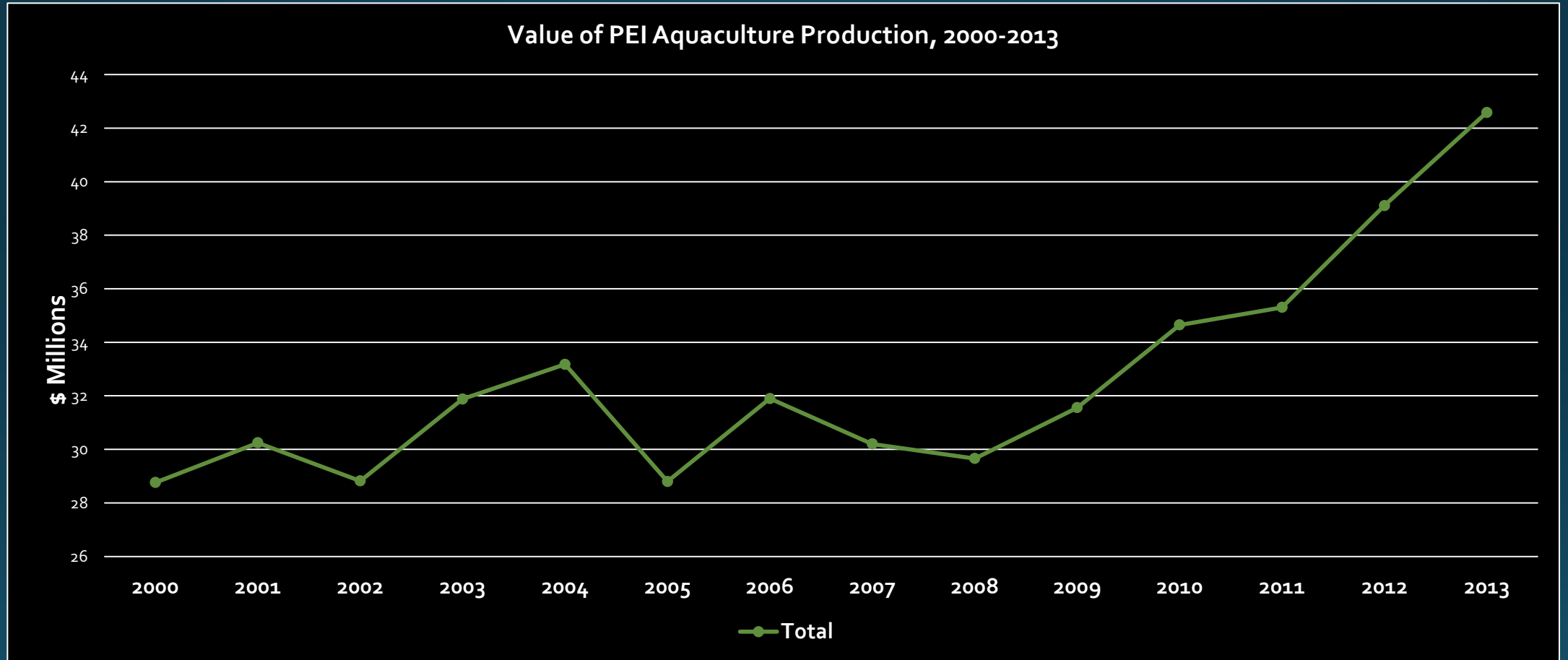
The finfish industry has an economic value of more than 6.4 million dollars to the rural economy and provides year round employment for Islanders.

Today, the finfish aquaculture members on PEI consists of five operations. These operations yield:

- Rainbow Trout
- Atlantic Salmon
- Eggs, Fry and Smolts
- Halibut



# Study Findings



# Policy for PEI Aquaculture Industry

## Aquaculture Lease Management Board

- Department of Fisheries & Oceans
- PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries
- Industry Representatives

## Various Federal regulations



# Environmental Initiatives

- The Shellfish Aquaculture Environmental Codes of Practice (SAECOP) outline the PEI aquaculture practices that are anticipated to help ensure environmental responsibility, economic viability, and maximum product quality.
- Annual Beach Clean-up across PEI
- Various research & development projects regarding water quality and long-term environmental impacts

# Thank You!

Enjoy the rest of the conference!

## Contact Info

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