

NAAFE Forum 2019 Site Selection and “Save the Dates” Announcement



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Proposed dates: May 22-24, 2019

Site: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

In Canada’s province of Nova Scotia, fisheries are a significant part of daily discourse, and the economic, historic, and cultural roles of fisheries resonate widely. The Mi’kmaq indigenous people have been fishing around Halifax for over 10,000 years, and European fishers came to exploit Canada’s Atlantic cod stocks over 500 years ago. But about 25 years ago, the ocean off the coast from Halifax – once viewed as a sea of opportunity – became the world’s poster child for failed fisheries management. In 1992, Canada’s overfished cod stocks collapsed and a moratorium on cod fishing was instated, with devastating consequences for Canadian communities and economies along the coast. Since then, the east coast of Canada has moved from a groundfish-focused fishing economy to one of lobsters, scallops and snow crab, once again producing valuable exports. At the same time, aquaculture has developed, as an alternative food system for fish and seafood.

However, the ocean waters off Nova Scotia are rapidly changing, and in fact marine ecosystems are shifting faster in the Northwest Atlantic than anywhere else on earth. The stability of the invertebrate-dominated ecosystem is unknown, and evidence that Northern cod is recovering has the fishing sector again poised for sector transformation. In addition, increasingly market and regulatory change is occurring more quickly than the fishing sector in Nova Scotia, and throughout North America, can adapt. Fish harvesters need to recognize ecosystem, market, and regulatory change and work towards creating a diversified oceans portfolio that links with historical ties to fishing while embracing technological and informational innovations in the way that fish and seafood are produced, traded, and consumed. It is our contention that the field of fisheries economics offers insights into how industry and governments, as well as civil society, can best face the unknown future of fish, fisheries, and fish markets.

A Halifax NAAFE 2019, jointly hosted by Dalhousie and Saint Mary’s universities, will highlight sessions focused on learning from our economic past, transitions to the future, value chain globalization, innovative market-based instruments, and the economics of the coming aquaculture revolution. This is a perfect time to come to Halifax to explore links with history, and visions for the future. Not only are Halifax and Nova Scotia, embracing development of ocean economies, but also one of the host institutions, Dalhousie, is home to the newly launched Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI), and thus this NAAFE 2019 Forum will be about the frontiers and futures for fisheries economics.

For information about Halifax please visit <http://www.destinationhalifax.com/>

To provide input on NAAFE Forum 2019, including significant conflicts with the selected dates, please email Megan at naafe2019@gmail.com.

For further information, contact:

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