

Cleaner Fish R&D Helping to Spawn an Industry

North America's first commercial cleaner fish hatchery is slated for Marystown, N.L., to meet growing demand from Atlantic Canada's salmon farmers and capitalize on Memorial University's ongoing cleaner fish research.

THE CHALLENGE

Parasites costs Canadian salmon farmers

18 Million

per year

- Cleaner fish, like lumpfish and cunner, consume sea lice and offer a natural way to help control the parasite that costs Canadian salmon farmers \$18 million a year.
- Cleaner fish are susceptible to bacterial infections for which there are no commercial vaccines.
- Broodstock production is inadequate to support industrial-scale breeding.
- Demand outstripped supply after Memorial University began providing small-sized lumpfish to Cooke Aquaculture, Mowi Canada East and Grieg Seafood for research purposes.



“From an institutional standpoint and as a researcher, being able to take a product and move it to commercialization in partnership with Genome Atlantic and Cold Ocean Salmon, is a win-win.”

— **Danny Boyce**, Facilities and Business Manager, JBARB Facility, Memorial University

THE SOLUTION

A **\$840,000 Genome Atlantic** initiative sequenced the genomes of lumpfish and cunner, a critical step for greater broodstock production, advanced selective breeding and efficient vaccine testing.

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Funding is through Genome Canada's Regional Partnership Priority Program. Genome Atlantic's partners: Cold Ocean Salmon, ACOA N.L., the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Memorial University's Ocean Science Centre.

THE N.L. OPPORTUNITY

The emerging cleaner fish industry has substantial job-generating potential. The proposed hatchery could supply 3M lumpfish annually to Atlantic salmon farms. Marystown Marbase Cleanerfish Hatchery is in discussions with N.L.'s Miawpukek First Nation on a possible collaboration on the hatchery project.



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