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PAA Gala Release
For Immediate Release
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Marine Harvest Canada employees awarded top honours at recent Aquaculture Achievement Gala

Campbell River – February 27, 2010 – Aquaculture workers and suppliers were out in full force this past Saturday to celebrate their star performers at the 11th Aquaculture Awards gala dinner at a sold-out venue in Campbell River.



Ryan Gregoire, Leadership Award

Awards were handed out in several categories which include Leadership, Aquaculture Business, Environmental Excellence, Long-Term Recognition and Rookie of the Year.

“Aquaculture, which includes farming of many different fish and shellfish species, is a big part of our coastal communities,” said Campbell River councillor Mary Storry who attended the event. “It’s great to be a part of celebrating those hard working British Columbians who provide not only an economic mainstay, but also a great tasting and healthy product.”

The event is organized each year by Positive Aquaculture Awareness (PAA), a grassroots group of industry suppliers and workers with a simple goal – to promote positive awareness of the aquaculture industry.



Lauren Edgar, Rookie of the Year

“This year’s recipient of the Rookie award was Lauren Edgar, a young lady from the small coastal village of Klemtu who is a second generation fish farmer,” added PAA President Cory Percevault. “Aquaculture may be a relatively new business on our coast, but when you see the next generation follow in the footsteps of our pioneers, you realize it’s now become a part of our culture on the Island.”

As in previous years, the awards night also provides an opportunity to raise money in support of important local not-for-profits that help benefit BC’s wild salmon. A total of \$4000 was raised and donated to the Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences (C.A.H.S.) for important coho survival research in Discovery Passage and to the Campbell River Salmon Foundation to assist in its habitat restoration of local rivers.

Officials attending the gala included Campbell River Councillors Mary Storry and Ryan Mennie.

Congratulations to Marine Harvest Canada employees, Lauren Edgar, Rookie of the Year Award and Ryan Gregoire, Leadership Award.

The 11th annual aquaculture achievement awards were presented to the following individuals and organizations committed to British Columbia's sustainable aquaculture:

- 1. Aquaculture Business of the Year:** Walcan Seafood Ltd.
- 2. Leadership Award:** Ryan Gregoire, Marine Harvest Canada. Awarded to the individual for their efforts and actions demonstrating leadership and initiative that further sustainable aquaculture.
- 3. Environment Award:** Skretting Canada Awarded to the organization or individual who has effectively broadened the practice of sustainable aquaculture.
- 4. Long-term Recognition:** Dave McKirgan, Kyuquot Seafoods Ltd. Awarded to the individual showing commitment to aquaculture over a long period. Special consideration will be given to those who have contributed significantly to the industry's development.
- 5. Outstanding Employee Performance:** Morris Meikle, Creative Salmon Awarded to the individual whose overall performance is outstanding, shows leadership in all areas and is effective at personnel development and problem solving.
- 6. Outstanding Performance by an Area Manager:** Brock Thomson, Mainstream Canada Awarded to the individual that has demonstrated exceptional performance in decision making and problem solving, in showing leadership and professionalism and is open to change.
- 7. Rookie of the Year:** Lauren Edgar, Marine Harvest Canada Awarded to the individual that has been in the industry less than five years and has demonstrated outstanding performance and dedication to the industry.

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