

## AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE SEEKS SOLUTIONS – GATHERING IN SAINT JOHN TODAY WILL BE A MIX OF SCIENCE, ACADEMIA, AQUACULTURE AND GOVERNMENT

August 24, 1998

The Moncton Times and Transcript

Thierry Chopin wants to find solutions to the myriad of problems today's aquaculture industry faces.

And he hopes to hear some suggestions, or at least start heading in the right direction, at a workshop on sustainable aquaculture in Saint John today.

Chopin, a professor of marine biology at the Saint John campus of the University of New Brunswick, organized the event, called Nori and Integrated Aquaculture, which is being held on the campus.

He says its focus is on providing economically and environmentally sound solutions to aquacultural problems - things like increased nutrients in the water caused by too many fish, and not enough plant and mollusk life to balance the equation.

The excess nutrients cause algae to grow, creating problems like sea lettuce and the deadly red tide.

Chopin says adding seaweed into the mix will solve the problem and create a new source of income for aquaculturalists.

“The buzz word is 'bio-remediation',” he says. “Seaweed needs nutrients to grow so you have one organism cleaning the activity of the other. In the end you have two products instead of one.”

Chopin proposes aquaculturalists use a seaweed called Nori, which is the black wrap used in sushi, with their salmon production.

Nori also has economic potential in the dye market and in up and coming sea urchin aquaculture. It should be a good compliment to New Brunswick's \$121 million salmon aquaculture industry.

“It's a lot of common sense, but there are a lot of things that make sense but are hard to sell,” says Chopin.

Yet he's hopeful that timing will influence producers to do the right thing.

“I think it's the right time... the aquaculture industry is finally reacting. People are finally waking up. It's funny because on land we know that monoculture is not the thing to do so why do we think it will work at sea?”

Linda MacDonald, a development officer for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is speaking at the workshop. She says new innovations in aquaculture equal more economic prosperity for Atlantic Canada.