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Media Release

Sanford supports aquaculture growth for Southland.



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Sanford have expressed their support for Southland as the region looks to learn from Scandinavia on boosting aquaculture growth in the region.

The existing Southland aquaculture industry includes one of the country's largest salmon farms, [Sanford's](#) Big Glory Bay farm in Stewart Island where they farm chinook (King) salmon.

Sanford also has hatcheries on the Clutha and Wataki rivers and a processing plant employing 193 staff in Bluff.

“We harvest and process around 3,200 tonnes of Chinook salmon each year,” Sanford CEO Volker Kuntzsch says. “And around 65% of that is sold fresh on the domestic market.”

“Growing the industry will not only create good jobs and boost the local economy but is also a major opportunity for New Zealand to grow export earnings.”

“Earlier this year our Big Glory Bay farm earned [Best Aquaculture Practices \(BAP\) certification](#) so consumers can trust us not only to deliver the best quality seafood but also know we are internationally audited in terms of environment, social and food safety impacts, to meet the growing demand for aquaculture.” Kuntzsch says.

New Zealand’s salmon industry was worth \$62 million in exports in 2015.

Last year salmon exports were worth \$8.4 billion (NZD) to the Norwegian economy; in January 2016 one Norwegian salmon was worth more than one barrel of oil.

Southland District Mayor Gary Tong is part of a contingent travelling to Norway and Iceland to investigate the potential for aquaculture growth in the region.

“Aquaculture has created thousands of jobs and is worth a significant amount economically in Norway,” Mayor Tong says.

“I’ll be looking at how that was achieved, challenges, risks, environmental impact, and what all that means for potential here in Southland.”

Sanford CEO Volker Kuntzsch says they look forward to investing further in Southland.

ENDS

Salmon Facts.

- 1.5 million salmon eggs are gathered and fertilized every year at the Kaitangata Salmon Hatchery.
- 900,000 become premium smolt, at 30 grams they are transferred to Big Glory Bay in Stewart Island.
- At any one time there are about 1.5 million fish on the farm
- Sanford process 3,200 tonnes of salmon each year.
- Sanford was awarded Best Aquaculture Practices Certification for its production of King Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Green Lipped Mussels (*Perna canalicula*) which are reared and grown in Big Glory Bay, Stewart Island in March 2016.

IMAGES

Hi-res image for publication with this story are available below

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Images

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