



MAINE AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Maine Farmed Atlantic Salmon for the President

Salmon on the Menu in Washington

Hallowell, Maine: The Maine Aquaculture Association is proud to announce that Maine's ocean farm raised Atlantic Salmon was chosen to be on the menu for today's Inauguration events in Washington.

"We know that Maine's aquaculture industry is having a major impact on the prosperity of our coastal communities and working waterfronts and that the Maine brand is well respected by customers all over the United States," says Sebastian Belle, the association's Executive Director. "To have farmed salmon that were raised in the State of Maine served to President Trump, Governor LePage and to those celebrating today's Inauguration, is a real honor and affirmation of our healthy, high quality, sustainably produced farmed seafood."

Fresh Maine salmon were individually hand selected for the President from the cool, clear waters of Cooke Aquaculture USA's 'Deep Cove' marine farm site, one of the State's oldest salmon farms near Eastport, Maine. These fish were raised from small eggs to "smolts" at one of Maine's freshwater hatcheries before transfer to the Deep Cove marine site. They were harvested and packaged for shipment at the True North Salmon Processing facility in Machiasport. In Washington, the salmon were smoked by the Executive Chef of the Blair House and will be served this evening to guests, including President Trump.

"Many of the men and women who raised these fish are long-term employees with a lifetime of experience on the water and proud contributors to the local economy," said Glenn Cooke, CEO of Cooke Aquaculture USA. "They took great pride in selecting beautiful fish for the trip to Washington. Our company has a keen interest in promoting the Maine Brand, in the future of the State's economy, the health of its communities and its people and the health of the US seafood sector."

Cooke employs approximately 250 people in Downeast Maine in its fully integrated salmon farming operations. As the largest employer and taxpayer in the City of Eastport and a major employer in Machiasport, the company is a key contributor to the State's economy.

“Maine seafood is the best in the world and it’s a great honor to know that the Maine brand, which reflects our pristine environment and world-class quality, will be represented during the inauguration,” said Maine Department of Marine Resources Commissioner Patrick Keliher.

The United States is the third largest market for seafood in the world but ranks fifteenth in terms of aquaculture production importing 91% of its seafood. Maine is within a 24-hour truck ride from over 150 million customers and has over 190 farms that raise finfish, shellfish and marine plants with a total economic impact of \$137 million.

“Americans want more farmed Atlantic salmon and the Maine industry can deliver as we continue to improve and innovate to meet the increasing demand for our products,” said Belle. “Maine aquaculture is ready to grow and play a major role in reversing our country’s seafood trade deficit.”

About Maine Aquaculture Association: Maineaquaculture.com

Founded in 1976 the Maine Aquaculture Association (MAA) is the oldest state aquaculture association in the country. Its members grow finfish, shellfish and sea vegetables in both fresh and saltwater using a variety of innovative farming methods. The MAA and its member growers are widely recognized as pioneers in the development of innovative and sustainable farming methods designed to enhance their stewardship of Maine's pristine aquatic environments. Through a 14 point set of environmental guiding principles, cooperative area management agreements, continuous member improvement training and third party audited best management practices MAA and its members are leading the way in the development of new and environmentally sustainable ways to provide America with healthy, fresh seafood.

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