

# CELEBRATING WOMEN IN CANADIAN FISHERIES LEADERSHIP

The Fisheries Council of Canada is honoured to have some of the best leaders in the Canadian fisheries industry on our Board of Directors, and we're pleased to see a rise in female representation among them. Our 2021-2022 Board of Directors includes five women, led by a female Chair. **For International Women's Day 2022, we have profiles from three of our female leaders.**



## Lise Després - FCC CHAIR

Comeau's Sea Foods Limited

I am a third-generation member in an Acadian family-owned seafood company located in South West Nova Scotia. I grew up in a small French village of Saulnierville, and worked in various departments in our company and now I am Manager of Seafood Resources and Government Affairs for Comeau's Sea Foods Limited. I am the first female executive within our company, and have been pleased to see that more women are joining the tables of a largely male dominated industry. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Fisheries Council of Canada, the Herring Science Council, SPANS and other associations that help promote economic growth within Nova Scotia.

I have been a member of the FCC's BOD since 2017, and this year I am Chair of FCC. I hold a BBA from Acadia University, and have worked in almost every aspect of my family's seafood business over the years. After university I traveled and developed a strong background in food production and development, as a seasoned chef and pastry chef.

I believe that women, as natural caregivers, offer a level of empathy and resourcefulness that can be lacking in the Canadian fisheries industry. We tend to be extremely resilient and allow for a more balanced workplace environment. Our industry is constantly evolving, and we have also faced extreme pressures from this pandemic. I feel it is important to remain focused on growing a diverse workforce, and we can help achieve this by encouraging more women to become leaders in the fisheries industry.



## **Catherine Boyd**

Clearwater Seafoods Limited Partnership

Catherine Boyd joined Clearwater Seafoods in 2007 to support the company's goals on sustainability, regulatory compliance, international trade, and communications. As Director, Sustainability and Public Affairs, Catherine has engaged with stakeholders in the seafood sector nationally and internationally within government, industry, academia, and NGOs, always with the intention to bring greater value to the industry. Catherine maintains excellent relationships within industry, academia, and government built on a commitment to trust and adhering consistently to principles, which allows her to lead multi-stakeholder groups.

Catherine has served on many governing boards, including, the Lobster Council of Canada, the Atlantic Groundfish Council, and the Canadian Association of Prawn Producers and has specific strengths in consensus building and gaining alignment among diverse interests. Catherine has been a member of the Board of the Fisheries Council of Canada since 2013 and greatly values the collaboration across diverse fisheries issues from coast to coast to coast.

Catherine holds a Bachelor degree from Memorial University and a Masters in Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University. It is important for the fishing industry to have female leaders that reflect the opportunities in Canada's modern seafood sector. Success in the seafood sector requires a diversity of approaches and perspectives, something that can't be achieved without representation from a variety of different backgrounds.



## **Christine Penney**

Clearwater Seafoods Limited Partnership

I am Vice President Sustainability and Public Affairs for Clearwater Seafoods. In this role I am responsible for Clearwater's commitment to sustainable operations and my team leads science and sustainability initiatives, eco-certification, and regulatory affairs for the company. We work collaboratively with government and industry on initiatives of mutual importance. I have been a member of the FCC Board for almost 20 years. I was proud to serve as the first female chair of the FCC Board in 2016.

I'm a Nova Scotian and completed both a Biology degree and a Master of Marine Management degree at Dalhousie University. I worked for Clearwater while attending university and was fortunate to have them create a position that allowed me to work on sustainability issues. This has since grown and evolved into our Department of Sustainability and Public Affairs and I now have the pleasure of leading a talented team of professionals working in fisheries sustainability globally.

Diversity of thought, background, and experience is critical for any leadership team. Diversity of thought and opinions drives stronger understanding and leads to better decision making. While in my early career it was unusual to have a female sitting around industry leadership tables, today those tables are much more diverse. I have been pleased to see more and more females rise to positions of leadership within the Canadian industry over the years. The thought leadership of these talented women will ensure to a sustainable and successful seafood industry in Canada into the future.