

Acadian Seaplants choose Cornwallis as site of its newest production plant

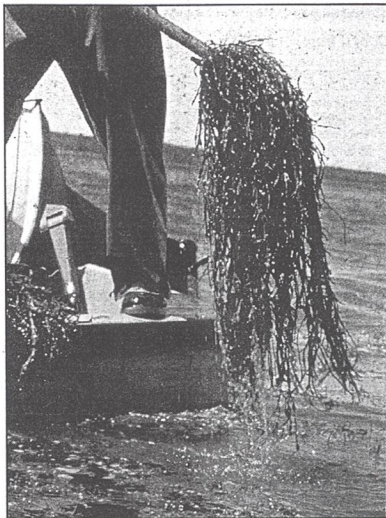
By Jennifer Hatt
Contributing Writer

We've played with it on the beaches, growled at it as it snagged our nets and occasionally snacked on it. Louis Deveau has turned it into a lucrative export product and solid employer for Nova Scotia.

Seaweed is a common occurrence on Nova Scotia's salt-swept shores, but elsewhere in North America and overseas, it's a valuable commodity used in the production of everything from fertilizer and foods to health and beauty products. Acadian Seaplants harvests and processes marine plants, such as rockweed and Irish moss, and exports more than 90 per cent of its production to 55 countries including the United States, Mexico and customers in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Since opening its doors in 1981, Acadian Seaplants Limited has grown to become one of the largest producers of marine plant products in North America. It employs hundreds in locations throughout the Maritimes, and operates five processing plants in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Acadian's newest processing plant is in Cornwallis Park, where it employs 40 in the processing of rockweed and fucus into dry and liquid seaweed fertilizers. Marine plants are harvested from government-licensed zones in southwestern Nova Scotia, then processed and packaged at Cornwallis Park for use as plant biostimulants and fertilizer supplements by customers around the world. The facility became reality with the support of Kespuwick Developments and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

"We're very proud of our operation at Cornwallis Park," says Deveau, president and founder of Acadian Seaplants. "And we are especially proud of the competent and dedicated employees who work at the plant and harvest the



Acadian Seaplants is harvesting export success from one of the region's largest resources—the Atlantic.

seaweed. With their help, we have been able sustainably harvest the seaweed resource, a value to it through new processing and application technologies and sell products in many different countries around the world."

Each of Acadian Seaplant's facilities is located close to coastal harvesting areas, which provide operations with more than six varieties of marine plants. Raw product is collected and delivered by about 1,000 Maritime independent fishers and harvesters. The company also has strong research, development and marketing teams to identify opportunities, create products and attract customers.

The new plant increases the company's manufacturing capacity, and will support the development of new technologies and expansion of product lines, Deveau continues. "We anticipate many years of success and expect this facility to be the cornerstone of our operations."