

Aquaculture Technician

Raise fish and shellfish on a farm in the water. Feeding, health checks, nets and boats.

TYPICAL PAY

\$67,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$49k to \$150k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Salmon and shellfish farms, hatcheries, feed barges, boats

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Biology and shop are the useful ones. Boat and swimming experience helps a lot.
- 2 Marine safety tickets** Weeks
Basic safety training and a small vessel operator course. Some employers pay for these after they hire you.
- 3 Certificate or diploma (optional)** 1 to 2 years
One or two years in aquaculture or marine technology at a college such as North Island College or the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University.
- 4 First site job** Year 1
Feeding, net checks, mortality removal, sampling and cleaning. You learn fish health by looking at fish every day.
- 5 Specialize or lead** 3 to 8 years
Move into fish health, hatchery work, diving, technical systems or site management.

Pros and cons

- + Hired and trained with no post-secondary credential
- + Year-round work with real benefits
- + Long blocks of time off on rotation
- Remote coastal sites, far from cities and family
- Cold, wet and physically hard most days
- The industry is politically contested, especially in British Columbia, so job security depends on policy

Good to know

Farmed salmon is a top Canadian seafood export

Atlantic salmon raised in net pens off British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland is one of the country's largest seafood exports by value, and almost all of it is grown by technicians on remo...

Cameras watch every meal

Feeding is controlled from a barge using underwater cameras. When pellets start falling past the fish uneaten, the operator stops the feeder. Wasted feed is the single biggest controllable cost on a farm.

Optional boosts

Small vessel operator proficiency. Commercial diver certification. Fish health technician training. Marine diesel and electrical.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Aquaculture Manager in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada: aquaculture
Fisheries and Marine Institute, Memorial University
North Island College

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/aquaculture-technician>



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