



**University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point**
STEVENS POINT • MARSHFIELD • WAUSAU



For Immediate Release

August 26, 2026

Contacts:

Fish Pledge: John Schmidt, jschmidt@gsgp.org

UW-Stevens Point NADF: Tyler Firkus, tyfirkus@uwsp.edu

**Wisconsin Freshwater Research Institution Joins
Initiative to Fully Use Each Fish**

*UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility
signs the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge*

(Bayfield, Wisconsin) – The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility signed the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge, becoming the third research institution to join the initiative. Their participation brings the growing binational movement to 48 companies and organizations committed to ensuring that every part of each fish is fully used and not wasted.

The UWSP Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility conducts applied aquaculture research and outreach in Bayfield. Fish and fillets from completed research projects are donated when possible, while eligible carcasses are composted for fertilizer. Through the Pledge, the facility will continue pursuing full utilization wherever permitted.

The institution's participation follows the recent expansion of the Pledge to include laboratories and research facilities in the Great Lakes States, Ontario, and Québec that work with fish and fish materials. These organizations commit to productively using all fish and fish parts handled through their work wherever permitted, rather than sending them to landfill.

As part of the Pledge, UWSP will work alongside other participating companies and organizations to promote the full use of fish. This includes raising awareness of opportunities

for innovative applications of fish co-products, such as compost, fertilizer, protein, marine collagen, leather, and other new, high-value products.

The Pledge is part of the 100% Great Lakes Fish initiative created by the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers (GSGP), an organization representing the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Premiers of Ontario and Québec.

“The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility brings exceptional expertise in freshwater science, aquaculture, and fish nutrition to the Pledge,” **said David Naftzger, Executive Director of GSGP.** “Research institutions are essential to developing the technologies, products, and partnerships needed to fully use every fish. We are pleased to welcome UWSP and look forward to learning from their work.”

The Great Lakes region is home to growing aquaculture operations and sizeable commercial fisheries, but only about 40% of each fish (the fillets) are usually eaten or productively used. In contrast, the remaining 60% of the fish is often relegated to inexpensive uses or discarded. The 100% Great Lakes Fish initiative seeks new and innovative ways to fully use each fish to reduce waste, create more value and jobs, and support rural economic development. Iceland pioneered this approach and has seen the value of products made from each cod skyrocket from \$12 for just the filet to a remarkable \$5,000 for products including cosmetics, medical bandages, nutritional supplements, and a range of other products.

“At the UWSP Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility, we already work to make productive use of fish from our research by donating fish and fillets and composting eligible carcasses for fertilizer,” **said Tyler Firkus, UWSP NADF Assistant Director.** “The Pledge gives us an opportunity to formalize that commitment, share what we are learning, and work with others to advance full utilization across aquaculture and research.”

More information on 100% Great Lakes Fish, including a copy of the Pledge, is available at <https://gsgp.org/projects/100-great-lakes-fish/>.

The 48 companies and organizations participating in the 100% Great Lakes Fish Pledge include:

A&A Marine Foods – Tilbury, Ontario	Halvorson Fisheries – Cornucopia, Wisconsin
Acme Smoked Fish – Brooklyn, New York	Henriksen Fisheries – Ellison Bay, Wisconsin
All Temp Foods – Leamington, Ontario	Hudson Valley Fisheries – Hudson, New York
Aquaborne – Sacramento, California	Huron Tackle – Traverse City, Michigan
Aqua Garden LLC – Amery, Wisconsin	J&M Fisheries – Ellison Bay, Wisconsin
Archway – Chicago, Illinois	John O’s Foods – Wheatley, Ontario
Big Fish Farms – Bethel, Ohio	Lindal Fisheries – Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
Big O’ Smokehouse – Caledonia, Michigan	Merinov – Gaspé, Québec
Big Stone Bay Fishery – Mackinaw City, Michigan	Motor City Seafood – Highland Park, Michigan
Bodin Fisheries – Bayfield, Wisconsin	OceanArc Technologies – Pataskala, Ohio
Baileys Harbor Fish Co. – Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin	Prestevue Foods – Wheatley, Ontario
Cambrian Co-Products – Minneapolis, Minnesota	Purvis Fisheries – Silver Water, Ontario
Carlson’s Fishery – Leland, Michigan	Red Cliff Fish Co. – Bayfield, Wisconsin
Cole-Munro Foods – St. Thomas, Ontario	Rushing Waters Fisheries – Palmyra, Wisconsin
Dan’s Fish, Inc. – Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin	Skytop Springs Fish Farm – Sydney, New York
Dramm Corporation – Manitowoc, Wisconsin	Springhills Fish – Hanover, Ontario
Euclid Fish Company – Mentor, Ohio	Steelhead Food Co. – St. Thomas, Ontario
Farm to Pet – Chicago, Illinois	Superior Fresh – Northland, Wisconsin
First Catch LLC – Baraga, Michigan	Taylor Fish Co. – Wheatley, Ontario
Fiskur Leather – Mora, Minnesota	Treaty Fish Co. – Suttons Bay, Michigan
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp. – Winnipeg, Manitoba	UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Fortune Fish & Gourmet – Bensenville, Illinois	UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility – Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Great Lakes Food Co. – Chatham, Ontario	VanLandschoot & Sons Fish Market – Munising, Michigan
Great Lakes Tinned Fish – Grand Rapids, Michigan	Walnut Creek Marina – Fairview, Pennsylvania

About the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers

www.gsgp.org

The Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers unites the chief executives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Québec, and Wisconsin. The Governors and Premiers work as equal partners to grow the region’s \$8 trillion (US) economy and protect the world’s largest surface freshwater system.

###