Funded Masters of Environmental Studies Research Opportunity:

Understanding the climate impacts of the Alaska pollock fishing sector and its products

Are you interested in sustainable food systems?
Do you think about how seafood systems contribute to climate-friendly diets?
Are you thinking about grad school?

Many seafood systems are increasingly recognized as climate-friendly sources of highly nutritious food – two attributes essential if we are to address the climate crisis while feeding all of humanity well.

Though it's not a fish or fishery that most people think about often, the United States-based fisheries for Alaska pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) together represent the largest single-species fishery in North America and one of the largest fisheries in the world by volume of fish landed annually. As a result, it provides a couple billion meals a year to markets around the world. In addition to being a well-managed fishery, early evidence also indicates that fisheries for Alaska pollock are also amongst the most climate-friendly sources of animal protein in human diets on the planet.

With the support of the Genuine Alaska Pollock Producers (https://www.alaskapollock.org/), Professor Peter Tyedmers of the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University is looking to recruit a keen thesis-based Masters student for the Fall of 2024 (or possibly January 2025 if the position remains unfilled). The student's thesis research will use life cycle assessment (LCA) together with data sourced directly from Alaska pollock fishing and processing companies to model the climate and other impacts that arise from the production of a range of Alaska pollock products. Results will help inform the sector on ways to focus effort to reduce emissions, and markets that are increasingly sensitive to the climate impacts of food choices.

The ideal student will have a strong academic background in a relevant program (marine biology, biology, fisheries science, environmental studies, oceanography, etc.). Prior employment or educational exposure to commercial fisheries, and comfort working with numerical data, unit conversions etc. are both beneficial attributes. An enthusiasm to see your work published is important as there is very strong support for this from our industry partners.

The stipend support for this project is $35,000 per annum for two years. Strong candidates will be expected to and supported in the pursuit of additional scholarship support in year two. The selected student will enroll in the Master of Environmental Studies program (http://www.dal.ca/faculty/management/sres/programs.html).

If interested, please e-mail Peter Tyedmers (Peter.Tyedmers@dal.ca) with a note describing your interest and background including a summary or copy of your undergraduate transcript and CV. Please indicate "Alaska pollock LCA!" at the start of the subject line of your note. I will continue to review potential applicants until a strong candidate is recruited.