

**SHOWCASE**

# North American startups honored at Aquaculture Awards

**T**wo tech companies with roots in Canada and the United States triumphed at the 2019 Aquaculture Awards, the first edition that accepted nominees outside the UK.

The Technical Innovation award went to Canada's XpertSea for its platform that eliminates the need for farmers to manually count aquatic organisms such as shrimp larvae and live feed. The company's XperCount technology uses artificial intelligence and computer vision to count and size early-stage organisms. This enables farmers to make informed data-driven decisions and maximize profitability. The invention has been widely adopted by the shrimp sector in Southeast Asia and the Americas since its launch in November.

Manolin, a US-based tech firm whose health analytics software enables salmon farmers measure the effectiveness of their sea lice treatments, was the other North American winner. It was awarded the Most Promising New Entrant. Although it has its beginnings in the US, the company is currently focused on the Norwegian salmon



Mikael Lefebvre, XpertSea Chief Revenue Officer and Valerie Robitaille, XpertSea co-founder and CEO, with their Technical Innovation trophy *Credit: 5m Publishing*

industry (see company's expansion plans on the next page).

Aquaculture Awards 2019 was organized by 5m Publishing and held in Edinburgh, Scotland in May. The next edition will take place at Aquaculture UK trade show in Aviemore on 19-21 May 2020.

## Two-in-one solution for water circulation and aeration



**A** new breed of pumps has been engineered to eliminate the need for separate water circulation and aeration systems in aquaculture operations.

The FloMov family of pumps from Ontario-based FloNergia Inc provides water circulation and aeration in a single device by using a single air source to perform both functions simultaneously.

The patent-pending solution, developed at the Gryph Energy Lab at the University of Guelph in Ontario, is aimed at aquaculture, aquaponic and hydroponic applications.

"They offer a well-engineered, patent pending, dual-injector airlift pump solution that uses 50- to 70-percent less

FloMov pumps provide water circulation and aeration in a single device

energy than conventional centrifugal pumps," says the company.

It says the pumps improve water aeration, are efficient in handling solid water mixtures and are easy to maintain.

"FloMov pumps are best integrated with regenerative blowers to maximize energy savings. Regenerative blowers provide the required air-flow rates at the required pressure range with higher efficiency than alternatives such as compressed air," it added.

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