

NFI Future Leaders Class of 2026



Mitchell Bode

Senior Fresh Fish Buyer

JJ McDonnell



Mitch joined JJ McDonnell in 2023 as a Senior Fresh Fish Buyer working to develop partnerships with regional commercial boats, foreign vendors and grow the local invasive species programs. As a 2nd generation fresh fish buyer, Mitch began his career at a young age working in his father's Baltimore seafood operation, gaining hands-on experience across all facets of production, processing, and purchasing. Post college, Mitch made multiple stops along the East Coast, gaining seafood experience in diverse markets.

Mitch earned his bachelor's degree from Towson University. He and his wife, Autumn, enjoy adventures with their Red Labrador Retriever, Tuna. Mitch is an avid recreational offshore fisherman.

“ I can't relate to lazy people. We don't speak the same language. I don't understand you. I don't want to understand you.”

– Kobe Bryant



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Dolors Bosch

**Area Manager, US & Canada
Frime SAU**



Dolors Bosch has been part of FRIME since 2022, where she leads growth across international markets. With over 15 years of experience in the food sector, she has developed a strong track record in export management and market development. Dolors has always believed that meaningful work must be fueled by passion; and she is proud to dedicate her career to an industry she truly loves.

Dolors obtained her bachelor's degree of International Trade in Spain. She currently lives in Girona (Spain) with her husband and their two young sons of age 2 and 5. In her leisure time, she enjoys spending time in the nature, especially being outdoors with her family on bike rides.

Energy and persistence conquer all things

— Benjamin Franklin



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Roberta (Robby) Brondolo

New Business Development Manager – Retail Heron Point Seafood



Roberta (Robby) has been with Heron Point Seafood since 2025. Prior to joining HPS, she spent many years in the craft beer industry, where she served as a National Accounts Manager working with major grocery retailers.

Robby was born and raised in East Africa, following the flow of the Nile from Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean Sea. She earned her high school diploma in the shadow of the Great Pyramids of Giza before moving to Italy to pursue her bachelor's degree at the University of Turin. She later relocated to the United States, where she earned her MBA from Southern New Hampshire University and met her husband, Silvio. They are parents to a wildly free-spirited six-year-old daughter. Outside of work, Robby enjoys photography, managing her small homestead, lifting weights, SCUBA diving, traveling overseas, and spending time outdoors — often on horseback.

"When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."

– Paulo Coelho



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Sonia Buchereau

**Director of Sales
Seremoni**



Sonia Buchereau is a Director of Sales at Shinkei/Seremoni, where she's helping reimagine the seafood supply chain to deliver more delicious and sustainable options for consumers. With more than 13 years in the industry, including building premium salmon brands nationwide such as Ora King Salmon, she's passionate about sustainable sourcing and bringing Michelin-quality fish to more tables.

A NYC native now based in South Carolina with her husband of 13 years, Sonia is a proud dance mom her daughter, a devoted soccer and violin supporter to her son, an avid reader, a hot yoga enthusiast and a happy beachgoer.

"Character is how you treat those who can do nothing for you".

– Nelson Mandela



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Marcus Castillo

QA Manager

King & Prince Seafood



Marcus Castillo has worked in the seafood industry for 2 years as a Quality Assurance Manager for King & Prince Seafood. Before joining King & Prince, he worked in the food industry for 9+ years in a variety of different roles in leadership, operations, product and process development and food safety.

Marcus earned his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Montana State University. He takes great joy in working with others and contributing to the success of any endeavor that is accomplished through teamwork. In his free time, Marcus enjoys spending time in the outdoors with his wife and dog.

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”

– Frederick Douglas



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Traci Chidester

Sr. Director of Strategic Partnerships Pacific Seafood



Traci Chidester is a senior leader at Pacific Seafood, where she has been a member of the organization for more than 13 years. In her current role, she leads National Sales for Foodservice and Retail, Marketing and Creative Services, Innovation, and key Strategic Initiatives. She works closely with talented teams across the organization to align commercial strategy, brand stewardship, and future-focused growth efforts, with a strong emphasis on collaboration, learning and shared success.

While previously serving as General Manager of the headquarter distribution branch, Traci had the opportunity to work alongside a high-performing team whose collective efforts earned Pacific Seafood's highest performance awards. Her career in the food industry spans more than 25 years and includes experience with US Foods, Smithfield, and S.E. Rykoff, giving her deep expertise across sales, operations, and customer-focused solutions.

Traci is committed to personal and professional growth. She earned her MBA in 2021, achieving a long-standing personal goal. She has a passion for coaching and mentoring many next generation future leaders within Pacific.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, she has been actively involved in her community as a foster mom and through mentoring teens at her church. In October 2026, Traci will celebrate her 25-year silver wedding anniversary. She is passionate about spending time with her 11 nieces and nephews and enjoys traveling anywhere there is sunshine.

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader."

— Dolly Parton



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Maria Fernanda Cortes

**Administrative & Finance Director
Crustacea Seafood Company, Inc.**



Maria Fernanda moved from Colombia in 2021 because she married her husband after 6 years of a relationship. She got her bachelor's degree in Business Management in 2012 and obtained her master in finance in 2025. Worked for 9 years in an international financial company. But the last two years, she has been working in Crustacea Seafood Company. She handles the finance and administrative department and she is pretty sure she have a lot to learn about the seafood and crab business.

She's very exiting about the Future Leaders class because the more learn about the industry you're involved in, the better decisions your will make for your company.



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Alex Cuccurullo

R&D Food Scientist

Gorton's Seafood



Alex Cuccurullo has worked at Gorton's Seafood for the past eight years in roles spanning Quality Assurance and Research & Development. His primary focus has been seafood origin, preservation, and product innovation. He holds certifications in Seafood HACCP and FDA-aligned Sensory Seafood Training, and he has completed the National Fisheries Institute's Shrimp and Salmon School.

Alex obtained his Food Science Bachelors' degree at the University of Delaware and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree from the University of Maine. Alex enjoys skiing every opportunity he can.

"You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore."

— William Faulkner



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Evan Dombrowski

**Director of Domestic Sales
Truefoods Premium Products**



Evan Dombrowski has been with Truefoods Premium Products since 2023, bringing expertise in inventory management, sales strategy, and customer relations. A Gloucester native with family roots in the fishing community, Evan has played a key role in optimizing technology use, implementing strategic inventory planning, and driving sales growth across the business. He is known for his hands-on leadership style, guiding teams through process improvements that enhance efficiency, strengthen communication, and support the company's broader growth strategy. Prior to that, he held key roles in purchasing with a focus on off-price retail, inventory control, and strategic distribution.

Evan attended Brown University, where he studied Political Science and competed in track and field. Outside of work, he enjoys traveling, concerts, and spending time with family and friends.

"Whatever satisfies the soul is truth".

– Walt Whitman



Future Leaders Class of 2026

James Flynn

**Senior Manager, Commercial Finance
Americold**



James (Jake) Flynn has been with Americold for the past 3 years, while previously working in leadership roles within the Accounting and Finance workspace in preceding roles.

Jake has obtained his bachelor's degree from Valdosta State University with a major in Accounting. Jake is currently on track to obtain his MBA from Kennesaw State University with an expected graduation date of August 2026. Jake has been married to his wife, Dana, for 8 years and together they have 3 young daughters aged 5, 3, and 1. In his leisure time, Jake enjoys spending time with his family and enjoys hobbies such as golf, grilling, and watching sports.

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”

— Winston Churchill



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Jamie Forsythe

Vice President of Sales East Region Fortune Fish & Gourmet



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Jamie leads revenue growth for Fortune Fish & Gourmet's East Region, overseeing markets from Maine to Louisiana and guiding sales strategy, talent development, and product expansion across multiple distribution centers.

Jamie began his career as a chef, working in award-winning restaurants in the Mid-Atlantic before managing a local farm operation supplying boutique produce to restaurants.

In 2013, Jamie transitioned to sales with D'Artagnan, eventually rising to Regional Sales Director. Following Fortune's acquisition of D'Artagnan, Jamie was promoted to Vice President. A lifelong waterman, he is passionate about responsible sourcing and the seafood industry's future.

"Study hard what interests you the most in the most undisciplined, irreverent and original manner possible."

– Richard Feynman

Paul L. Grech

CEO & Co-founder
OctaPulse



Paul L. Grech is the cofounder and CEO of OctaPulse, a Y Combinator backed aquaculture technology company building robotics and AI powered computer vision systems to automate two of the most labor intensive hatchery workflows: broodstock phenotyping and deformity inspection. He leads product strategy, customer pilots, partnerships, and commercialization to help farms improve quality control, selective breeding decisions, and production efficiency through faster, more consistent data. Paul is also a Future Leader with the Coalition for Sustainable Aquaculture and an ACME SICA Award recipient.

Paul is a Carnegie Mellon University MBA graduate. Outside of work, he loves to travel with his wife, cook, cliff jump, wakeboard, free dive, and play/watch soccer.

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

— Norman Vincent Peale



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Trevor Gustafson

National Sales Executive Liberty Seafood



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Trevor brings 27 years of experience in the seafood industry, having begun his career washing dishes in a retail store and progressing through roles in purchasing, operations, sales, and management. Trevor has a strong interest in problem-solving, creative thinking, and enjoys finding innovative approaches to challenges while building effective solutions.

Outside of work, Trevor is actively involved in youth sports as the Vice President of his local Little League and a member of the Board of Directors for the Malvern Kings Baseball organization. In his free time, he enjoys watching his two sons play sports, saltwater fishing, spending time outdoors, and continuing to play baseball himself.

“Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.”

— George Herman Ruth

Kyle Harrison

**Governance and Training Specialist
Global Seafood Alliance**



Kyle Harrison has been working with the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) for the past few years organizing and facilitating all GSA auditor training events. Aside from maintaining a learning management system, he conducts audits on certification bodies that offer certification services against the GSA's seafood standards.

Kyle graduated from Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont, in 2022 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and Policy. Previously he worked in a leadership position for the New Hampshire state parks system. Outside of work, Kyle spends his time rock climbing, fishing, and working on his motorcycles.

"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react".

– Charles R. Swindoll



Future Leaders Class of 2026

David Hopkins

Scallop Buyer/Sales

Fortune Fish & Gourmet

Boston Sword & Tuna



Future Leaders Class of 2026

David Hopkins has been with Boston Sword & Tuna since 2004. David has worked a variety of jobs with BST most recently he spent time as the logistics coordinator before moving to the lead scallop buyer and sales.

David obtained his bachelor's degree from The University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 2003. He and his wife, Jessica have two children together. In their spare time they enjoy outdoor activities such as camping and hiking in the summer and skiing and snowboarding in the winter.

"Whether you think you can, or you think you can't – you're right".

– Henry Ford

Mariah Kerwin

**Director, Seafood Category Business Unit
Rich Products Corporation**



Mariah Kerwin joined Rich Products in 2013 and since then has held marketing, category management and innovation roles across several food categories. In 2025 she transitioned to lead the Seafood category. Prior to joining Rich's, she worked in the confectionary and industrial shock absorber industries.

Mariah holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and International Business from The Ohio State University and an MBA from the University at Buffalo. She and her husband, Steve, are proud parents of two teenagers. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, attending sporting events and staying active.

“The question is not whether or not you have influence, but what you will do with the influence you have.”

– Joe Girardi



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Leah Krafft

Marketing Manager

Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute



With eight years at the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute, Leah has built a career rooted in a deep passion for Alaska's wild, sustainable seafood. Drawing on a background in food and wine, she specializes in creating meaningful partnerships with chefs and foodservice professionals by helping them discover the exceptional quality, versatility, and nutritional benefits of wild Alaska seafood.

Leah graduated from Portland State University and is an avid cook and traveler. She loves hiking and fishing with her partner and dog in the beautiful wilderness of Alaska.

“Even if you fall on your face you’re still moving forward”

– Victor Kaim



Future Leaders Class of 2026

John Lee

**Director, Strategic Sourcing
American Seafoods Company**



John Lee has been with American Seafoods since 2008. He's held various roles in Procurement and has been managing the Strategic Sourcing department since 2014.

John and his wife both Seattle natives have a 3 year old son and a 9 month old Frenchie. In his leisure time you can find him balancing time between family activities and golf.

"Happiness is to be found along the way, not at the end of the road, for then the journey is over and it is too late."

– Robert Updegraff



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Falon MacIntosh

**Director, Logistics and Order Management
High Liner Foods**



Falon has been a member of High Liner for four years, bringing over 20 years of experience in supply chain management within the seafood industry. During this time, Falon has held multiple roles in supply chain functions across various companies.

Falon has obtained her bachelor's degree from Mount Saint Vincent University and advanced diploma in International Business at NSCC. Falon lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia with her son Charlie. On weekends, she enthusiastically supports him at gyms and football fields around town—he's her greatest pride. In addition to being a devoted mother, Falon owns rental properties along Nova Scotia's South Shore where she grew up in Lockeport, a small fishing community.

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

— Eleanor Roosevelt



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Kat McDonald

**Sales Manager, Seafood Expo &
Seafood Processing North America
Diversified**



Kat McDonald is part of the team behind Seafood Expo North America/Seafood Processing North America, where she helps deliver in-person B2B events that support business growth and advance the seafood industry. She joined Diversified in 2016 and now serves as Sales Manager for the Seafood events, bringing a strong focus on connecting buyers and sellers in meaningful ways. Newer to the industry, she is actively learning the full seafood supply chain to better serve the businesses and people within it.

Kat is a born, raised, educated, and employed Mainer who takes pride in her deep roots and, now more than ever through her role, Maine's strong ties to the seafood industry. Recently married, she is enjoying the newlywed chapter of life filled with house projects and travel. Kat looks forward to learning more about the seafood industry beyond simply enjoying it on her plate.

“Live deliberately.”

— Henry David Thoreau



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Simon Marks

**Seafood and Fisheries Research Analyst
McKinley Research Group**



Simon Marks joined McKinley Research Group in 2021 as a research analyst specializing in the Alaska seafood industry. Prior to joining the McKinley team, Simon worked as a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska for nine years.

Simon earned his bachelor's degree from Gonzaga University in Business Administration and a minor in Environmental Studies. He was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska, and in his free time enjoys jet boating and exploring the coastlines and wilderness of Alaska. He is also an avid fisherman, skier, hunter, and traveler.

"By endurance we conquer".

– Ernest Shackleton



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Jaime Fernandez Martialay

Sales Manager
Hofseth North America



Jaime joined the Hofseth North America team one year ago and has quickly become deeply engaged in his new career path. His positive attitude, strong work ethic, and continuous learner mindset—combined with his background in Sales and Marketing—have enabled him to adapt rapidly and add value in his role.

Jaime earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. In 2024, he and his wife welcomed their first child, a son. Outside of work, Jaime enjoys staying active through his favorite sports, including fútbol, golf, and padel. Originally from Spain, he values spending time with family and frequently travels back to Madrid. He also recently completed an AI course through Google Essentials, further strengthening his interest in innovation and technology.

“Money won is twice as sweet as money earned.”

– Fast Eddie Felson



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Anthony Mastitski

**Fisheries Outreach Manager,
US East & Caribbean
Marine Stewardship Council**



Anthony is a seafood harvester, lover, and aficionado. He joined the Marine Stewardship Council in 2023; prior to that, he worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service for four years.

Anthony earned his master's degree in Marine Science through a joint EU program, during which he studied in Spain, Portugal, and Italy. He also holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami, where he majored in Marine Affairs and International Relations.

Anthony is a third-generation spearfisherman. He is often found on the beach fishing or metal detecting, or underwater spearing big fish. When he's not there, he's exploring the wonders of this beautiful world.

"The unexamined life is not worth living"

— Socrates



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Candice Nagel

**Vice President of Marketing
BSF (formerly Beaver Street Fisheries)**



Candice Nagel joined BSF in April 2024, bringing more than 15 years of marketing experience. Her background includes a broad range of marketing and communications expertise, with a strong focus on driving brand growth and customer engagement. Candice has built her career in the foodservice industry, where she combines her passion for food and nutrition with strategic, results-driven marketing initiatives.

Candice earned her bachelor's degree in Dietetics from Michigan State University and her MBA from Eastern Michigan University. She is the proud mother of a 10-year-old daughter and a dog mom to Katy. Outside of work, Candice enjoys spending time outdoors at the beach, hiking, cooking, and traveling whenever she can.



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Angelo Nicolosi Jr.

Senior Financial Analyst
Ice Cube Cold Storage & Logistics



Angelo Nicolosi Jr. has been with Ice Cube Cold Storage since 2018, originally working part time while completing his education. After several years supporting operations, in May 2024 he joined the company as a Sales & Financial Analyst. In his current role, Angelo focuses on financial reporting, operational analysis, and supporting management in guiding Ice Cube's continued growth across New England.

In 2023, he spent a summer at Raw Seafoods under the guidance of the CFO, where he gained additional exposure to the seafood industry and the dynamics of fresh and frozen supply chains.

Angelo was born in Massachusetts and earned his bachelor's degree in Finance and Accounting from the University of New Hampshire before completing a master's degree in Applied Economics at Boston College.

Outside of work, Angelo enjoys golf, reading, running, and ice hockey. He's passionate about New England sports teams, finance, and continuous learning.

"With self-discipline most anything is possible."

— Theodore Roosevelt



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Emily Olive

Regional Sales Manager, Riverence Provisions



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Emily took an unconventional route into the seafood industry, beginning with 11 years of service in the U.S. military. That experience shaped her leadership style grounded in resilience, teamwork, and the ability to adapt in fast moving environments. A graduate of Boise State University with a bachelor's degree in Marketing, Emily spent two years as the Marketing Manager at Riverence before moving into sales. Her background across both marketing and sales gives her a thoughtful perspective and a genuine passion for connecting people through responsible food systems.

Based in Boise, Emily lives with her partner and 8-year-old daughter. She's energized by staying active skiing, practicing Pilates, and exploring new places through travel. At home, you'll often find her baking or hosting dinner parties bringing friends and family together.

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you"

– Walt Whitman

Maranda Phares

**Food Safety & Quality Assurance Director
Bayhill Seafood Sales**



Maranda Phares has over 20 years of food industry experience working in multi-sectors of food safety, quality, and regulatory compliance. Maranda began working in the seafood industry, for Bayhill Seafood Sales, in 2024.

Maranda obtained her bachelor's degree in Biology from NWOSU. She and her husband, Buster, have been married for 25 years and have two sons. Maranda enjoys volunteering in her community, currently serving on the executive board for the local food bank and public-school foundation.

“Food Safety is everyone’s responsibility and should never be proprietary information.”



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Niloy Phukan

**Vice President of Sales
Aquamar**



Niloy's career started at General Mills, learning the building blocks of CPG and calling on customers in the Northeast. He continued his career at WhiteWave Foods, focusing on the growing natural products category. He was promoted into sales and marketing leadership roles at Suncore Products, Celestial Seasonings, Ripple Foods, and Epicurean Butter. He is currently the Vice President of sales at Aquamar, his first role in the seafood category.

Niloy obtained his bachelor's degree from University of Pennsylvania after growing up in Anchorage, Alaska. His love for seafood started at an early age fishing on the Kenai River. He is married with two kids, Mira (10) and Kairus (6). In his spare time, Niloy enjoys skiing, golfing, hiking, and attending concerts and sporting events.

"Instead of fighting the darkness, you bring in the light."

– Eckhart Tolle



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Harley Purre

Sales Associate
Newport International



Harley Purre joined Newport International in March 2024, starting her career in the seafood industry with a company that specializes exclusively in pasteurized crab meat. In her role, she supports sales growth across foodservice and is currently focused on developing relationships with national accounts and identifying new opportunities within the crab category.

Before joining Newport, Harley spent five years in Dallas with AT&T as a Business-to-Business Development Representative. During her time there, she earned President's Club honors twice and built a strong foundation in sales, customer engagement, and account strategy.

Harley is originally from Boca Raton, Florida, and graduated from the University of Alabama with a major in Communication and a minor in Computer Technology. After several years in Texas, she returned to South Florida, where she continues to grow her career in the food industry.

Outside of work, Harley enjoys traveling, trying new restaurants, and spending time at the beach with her Wheaten Terrier.

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."

— Robert Collier



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Dan Rafuse

**Director, Sales Planning & Strategy
High Liner Foods**



Dan Rafuse is the Director of Foodservice Sales Planning & Strategy at High Liner Foods, where he plays a key role in supporting Channel strategy, forecasting alignment, and cross-functional planning for all channels in North America Foodservice. Dan has worked in a variety of commercial Sales, Marketing and Category roles at SYSCO, Compass Foodbuy and TELUS Ag & Consumer Goods. Based out of the Toronto, On, Dan brings strong commercial insight, operational understanding, and a collaborative approach to driving business execution and customer responsiveness.

Dan holds a BBA in Marketing, and a Master of Business Administration from Dalhousie University in Organizational Leadership. Originally hailing from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, Dan now resides in Toronto with his wife Naomi.

Outside of work, Dan enjoys exploring new restaurants, playing hockey in the winter, visiting the east coast in the summer, golfing and spending as much time outdoors as possible. Dan values time with family and friends and appreciates opportunities to stay active and engaged in his community.



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Kelly Rabinowitz

**Director of Brand Marketing, Retail Brands
Rich Products Corporation**



Kelly Rabinowitz is a seasoned marketing leader with over 15 years of experience driving growth and brand strategy in the frozen seafood category. As Director of Marketing for leading consumer brands, including SeaPak and Morey's, Kelly has built a reputation for delivering innovative campaigns, elevating brand equity, and shaping consumer engagement strategies in a highly competitive retail environment.

When not building brands, Kelly is an avid hiker, a certified yoga instructor and the proud mom of a precocious 8-year-old daughter, and two sons of the 4-legged variety.

"Fortune Favors the Brave."

– Unknown



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Luis Rendon

**Regional Business Development Manager
Lineage Logistics**



Luis Rendon has been part of Lineage Logistics since 2022. For the past 4 years he has been supporting the South and Central Florida Regions in sales. Current role is Regional Business Development Manager.

Luis obtained his bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He and his wife are proud parents of a two year old boy. In his free time, Luis enjoys spending time with his family, watching sports, and working out at the gym.

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is your only choice"

– Bob Marley



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Sarah Shoffler

Seafood Advisor

NOAA Fisheries, Office of Policy



Sarah Shoffler has worked for NOAA Fisheries for over 20 years. Her background spans international and domestic fisheries science and management. And her passion for the people in seafood spring boarded her to her current position as Seafood Advisor.

Sarah has a B.S. from Albright College and a Master's from Duke University. A native of Pennsylvania, she moved to California over 20 years ago after 5 years in North Carolina. Sarah enjoys any ocean activity, kayaking especially, hiking, sci-fi books and movies, pottery, and travels for food. She and her husband live in a quaint early 20th century house with their two dogs: Taco and Gertie.

“Eating is an environmental Act.”

– Alice Waters



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Renata Signs

**Quality Assurance Manager
Mark Foods LLC**



Renata Signs has been part of the Quality Assurance team at Mark Foods since 2024. Before joining Mark Foods, she has worked over 15 years in the food manufacturing industry with ready-to-eat products and as a research scientist with the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).

Renata received her bachelor's degree in Food Science from University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) and her master's degree from Drexel University. She and her husband, John, who have been together for 20 years, have their hands full with two sons, Leo (8) and Sam (6). In her free time, Renata squeezes in as much family and friends time as possible (preferably somewhere warm), tackles puzzles for fun, loves exploring new escape rooms and volunteers at the local fire department.

"People may hear your words, but they feel your attitude".

– John C. Maxwell



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Rachel Snow

**Sales Support Coordinator
Slade Gorton & Co.**



Rachel Snow has 14 years at Slade Gorton & Co. on the Sales Support Team. Before Slade Gorton she started her Seafood journey at Sonoma Seafood for 4 years.

When Rachel is not spending time with her husband James and their son Andrew aged 24, she enjoys gardening and nature walks during the summer. Since they live right outside of Chicago it gets cold, and winters are spent on the Lousy Bowers League at their local bowling alley.

“The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.”

— Socrates



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Reymi Soderstrom

Sales

Southstream Seafoods Inc.



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Reymi Soderstrom worked with Coyote Logistics handling Reyes Coca-Colas' Logistics operations and gaining value supply-chain experience before transitioning to Sales at Southstream in 2023.

Reymi obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island in Supply Chain Management. Throughout university he gained valuable hands-on experience across aquaculture and high-volume seafood service working as an oyster, clam, and scallop shucker at the Matunuck Oyster Bar. He now lives in Chicago and enjoys cycling, snowboarding, and hosting dinner parties with friends.

“The fisherman knows that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but he has never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.”

— Vincent van Gogh

Nathan Strout

**Managing Editor of SeafoodSource
Diversified**



Nathan Strout started with Diversified in 2023 and has served in a handful of roles with SeafoodSource's editorial team reporting on the seafood and commercial fishing industries. Prior to that, Nathan worked as a local reporter in Maine and as a trade reporter covering the U.S. military industry and the commercial satellite sector.

Nathan lives in Biddeford, Maine, with his partner, where they enjoy camping, hitting the beach, and walking on very flat trails. Nathan is also a huge supporter of the local soccer team, the Portland Hearts of Pine, and would love to talk your ear off about it. Be warned.

"If you want my view of history, there's something you should know. The three men I admire most are Curly, Larry, Moe".

– Meat Loaf



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Bert Vandereydt

CEO

Nammu



Bert Vandereydt is the CEO of Nammu, where he's building an AI platform for seafood distributors, wholesalers, and processors to run procurement and sales in one place.

Before founding Nammu, Bert earned his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at MIT. In a prior life, he worked as both an aerospace and nuclear engineer, and he still loves getting into the weeds on complex, real-world problems. He entered the seafood industry in 2024 and is focused on learning the supply chain from the ground up. Originally from Belgium, Bert loves to travel and has lived across four continents.

"the blind man's unawareness of his own blindness was a consolation to only himself".

– Herman Hesse



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Vinny Lotito

**Procurement Manager
Eastern Fish Company**



Vinny Lotito has been a dedicated leader at Eastern Fish Company for 23 years, where he serves as the Seafood Purchasing Manager, with a deep specialization in the global seafood market. His expertise lies in sourcing shrimp, particularly from diverse regions across Asia. Over his tenure, he has mastered the complex nuances of the supply chain establishing himself as a knowledgeable authority on industry trends and procurement strategies.

Has been a lifelong resident of New Jersey and earned his degree from St. Peter's College in Jersey City. He and his lovely wife are the proud parents of an 8 year old son and a 7 year old daughter. When he isn't managing imports, he enjoys spending time outdoors, watching and going to tennis matches and recently has developed a passion for playing pickleball with friends. Whether it's going to the Jersey Shore in the summer or talking about 80s rock music, feel free to ask anything.



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Amy Wentworth

**Sr. Director of EHS & Fisheries Policy
Pacific Seafood**



Amy Wentworth has led the programs and policies in environmental, safety, and sustainability at Pacific Seafood for seven years and recently expanded her role into fisheries policy. She has nearly 20 years of combined experience in environmental compliance and risk management in manufacturing and business. She drives regulatory strategy, technical innovation, and operational efficiency while championing a culture of safety, environmental stewardship, and continuous improvement.

Amy grew up in a small, fishing town on the Oregon Coast and her love for nature and the outdoors led her to pursue a degree in geology. She enjoys traveling, camping, exploring, and rockhounding with her husband and son in her free time.

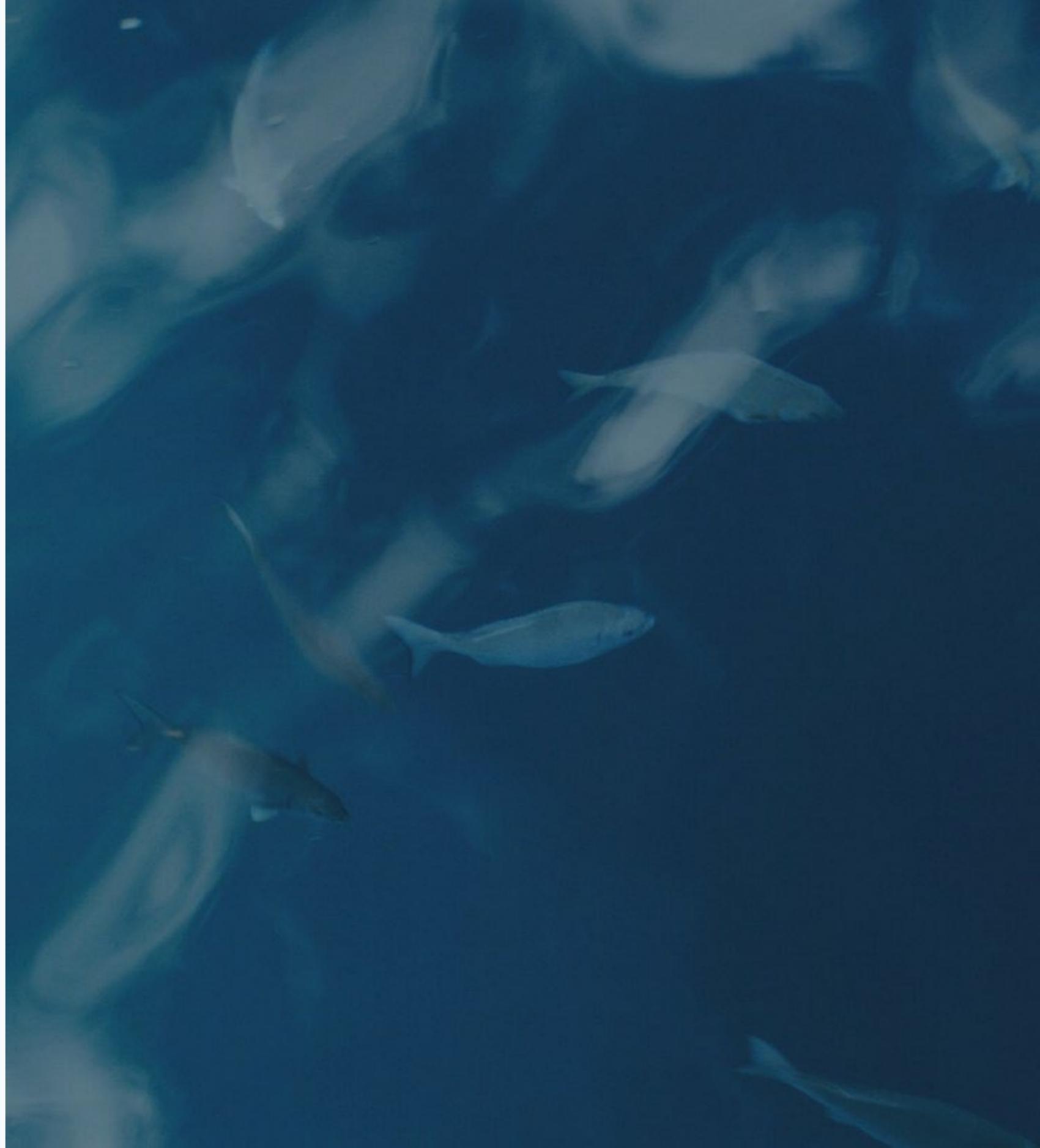
"A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."

– G.K. Chesterton



Future Leaders Class of 2026

NFI Staff Liaisons



Gerrie Thomas

**Vice President, Membership and Training
National Fisheries Institute**



Gerrie Thomas has been a part of NFI since 2004, recently marking her 21st anniversary with the organization. Before joining NFI, she was employed by the American Chemistry Council and is a proud veteran of the United States Army.

Gerrie obtained her bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University. She and her husband, Richard, who have been married for 27 years, take great pride in their roles as parents to two sons, aged 26 and 21. In her leisure time, Gerrie enjoys remaining active and valuing moments spent with her family. Additionally, she serves as a clock operator for high school football.

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence".

– Vince Lombardi



Future Leaders Class of 2026

Jon Woody
Chief Science Officer
National Fisheries Institute



Jon Woody leads scientific and regulatory affairs supporting NFI members. He has more than 28 years of food safety experience, including 24 years in senior leadership roles at FDA.

Jon has a master's degree in Food Science from Penn State University. He and his wife, Chelsea, have been married for 26 years and have three children, a son and twin daughters, all currently in college. Outside of work, he enjoys good food with friends, staying active, and cheering on the Philadelphia Eagles.

“Trust is built in drops and lost in buckets.”

– Kevin Plank



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