

Seafood Pies with a Social Purpose

By Jeff Johnson

Cobscook Bay Company, LLC (CBC), is a new seafood-processing company in Trescott, Maine. The unique company makes four types of individual-serving, all-natural, frozen seafood pies (lobster, crab, scallop, shrimp) under its “Maine Fresh” brand. Production began in November 2010. All four frozen seafood pies were created by Sam Hayward, award-winning chef and owner of Portland’s celebrated Fore Street restaurant. All seafood is sustainably harvested and locally sourced from Maine waters. What’s more, CBC’s mission is to support economic development in Washington County, the poorest county in Maine, and to support community-based education with a 25 percent donation from net profits to the Cobscook Community Learning Center. The Cobscook Community Learning Center is an educational initiative creating social change through transformative educational opportunities at the local and global levels.

Currently, Maine Fresh seafood pies can be found in the frozen seafood case in all Hannaford and Whole Foods, NA supermarkets, and also in a few independent grocers via regional/niche distributors.

The company is dedicated to restoring healthy communities through production of delicious, healthy, regionally sourced, value-added food. Maine Fresh seafood pies are made with high-quality, sustainably harvested Maine seafood, fresh herbs, locally grown vegetables (when available), and topped with an all-butter, whole-wheat flaky crust. Within minutes, or at the touch of a button, consumers can enjoy a savory Maine Fresh seafood pie without leaving home.

After several years of developing the right recipes and operational planning, Maine Fresh now employs 10 people, each of whom would not have had a job if it weren’t for this venture. According to owner of Cobscook Bay Company, John Phinney, and CEO Jeff Johnson, “We are very excited about Maine Fresh’s success so far. It’s wonderful to be engaged in the practice of value-added seafood processing which results in the creation of good jobs, stable prices for seafood, and a stronger economy for Downeast Maine. We appreciate Hannaford’s commitment to high-quality, locally made products, and for embracing our unique social mission to create jobs in Washington County while supporting the Cobscook Community Learning Center. We are very pleased with the positive feedback and initial sales through Hannaford stores.”

Hannaford spokesperson Matt Paul agrees, “We are proud to work with Maine Fresh and applaud their efforts. This partnership gives our customers another opportunity to buy delicious, local and wholesome products at a great value while giving back to Maine communities. We strive to make a difference in the areas we serve and we’re glad to see that Maine Fresh is committed to doing the same, one pie at a time.” 🐟