

Management Biography

Mike Cote, President

Mike Cote knows what the wind, weather and clean, cold North Atlantic water tastes like. As a young boy growing up in Maine, Mike enjoyed fishing and canoeing Downeast with his dad. He remembers fishing for king mackerel at the helm of his grandfather's 10-ft Jon boat. But most of all, he remembers his mother's homemade salmon pie and authentic Maine lobster stew.

Mike enrolled in the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine and then found his niche in the food business. Mike's exemplary record of sales, marketing and management experience in the natural and specialty retail food industry spans more than 25 years. Most recently, Mike served as Senior Vice President of Sales and Operations at Odwalla/Fresh Samantha, and Vice President of Growth Channels at Pepperidge Farm.

Since 1917, Bar Harbor Foods, formerly known as the East Machias Canning Company and later known as the A.M. Look Canning Company, has handcrafted and handpacked specialty seafood in small batches at its historic cannery, the way people on the Maine coast have been doing for generations.

In 2003, Mike Cote purchased the 89-year-old purveyor of premium seafood. He had always been a fan of the cannery and A.M. Look's products, and has always loved fresh Maine seafood and simple, natural ingredients. Under Mike's management, Bar Harbor Foods has continued to produce pure, all-natural seafood that speaks for itself. It's one of the key reasons he was first attracted to the company.

"The taste of the wind, weather and clean, cold water—it's not a flavor that needs improving. I believe that in order to move forward, we sometimes have to look back to simpler times," says Cote.

While you won't find Mike's mom's salmon pie in the Bar Harbor® product line, you will find rich chowders, such as clam, lobster and salmon (which incidentally, doubles as a great salmon pie base!) and many other bisques, soups and seafood specialties. Keep your eyes open for Mike's mom's recipe for her signature lobster stew, right on the cans of Bar Harbor Whole Maine Lobster. We're sure you'll agree—these Bar Harbor® products will bring you back to summers in Maine. Bar Harbor® is as close as you can get to "fresh off the boat" without being there.

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Today, Mike lives with Cynthia Fisher and their two Golden Retrievers, Chowda and Bisque, at their home in Downeast Maine, where they can see the docks and smell the salt air from their kitchen. Mike and Cynthia share a fondness for the pure, natural taste of seafood and coastal living. Cynthia has been an integral part of Bar Harbor Foods since its acquisition. She traded her lifestyle on another more Southern coast (just listen to that sweet accent!) for an authentic Downeast Maine experience.

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