



**AquaNet
Directed Call for Proposals – December 6, 2005**

Creative Product Development

AquaNet is inviting proposals in the area of ***Creative Product Development***. This call for proposals addresses the need to find new, high-value uses for the products of Canadian aquaculture operations.

The second page of this document describes the rationale and justification. The submission process, evaluation criteria for the proposal, description of AquaNet policies and procedures pertaining to the awarding and monitoring of research grants are posted in the research section of AquaNet's Website at www.aquanet.ca.

AquaNet invites applications from all eligible researchers. A maximum of one year of funding will be available. To be eligible, research proposals must be submitted to info@aquanet.ca electronically, and

- state the relevance of the proposed work to the Canadian aquaculture sector;
- have a partner who will commit a minimum of 50% of the funding required; and
- commit to a rapid turn-around of results, i.e., within one year of project initiation.

Deadline for application: January 9, 2006.

Research Topic, Rationale and Justification:

Over the past six years AquaNet has funded research studies, workshops and science forums. Studies resulting from this research have been published in leading journals, and AquaNet has made a wide range of contributions to scientific, social scientific, and humanistic understanding of aquaculture. An opportunity now exists to depart from these foundational studies to focus on developing new and innovative products originating from cultured aquatic organisms.

AquaNet invites proposals from interdisciplinary research teams in the area of ‘Creative Product Development.’ This call for proposals responds to the need to find new, high-value uses for the products of Canadian aquaculture operations.

Recent developments in genomics, applied biotechnology, and other bioscience areas are opening new opportunities for diversification of Canadian aquaculture. Canada’s established expertise in animal production (finfish and shellfish) for human consumption may now be complemented by focus on sustainable use of the large, untapped range of marine and freshwater bioactive compounds associated with aquaculture production. Existing research suggests that bioactive molecules from aquaculture production may be used in a wide array of novel products whose development and manufacture will create significant new social and economic opportunities and benefits for Canadians. Example applications of these compounds include: nutraceuticals, pharmaceuticals, bio-medical applications, functional foods, botanicals, pigments, agrichemicals, and biostimulants. Successful R&D in these and associated applications will foster the sustainability of current aquaculture operations, reduce excess waste, improve opportunities for new products and markets for aquaculture operations, improve overall profitability, and increase the international competitiveness of the Canadian aquaculture sector.

Preference will be given to research proposals presenting a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to the following R&D areas:

- Diversification of products from cultured species
- Opportunities to culture new species from innovative products that can be produced and marketed.
- Opportunities and obstacles to market acceptance for new products, including regulatory issues broadly conceived.

As successful projects submitted under this theme are very likely to involve social, economic, and legal issues, proposals should consider inclusion of researchers and collaborators from relevant disciplines to ensure adequate treatment of social issues. Successful projects will include a strategy for dissemination of results to stakeholders, including, where appropriate, commercialisation activities delivering social and economic benefits for Canadians.