



AquaNet
Directed Call for Proposals – November 29, 2005

Enabling Communities

AquaNet is inviting proposals in the area of *the social context of aquaculture's future in Canada (enabling communities)*. This call for proposals addresses the need for knowledge and practices to support a fair hearing for aquaculture as a means to the economic and social development of Canadian communities.

The second page of this document describes the rationale and justification. The submission process is described at the end of this document.

The evaluation criteria for the proposal, the 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: December 19, 2005.

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 the social context of aquaculture's future in Canada.

AquaNet invites proposals from interdisciplinary research teams in the area of 'Enabling Communities.' This call for proposals responds to the need for knowledge and practices to support a fair hearing for aquaculture as a means to the economic and social development of Canadian communities. In this context, AquaNet recognises that aquaculture is part of a set of ongoing changes whose relation to aquaculture is incompletely understood. Aquaculture is conducted in a time of emerging biotechnologies and production technologies, global consolidation of the aquaculture industry changing social preferences, and urbanisation in Canada and other aquaculture-producing nations. Canada and the globe need an improved understanding of the effect of these factors on approaches to regulation of aquaculture, development of business models for aquaculture's future, and improved public consultation and education regarding aquaculture. If sustainable aquaculture is to be a net contributor to Canada, we must understand how aquaculture is to be a contributor deserving of the respect of all stakeholders, supported by research enabling communities to make informed choices regarding aquaculture.

This call targets three priority areas which may be considered singly or jointly by research proposals. Preference will be given to proposals presenting a comprehensive approach to these priority areas.

1. Regulation:

What is the aquaculture sector's comparative regulatory burden, examined against adjacent sectors such as agriculture? How might regulation of aquaculture be modified to support continuing innovation in the Canadian aquaculture sector in a period of global consolidation of the aquaculture industry and the emergence of applied biotechnology in agriculture, health, and other adjacent sectors?

2. Resilience:

What are the best business models for aquaculture SMEs looking to a future in which change is the only certainty, as e.g., closed containment aquaculture technologies become affordable, and alternative species such as sablefish are sufficiently well understood to permit commercial-scale production? How do the best business models relate to Canada's innovation strategy, and universities' increased attention to knowledge transfer?

3. Respect:

What educational activities are needed to ensure aquaculture receives a fair hearing as a net contributor to Canada, including education in aid of communities wishing to participate in aquaculture? What novel methods of public consultation are needed to

enable rural and urban communities to contribute their views to policy-making regarding aquaculture's future?



Submission Process for Research Proposals

Letters pledging cash and in-kind support (# 14 below) are required as part of the proposal. Support letters may be submitted by electronic mail (to info@aquanet.ca) by fax (to 709-737-3500) or by mail (to the AquaNet Administrative Centre, c/o Ocean Sciences Centre, Memorial University, St. John's, NL A1C 5S7.)

Your proposal should include the following items:

1. AquaNet research question(s)
2. Study Title
3. Network Investigators, network partners and other collaborators: (include affiliation, address, telephone, fax, e-mail). Identify the Principal Investigator.
4. Introduction (literature background/conceptual framework/rationale for study)
5. Objectives
6. Approach/Methodologies
7. Clearly explain how the research project:
 - (i) contributes to existing knowledge in this field;
 - (ii) complements your on-going research funded from other sources or any other research proposal for which you have a current application pending.
 - (iii) addresses the research question; and
 - (iv) advances the mission statement of AquaNet

8. Milestones: (one page limit)
9. Research involvement of each participant, including collaborators, partners and graduate students (1/2 page limit per participant).
10. References (no page limit)
11. Names and contact information (title, affiliation, phone, e-mail and mailing addresses) of three experts who would be qualified to review your proposal. Please ensure that the persons proposed are not in a conflict of interest as defined by NSERC regulations. For more information see the NSERC website at:
http://www.nserc.ca/commit/prm2003/guidelines_conflict_e.htm
12. Budget request from AquaNet: Complete a "*[budget by investigator](#)*" form for each investigator receiving funds. Also complete the "*[budget by project](#)*" form for the total project and include a separate sheet justifying each line item request (no page limit).
13. A ½ page summary of your research project written for a non-scientific audience. If your proposal is funded, this will be used in various AquaNet publications and on the web site.
14. All proposals must have partners that have pledged cash or in-kind support to the project. Letters of support from network partners clarifying and quantifying the level of support must be provided.
15. Investigators are required to submit a Form 100 (NSERC personal data form) (http://www.nserc.ca/programs/pdf100_e.htm) or a SSHRC curriculum vitae (https://webapps.nserc.ca/sshrc/logon_e.htm) for each researcher on the project.

Items 1-3 should be on a separate page. Items 4-7 (inclusive) must be no more than five (5) pages in length. The document should be formatted as follows: Word or WordPerfect, one-inch margins, single-spaced, Times New Roman font in 12 point.