



**AquaNet
Directed Call for Proposals
October 14, 2004**

AquaNet is inviting proposals in the area of comparative studies in finfish aquaculture. The attached document describes the background and rationale, suggested team members, partners and deliverables.

Evaluation criteria for the proposal, the submission process and a 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 <http://www.aquanet.ca/>.

AquaNet invites applications from all eligible researchers in the fields described. A maximum of two years of funding will be available. To be eligible, research applicants must

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

Deadline for application: November 19, 2004

Deadline for letters of support and NSERC environmental forms: November 26, 2004

Topic

Investigation and Evaluation of Comparative Indigenous Responses and Opportunities in Finfish Aquaculture in Canada, Norway, and/or Chile.

Background and Rationale:

Salmon farming in Canada is a relatively new industry that is negotiating its place in coastal communities and global markets. However, it is also at the centre of a very public, polarized debate, especially on the Pacific Coast. The Canadian Industry has grown with comparatively little effort devoted to development of effective approaches to studying the responses of aboriginal peoples to the social and economic opportunities in the industry. Intensive research efforts, specifically of the comparative indigenous response to the fish farming industry in other, highly successful sectors, are needed to support the Canadian aquaculture sector's continued growth in use of high-value finfish in a manner that is acceptable to local First Nations communities.

Several gaps in our knowledge of the cultural, political, and historical issues for aquaculture in Canada must be closed, and our improved knowledge must be communicated effectively to the Canadian aquaculture sector and policy makers. The sector needs improved knowledge of effective methods for understanding:

- How people, particularly aboriginal people, understand environmentally controversial industries such as salmon farming.
- Whether the framing of aboriginal resistance to salmon farming as a conflict between "traditional knowledge" and "modern science" reinforces or overcomes the cultural biases of non-aboriginal peoples.
- How aboriginal people in comparatively more successful national aquaculture sectors, such as Norway and/or Chile, negotiate their effective involvement in industrial fish farming.
- The extent to which the claim of First Nations communities in BC that salmon farming is for them an urgent matter of territory and culture with deep historical roots drives their resistance to salmon farming in their traditional territories.

This study will contribute to development of a cross-cultural understanding of the socio-cultural dimensions of sustainability in aquaculture, hence development of viable logistical and production systems for high-value marine finfish delivered to the global market, and contribute more broadly to development of a diversified, globally competitive, culturally responsible, and publicly acceptable aquaculture.

Members of the interdisciplinary team(s) should have expertise areas such as:

- Finfish aquaculture
- Historical research
- Cultural anthropology
- Ethnographic field research
- International development studies
- Fisheries biology
- Ecology
- Economics
- Ethics (philosophy)
- Business administration, commerce, resource management

Partners:

- Indigenous governing structures and organizations
- Government (all levels – Federal to regional)
- Environmental Non-Government Organisations

Deliverables:

- Identification of the cultural phenomenon of “the uses of the past in the present” in understanding contemporary aboriginal responses to fish farming both in BC and /or Atlantic Canada in relation to other older, successful sectors, to improve global competitiveness of the Canadian aquaculture sector and promote consumer acceptance of aquaculture food products at home.
- Specification of best practices (area based plan; integration of “TEK” into existing aquaculture policies and industry strategies; technology transfers; joint ventures between farm companies and First Nations communities, etc.), building on existing experience and international experience, for Canadian growers and fisheries management
- Training of highly qualified personnel (graduate students and post-doctoral fellows)
- Publication of results in a peer reviewed journal and/or an edited collection for a scholarly press

Special Requirements:

Due to the cross-cultural comparative nature of this project, the Canadian interdisciplinary team(s) must establish formal ties with university-based researchers in other countries under study. Also, the fieldwork in aboriginal communities will necessitate letters of support from appropriate aboriginal spokespersons, as well as ethics review certificates from the home university of individual members of the interdisciplinary team(s).