



MEMO

To: The aquaculture research community
From: Scott McKinley, Executive Scientific Director
Date: February 25, 2004
Subject: AquaNet request for proposals

AquaNet is inviting proposals in the area of fish health. The attached document outlines 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 www.aquanet.ca.

AquaNet invites applications from all eligible researchers in the field described. In addition to the eligibility criteria listed at the above web address, applicants must also

- state relevance to the Canadian aquaculture sector,
- have partners who will commit a minimum of 50% of the funding required; and
- deliver to AquaNet a detailed technical report of results within one year of project initiation.

Deadline for application: March 25, 2004

Decisions about successful applications will be released by late April 2004.

Directed Call: *Fish Health*

Topic:

Development of novel, safe vaccines against Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV) and *Kudoa thyrsites*. Proposals may address either or both diseases.

Background and Rationale:

British Columbia salmonid aquaculture loses approximately \$150 million per year due to two predominant local diseases. Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) is a viral disease resulting in premature mortality. Soft Flesh Syndrome is a parasitic disease caused by *Kudoa thyrsites* (Kudoa), resulting in post-harvest myoliquifaction and a profound loss of product quality. These two diseases are very different in cause and effect but both are unusually recalcitrant diseases requiring specialized prophylactic strategies; IHNV and Kudoa vaccines are urgently needed to prevent the devastating effects of these diseases on the health of cultured fish.

This directed call for vaccine research follows the recommendations of the White Paper report of the findings of an AquaNET IHNV research forum held in 2003. The White Paper identified a pressing need for development of safe and effective vaccines for use by the aquaculture industry. One year later, there is still no effective vaccine for IHNV and Kudoa. This call for proposals aims to expedite the process of research, development and commercialization of vaccines for treatment of these diseases.

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

- Fish diseases, diagnostics, immunology and health
- Vaccine development and technology
- Fish physiology (e.g. nutrition, genetics, interactions with health)
- Fish health management and risk assessments

Partners

- Commercial finfish growers and associated organisations
- Companies that produce products (e.g. vaccines and therapeutic agents) for fish health management
- Health regulators such as Health Canada and Agriculture Canada

Deliverables:

- Development of vaccines to decrease mortalities associated with IHNV and Kudoa infections
- Training of highly qualified personnel (graduate student and post-doctoral fellows)
- Development and implementation of a commercialization strategy

Proposal Due Date: March 25, 2004.