



Update

Electronic Newsletter for AquaNet Members
December 15, 2002

Important Dates

February 2003

Research Management Committee Meeting
to review all applications

March 2003

Board of Directors Meeting
to review RMC recommendations

Announcements

Administrative Centre

Welcome to the latest issue of **Update**. This newsletter is the main internal communications avenue for AquaNet members. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Submissions / questions can be sent to info@aquanet.ca

The Administrative Centre will be **officially closed from noon December 24, 2002 until 9:00 am January 6, 2003**. However, J. Atkinson, M. Struthers and M. Riehl will be monitoring their voice and email during the holidays.

Message from the Scientific Director

This is my last report to you as Scientific Director as I am resigning my position effective December 31, 2002. It was an exciting opportunity to lead AquaNet from its inception to mid-term review and now it is time to turn the leadership over to someone else as the Network is positioning itself for long-term growth and renewal.

Those first few years were tumultuous, often

frustrating but also immensely gratifying. The amount of work necessary to bring an organization to this stage of its development is staggering, and there are many people to recognize for their efforts. Some of these individuals have already left the Network having made their mark in the early years, while others remain to take the organization forward. We should all be especially grateful to Tim Fleming, whose support, advice and hard work as Chair of the Board from 2000 to November 2002 were invaluable and to Joan Atkinson, Network Manager, who is truly the pivotal person who holds an incredibly complex network together.

In closing, may I express that AquaNet has been one of the greatest challenges and most rewarding experiences of my professional life. I have every expectation that under new stewardship the Network will thrive and ultimately be successful in reapplication at the end of year seven.

William R. Driedzic

Executive Changes

As announced in the December 4 communiqué, Mr. Timothy Fleming advised the Board of Directors that

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he would be stepping down as Chair. Mr. David Rideout has been appointed as Interim Chair. Mr. Rideout has served on the Board since its inception and is located in Ottawa as the Executive Director of the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance.

The Board of Directors was also faced with the planned departure of Dr. William Driedzic as Scientific Director. Effective January 1, 2003, Dr. Scott McKinley will be the Interim Scientific Director. Dr. McKinley has been the Environmental Integrity Theme Leader since AquaNet's inception. He is located in West Vancouver where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Aquaculture and the Environment.

Dr. McKinley can be reached at
mckin@interchange.ubc.ca
(604) 822-6602

A permanent Scientific Director is expected to be in place by April 1, 2003.

Network Investigators

Revision of Policy on Carry-forward of Unspent Salaries in AquaNet Research Accounts

An ad hoc committee of the Board (Tim Ogilvie, Tillmann Benfey and William Driedzic) undertook a review of the Board policy on research expenditures, which states that unspent salary funds must be returned to the Network at the end of each fiscal year. The reason for the review was to respond to the needs of Network Investigators who had made it clear they needed greater flexibility in their budgets to accommodate the start time of graduate students. To better understand the issue, other Networks were polled to find out whether they have similar policies with respect to research expenditures. The poll showed a variety of policies at other Networks ranging from no allowance for carry-forward of unspent research funds to allowance of carry-forward of 100% of research funds. The ad hoc committee recommended (and the Board approved) a middle ground consistent with a number of other Networks.

The new policy on carry-forward of unspent research funds at fiscal year-end, effective for fiscal 2002-2003 and beyond, is as follows:

Research projects will be allowed an automatic carry forward of 20% from one fiscal year to the next. Consideration will be given to additional allowances of carry-forward upon application to the Research Management Committee and subsequent approval by the Board of Directors. Application to the RMC will occur following the submission of year-end fiscal reports from universities in May 2003 and will be evaluated at the May meeting of the RMC with approval by the Board at the first meeting thereafter.

The application process will be sent to Network Investigators in the new year.

Photographs / Images Wanted!

AquaNet wants to add to the photobank that it currently has on the AquaNet website. This collection of electronic images is available on the AquaNet website for use by Network members and the general public.

The AquaNet Admin Centre will include these images in various publications such as the Annual Report and pamphlets. Photo credit will be given for all submitted images.

We would particularly like to receive images of Network members performing Network-related research activities.

Please submit scanned pictures of at least 300 dpi or higher quality.

Include a title for the image and where applicable

- the individual's name, position and employer
- the location and / or activity captured by the image
- the name of the individual and company that took the image for photo credit

* if using a digital camera, **turn off** the date function.

Individuals using the photobank will be asked to abide by a set of guidelines such as giving credit to the image supplier and using the image in only educational and not-for-profit materials.

Please send your submissions to
Michael Riehl
info@aquanet.ca (709) 737-3272

Education Committee News

AquaNet Sponsored Workshops

Upcoming

1. The *British Columbia Salmon Farmers Association* will deliver an **Infectious Hematopoetic Necrosis Workshop**, January 10-12, 2003, in Campbell River, BC. This workshop will bring together representatives from the BC industry, the research community, and from other aquaculture sectors to exchange detailed information about the disease. The workshop will help to build a research network to address key issues, and to identify key infrastructure requirements to assist in that research.

For further information on this workshop contact Melissa Struthers (mstruthers@mun.ca)
or visit: www.aquanet.ca/education/upcoming.html

2. The *Dalhousie AquaNet Law & Policy Project* is preparing to host the **Canadian Aquaculture Law & Policy Workshop: Towards Principled Access and Operations**, February 26-28, 2003, in Halifax, NS. This workshop will provide a forum for participants to exchange ideas and share information on the ever-changing legal, political, and social issues that continue to shape the aquaculture industry.

For further information on this workshop contact Joan Cottell (cotteljb@gov.ns.ca)
Susan Rolston (srolston@is.dal.ca)
Melissa Struthers (mstruthers@mun.ca)
or visit: www.library.dal.ca/law/aquanet/whatsnew.htm

Delivered

1. Approximately 45 people attended the **Better Fish Health with Water Recirculation Workshop** held December 2-3, 2002, in Fredericton, NB organized by the *Canadian Aquaculture Institute*.

2. Approximately 75 people attended the **Nodavirus Workshop** held November 27, 2002, in St. John's, NL organized by the *Aquaculture Research and Development Facility, Ocean Sciences Centre*.

If anyone would like a copy of the workshop summaries for either of the above delivered workshops, or any other AquaNet sponsored workshop, contact Melissa Struthers (mstruthers@mun.ca).

Please visit the following link for updated information on AquaNet sponsored workshops.

www.aquanet.ca/education/workshopinfo.html

Workshop Travel Subsidy Initiative Broadened

In support of *specialized training and research theme integration* of highly qualified personnel, AquaNet has broadened the current workshop travel subsidy program.

AquaNet graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research assistants are eligible to apply for a travel subsidy to attend any workshop:

i) **within their immediate research field** that is relevant to and will further the development of their current research project; or

ii) **outside their immediate research field** provided it can be demonstrated that the subject matter of the workshop will expand the applicant's understanding of aquaculture, help the applicant gain a more integrated understanding of their current research project, and/or will be of value in the broad application of their research.

Applicants will be required to clearly articulate the value of attending a particular workshop with direct reference to their current research project.

For further information on this initiative and application procedures visit:
www.aquanet.ca/education/workshops.html

Travel Subsidies

Research Placements

Dr. Harry Murray (NRC Institute for Marine Biosciences) has been awarded a travel subsidy to participate in a research placement in **Instituto de Ciencias Marinas de Andalucía** (CSIC), Spain to learn about producing micro-encapsulated diets which could later be used in experimental diet production for marine aquaculture candidates in Atlantic Canada. This is an ideal opportunity to promote knowledge and technology exchange, since Dr. Murray has been asked to share knowledge about the site hybridization techniques that he currently employs with members of the CSIC.

(Dalhousie University) received travel subsidies to attend the *Better Fish Health with Water Recirculation Workshop*.

Kyoung Park (NRC Institute for Marine Biosciences), **Juan Perez-Casanova**, **Jim Eddington** and **Steve Thompson** (Dalhousie University), **Rodney Healey** and **Karen Smith** (Memorial University of Newfoundland), and **Holly Beaman** (University of Prince Edward Island) received travel subsidies to attend the *Nodavirus Workshop*.

AquaNet Sponsored Workshops

HollyAnn Longstaff (The University of British Columbia) and **Dean Bavington** (Wilfrid Laurier University) have been awarded travel subsidies to attend the *Canadian Law and Policy Workshop*.

Garth Arsenault, **Carol McClure** and **Pascale Nérette** (University of Prince Edward Island), **Megan Kirkpatrick** (University of New Brunswick), and **Kelley Baltzer**

For further information on AquaNet education and training initiatives, please visit the following link

www.aquanet.ca/education.html

or contact

Melissa Struthers, Education Officer
tel: 709-737-8093
e-mail: mstruthers@mun.ca

Research Positions

The AquaNet *Research Positions* web page has recently been revised to include links to résumés and curriculum vitas of individuals seeking graduate, post-doctoral and other research positions within AquaNet. Several résumés and curriculum vitae have already been received and posted.

Any new research positions available within AquaNet may be forwarded to Melissa Struthers, Education Officer (mstruthers@mun.ca) for posting on this web page.

It was decided that the *Research Positions* web page is a more appropriate venue than the Update to post information on research positions available and individuals seeking research positions. This venue allows for new postings to be available almost immediately, and as well, increases the accessibility and distribution of this information.

Please visit our *Research Positions* web page (www.aquanet.ca/researchpositions/positions.html) often to review new postings.

Conference Announcements

Canadian Aquaculture Law & Policy Workshop

February 26-28, 2003
Halifax, Nova Scotia

The *Dalhousie AquaNet Law & Policy project* is preparing to host the **Canadian Aquaculture Law & Policy Workshop: Towards Principled Access and Operations**. This workshop will provide a forum for participants to exchange ideas and share information on the ever-changing legal, political, and social issues that continue to shape the aquaculture industry.

This workshop brings together high-level policy makers, industry leaders, First Nations participants and others, including AquaNet investigators from across the country, with international speakers from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Europe.

The venue for this workshop is the Westin Hotel, located in downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Follow the links below to access more information.

AquaNet Law & Policy Project
www.library.dal.ca/law/aquanet/alppmain.htm

Canadian Aquaculture Law & Policy Workshop
www.library.dal.ca/law/aquanet/whatsnew.htm

Conference Announcement and Program
www.library.dal.ca/law/aquanet/aquanetbro.pdf

14th International Pectinid Workshop

April 23-29, 2003
St. Petersburg, Florida

The 14th International Workshop on Pectinids will focus on the biology, taxonomy, reproduction, physiology, fisheries, aquaculture and economics of scallops. We invite both oral and poster presentations of topics including taxonomy, genetics, algal toxins, nutrition, growth and mortality, reproduction, larval recruitment, predation, stock assessment and restoration, diseases, aquaculture techniques and economics.

Pectinid Web Site
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/scallops>

AquaNet Members in the News

New ISA Antibody Test Developed at UPEI

Charlottetown — Scientists at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), University of Prince Edward Island, have developed an antibody test (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay or ELISA) that detects the presence of antibodies to the infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) virus (ISAV) in fish.

The development of the ELISA antibody test for ISAV is the first of its kind in the world and was recently outlined in the August issue of the journal, *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*.

Primary researcher **Dr. Fred Kibenge** says the development of the antibody test should help to facilitate serodiagnosis of the ISAV infection, study of the epidemiology of ISAV, and the control of ISA in farmed

fishes.

Earlier this summer, the New Brunswick Salmon Growers Association destroyed about 800,000 farmed Atlantic salmon to halt the spread of the virus in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick. As of August 2002, ISA outbreaks in the Bay of Fundy have cost the industry in excess of 50 million Canadian dollars.

"The virus infects most salmonids but it appears to produce clinical disease accompanied by high mortality only in farmed Atlantic salmon," said Kibenge. "The mortality rate ranges from 5% to 90% of the infected fish."

Currently, antibody ELISA tests are commonly used in diagnosis of virus infections in mammals and birds, but not in fish.