

# Update

An Electronic Newsletter for  
AquaNet Members  
(November 14, 2003)



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# Message from the Executive Scientific Director

Thank you to all of you who contributed to making AquaNet III a successful scientific conference. We have received numerous positive comments and I encourage you to fill out the AquaNet III evaluation form to help us further improve AquaNet IV.

I am pleased to announce that the Networks of Centres of Excellence officially informed us about our successful special review and confirmed funding to March 2006. The Expert Review Panel provided a strong endorsement of the course AquaNet has taken in pursuing strategic research priorities based on multi-disciplinary, integrated research and being guided by a clear mission and long term vision. The Panel also pointed out some weaknesses AquaNet needs to address to position itself for a successful Phase II application. Suggested areas of further improvement include:

- Further strengthening of the Social and Economic Aspects theme;
- Focusing on conceptualisation of sustainability;
- Expanding the funding base, i.e. cash contributions from partners, new private sector collaborations, partnerships with foundations, and expanded partnerships nationally and internationally to provide additional cash resources; and
- Strengthening communications of results to the user community.

Addressing the suggestions by the Expert Panel and being well-prepared for the Phase II application will require your assistance and active participation. Please get in touch with me to discuss any ideas you may have to contribute to developing the application for the seven-year funding renewal (April 2006 to March 2013). We will start working on the Phase II application in the new fiscal year.

My immediate priority is to strengthen networking and partnerships with international research institutions, collaborating with their existing research programs that are of relevance to the aquaculture sector in Canada and facilitating the exchange of scientists. We will also strengthen AquaNet's capacity to support business development. In addition to the "basic" call for proposals, AquaNet will proceed with pursuing "directed" projects on high priority aquaculture issues with network partners (private sector and government) who are expected to equally contribute to the research funding. Before **any** proposals are approved for funding, they must go through AquaNet's established evaluation process including external peer review, evaluation by the Research Management Committee and endorsement by the Board.

Part of our strategy is to evolve from a theme-based network to one that is built on core centres of excellence (research nodes) based at various institutions across the country.

A strategic plan document for general distribution is currently being developed and will be distributed as soon as it becomes available.



*Dr. Scott McKinley*

# Network Manager's Report

## Appointment of an Executive Scientific Director

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Scott McKinley as Executive Scientific Director (ESD). Dr. McKinley had been acting in the position for a number of months. In exploring possible approaches to finding and appointing a permanent ESD, the Board referred the matter to the Nominating Committee, which came back with a recommendation to appoint Dr. McKinley to the position. In the Nominating Committee's judgement, Dr. McKinley was the best person to lead the Network through mid-term review and implementation of the new strategic plan. The Board approved the recommendation and is very pleased that Dr. McKinley has accepted the challenge.

## Changes to Board positions

David Rideout, Interim Chair of the Board since November 2002, was appointed Chair of the Board at AquaNet's annual general meeting held during AquaNet III in Vancouver. Mr. Rideout's leadership over the past year has been instrumental in helping AquaNet re-focus its energies and find a new strategic direction. The Network is fortunate to have his guidance and expertise.

The terms of three Board members came to an end at this year's annual general meeting. They are: Fred Whoriskey (Vice-President, Research and Environment, Atlantic Salmon Federation), Sam Bowman (Heritage Salmon Limited) and Tillmann Benfey (Professor of Biology, University of New Brunswick). Dr. Whoriskey was one of the original Board members appointed in June 2000 while Mr. Bowman and Dr. Benfey each served for two years. The Network is very grateful for the expertise and good judgement they brought to bear on Board discussions and decisions.

We are pleased to welcome the following people to the Board of Directors: Eric Wickham (Executive Director, BC Sablefish Association, Vancouver, BC); Keith Reid (President, BC Shellfish Association, Nanaimo, BC); and Brian Meaney, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador).

## AquaNet IV

AquaNet's next annual scientific conference will take place in conjunction with the Aquaculture Association of Canada (AAC) conference being held from October 17 - 20, 2004 at the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac in Quebec City. The exact dates for AquaNet's conference have not been determined and will be posted as soon as they are finalized.

## Call for Proposals, November 10, 2003

AquaNet has issued a Call for proposals in aquaculture research for 2004-2006. The deadline for submission of proposals is **January 30, 2004**. Detailed information on the four interdisciplinary research questions, the submission process, AquaNet policies and procedures and the selection criteria, is available in both English and French on the AquaNet website at:

<http://www.aquanet.ca/English/research/cfp.php> (English); or

<http://www.aquanet.ca/French/research/cfp.php> (French)

*Joan Atkinson*

# Communications Update

AquaNet's communications objective is to raise the profile of AquaNet research to increase research application and public knowledge and assist in securing more revenues to conduct relevant high quality AquaNet research and education. AquaNet will pursue a proactive strategy, which was approved in principle by the Board at its last meeting and include several key components:

- Profiling one priority research area every three months, with events and activities organised around each research topic;
- Pro-active media relations to make AquaNet a sought after commentator on aquaculture science issues;
- Maintaining an up-to-date website and expanding its functionality
- Issuing a Spring Newsletter targeted to the aquaculture sector on key network research achievements

AquaNet III created some media attention - see "AquaNet In The News". A special thank you to all of you, who made yourself available on a very short notice and face the challenging questions of reporters. We plan to keep up the profile. There is unquestionably a need for communications of high quality, peer-reviewed science. We want to work with you to profile your research findings outside the research community and effectively work with media as a key source for public information.

## AquaNet III

**Highlights**, including an updated **Conference Program**, presentations from keynote speakers (where available), and **selected pictures** are now posted at

[www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet3/](http://www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet3/).

Workshop summaries, presentations and other pictures will be posted shortly. Thank you to those who have submitted their evaluation form. For those who haven't, please take a moment to fill in the AquaNet III evaluation form that was included in your conference package. The same evaluation form can also be found at our AquaNet III website:

[www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet3/evaluation.php](http://www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet3/evaluation.php)

or; <http://www.aquanet.ca/French/conference/aquanet3/evaluation.php>



## Travel Claims

An important reminder to all AquaNet III participants: All travel claim forms must be submitted and received at the AquaNet Administrative Centre on or before **December 31, 2003**, along with the actual receipts and/or invoices if applicable. Any travel claim received after December 31, 2003 will **NOT** be processed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

A background image showing a woman in a dark jacket pointing at a poster on a wall. To the left, there is a framed photograph of a group of people at a conference. The text 'AquaNet III Presentation Awards and Sponsors' is overlaid in yellow on the right side of the image.

## AquaNet III Presentation Awards and Sponsors

Congratulations to all AquaNet III presentation award winners! Details on all award-winning presentations may be found at the following link:

[http://www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet3/present\\_awards.php](http://www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet3/present_awards.php)

**Executive Scientific Director Award:** Daniel Galland, University of British Columbia

**Best Poster Presentation Award:** Kelly Barrington, University of New Brunswick

**Runner up- Best Poster Presentation Award:** Alison Ellis-Herring, Université de Moncton

**Honourable Mentions - Best Poster Presentation Award:**

David Cassis, The University of British Columbia

Nick Tribble, University of Prince Edward Island

**Industrial Partnership Award (Poster):** Nara Mehlenbacher, The University of British Columbia

**Runner up- Industrial Partnership Award (Poster):** Kira Gerwing, The University of British Columbia

**Honourable Mentions - Industrial Partnership Award (Poster):**

Daphne Munroe, The University of British Columbia,

Susan Bastarache, University of New Brunswick

Jon Chamberlain, Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Best Oral Presentation Award:** Terra Lynn Lander, University of New Brunswick

**Runner up- Best Oral Presentation Award:** Mark Dionne, University of New Brunswick

**Honourable Mentions - Best Oral Presentation Award:**

Patricia Keen, The University of British Columbia

HollyAnn Longstaff, The University of British Columbia

**Industrial Partnership Award (Oral):** Robert Vaillancourt, Université du Québec à Rimouski

**Runner up- Industrial Partnership Award (Oral):** Trina Kirby, Memorial University of Newfoundland

**Honourable Mentions - Industrial Partnership Award (Oral):**

Jeff Babuin, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Steve Kales, University of Waterloo

We would also like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors. Building research capacity within the aquaculture industry through knowledge and technology exchange and the continued training of highly qualified aquaculture personnel are key goals of AquaNet. Our annual conference is an important tool in achieving our goals, and sponsors are extremely important to the success of this type of event. Further information on AquaNet III sponsors may be found at the following link:

<http://www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet3/sponsors.php>

Finally, AquaNet would also like to extend sincere thanks to all the individuals who volunteered to assist with presentation adjudication. Your help is greatly appreciated!

# Past and Upcoming Events

If you have been attending an aquaculture research workshop or are aware of upcoming research events you think may be of interest to the readers of our monthly update, please submit to [info@aquanet.ca](mailto:info@aquanet.ca).

## BC Shellfish Growers Association

Workshop on Shellfish Mortality - October 16, 2003  
(Prepared by Daphne Monroe)

This one-day workshop was held to address mortality events that have been experienced by BC shellfish growers and to foster communication between the growers and research scientists in an effort to **develop research questions** that address the concerns of the shellfish culture industry. Don Tillapaugh, Director of the Center for Shellfish Research at Malaspina University College, chaired the workshop. Members of the industry shared their experiences with and thoughts on mortality events that have been a difficulty for them in past years. The industry discussions were followed by presentations from research scientists on their various research projects concerning mortality of shellfish. They also offered insight throughout the day in regard to specific events discussed. Attendees then discussed species specific research priorities that need to be addressed.

At the close of the day some common themes emerged with regard to the type of research needed to address the causes of mortality in shellfish. **One high priority is the need for better environmental monitoring and preservation of water samples** that can be looked back at in the case of a mortality event. This involves general water quality data like temperature and salinity that could be recorded continually with in situ data loggers, as well as more complex water analysis for phytoplankton and bacterial content. A **second important priority for research identified was seed quality and a system for monitoring of the level of seed quality and health**. This relates to tracking of brood stock lineages and the success of certain lines in specific areas, as well as handling and delivery of quality seed and how to recognise seed that is not of a high standard.

Many of the industry participants felt that the workshop was a well-spent day off the farm and researchers in attendance left with valuable insight into the research priorities of the industry. There are many research opportunities in the area of shellfish mortality and workshops like this to determine research priorities are an important source of direction for such research and ensure collaboration of researchers and growers.

