

Update

An Electronic Newsletter for AquaNet Members
January 2004



Networks of Centres
of Excellence
Réseaux de centres
d'excellence



- CONTENTS -

1. Message from the Executive Scientific Director

2. Update from the Network Manager

- New Appointments
- Changes to the Social and Economic Aspects theme

3. From the Communications Manager's Desk

- Feedback on Internal Newsletter
- Photos featuring AquaNet research
- Research Profiles

4. AquaNet Research Project Profile

5. Events

- AquaNet - DFO Collaborative Forum on Marine Finfish Diversification
- World Aquaculture Society 2004 Annual Meeting
- 4th World Fisheries Congress

6. Project Funding and Award Opportunities

- Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation Program
- AAC 2004 Special Awards

Message from the Executive Scientific Director

All the best for a successful and productive 2004. For AquaNet this will be a busy year as we continue the implementation of our revised strategic plan and prepare our Phase II funding renewal application, due April, 2005. AquaNet will launch new research projects following the November 2003 call for proposals, release an additional, directed call for proposals in the near future, and continue to pursue international research collaborations. AquaNet has been making efforts in connecting with the global aquaculture research community: AquaNet is the only non-European research institution on the European Union's Can \$42 million SEAFOODplus collaborative research project that was launched January 2004. As a result, I anticipate numerous opportunities for AquaNet researchers and students.



Following from Dr. Jason Clay's presentation at AquaNet III, I will be representing AquaNet at a 2 day workshop convened by the World Wildlife Federation in Washington, DC for a Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue that will open new doors for continued communications with the global aquaculture sector, including environmental NGOs.

Preparing the AquaNet Phase 2 funding renewal application will require a significant collaborative effort, and I welcome everyone's ideas regarding potential future research and development topics to help AquaNet achieve its vision of a harmonised and integrated sustainable aquaculture sector that has widespread support of the Canadian public.

Dr. Scott McKinley

Update from the Network Manager

New Appointments

I would like to alert you to a change in membership on the Research Management Committee (RMC) effective November 2003. Dr. Brad Hicks from Taplow Feeds in Langley, BC and Dr. Tom Sephton, from the St. Andrews Biological Station, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, have stepped down from the committee. Brad, who was one of the founding members of the committee, brought humour, insight and forthrightness to his work with the RMC. Tom sat on the committee for more than two years; his experience and commitment contributed to the positive, collaborative atmosphere on the committee. Our warmest thanks go out to both of them.



Update from the Network Manager (continued)

We are pleased to extend a welcome to two new members of the committee, **Drs. Monica Bricelj** and **Jon Grant**.

Monica Bricelj is a Senior Research Officer at the Institute for Marine Biosciences (IMB), National Research Council (NRC), Halifax and an adjunct professor at Dalhousie University. Since 1996, she has held the position of adjunct associate professor at the Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC), State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook, N.Y. Monica's research interests are in the areas of marine sciences/benthic ecology; shellfish biology/ecophysiology and aquaculture.

Jon Grant is a Professor in the Department of Oceanography at Dalhousie University. He has conducted research on aquaculture-environment interactions since the 1980's, with a focus on physical-biological coupling as it influences delivery of food particles to shellfish, and removes waste material from culture sites. Jon has led the application of oceanographic sensors in field studies of culture sites. He conducts modelling of carrying capacity, including fish cage culture and suspended bivalve farming.

Changes to the Social and Economic Aspects Theme

As you may have noted on our website, the name of the **Social and Economic Aspects theme** has been changed to reflect the diverse range of disciplines encompassed by the theme. The new name, **Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)**, is considered to be more descriptive and inclusive.

Another change introduced to this theme is the adoption of a co-theme leader model in recognition of the importance to AquaNet's research program of integrating social sciences research with research in the natural and environmental sciences. The scope of interdisciplinary issues that need to be urgently addressed have made the addition of a second theme leader necessary.

We are very pleased to welcome **Dr. Dianne Newell**, Acting Director of the Peter Wall Institute and Professor of History at UBC, as co-theme leader of the HSS theme. Dr. Newell is an expert on Canada's West Coast Fisheries. Her research has included technology studies (emphasizing the history of technological diffusion and persistence), industrial archaeology, social and economic history, and the history of work as it occurs both at the margins of science and technology developments and on resource frontiers.



Joan Atkinson

From the Desk of the Communications Manager

Feedback on Internal Newsletter - AquaNet Update

Over the past several months we have put extra effort into making the Update not only informative about AquaNet and related activities, but also interesting to read and visually appealing. For those interested in quickly viewing the basic content, the newsletter text is also provided as plain e-mail text. *We would like to hear from you regarding AquaNet Update - if and how you read the newsletter, what you like, what you think is missing and any suggestions for improvements you might have. Please take the time to fill out the web-based survey by clicking the following link.*

http://www.aquanet.ca/English/members/updates_feedback.php

Visitors to our website will also find the AquaNet Update survey link from the highlights section of the AquaNet web site.

Pictures featuring your research

We are always looking for AquaNet project/activities - related photos for promotional and communications activities. Providing such photos will also help us to better relay information about your project when it is time for your project to be featured in the internal newsletter and on our website. Field and laboratory photos are welcome. Thank-you again for your cooperation!

Research Profile - One AquaNet research project to be highlighted in each Update

To increase internal communications about the status of the currently funded projects of interest to various members of AquaNet, we will profile one research project per AquaNet Update, beginning with this issue. The "template" for the research project profile is:

- Project summary (one paragraph)
- Project status (one paragraph regarding milestones achieved, significant activities/finds, etc.)
- Project direction (one paragraph summarising the next steps for your current research project)

If you have an interesting result, have organised an event related to your AquaNet research, or have any other information about your project that you would like to share with the the AquaNet community, please contact me at uschi@interchange.ubc.ca.

Dr. Uschi Koebberling



AquaNet Research Project Profile:

Fostering Adaptive Risk Management Strategies for Salmon Aquaculture in Canada

Network Investigators: **Tim McDaniels**, **Hadi Dowlatabadi**, The University of British Columbia, **Keith Hipel**, University of Waterloo

Prepared by Nara Mehlenbacher, Research Associate of Tim McDaniels

The objective of the project is to examine how policies for salmon aquaculture can be structured in ways that encourage learning, flexibility and adaptation. That is, it addresses how concepts of *adaptive management* can be applied to improve the knowledge base and management practice for salmon aquaculture in British Columbia, and elsewhere. The broader objective is to examine ways of fostering adaptive management and learning, within a complex system that operates on multiple scales with many kinds of learning opportunities.

A team of UBC researchers recently held a workshop for the *Development of an Adaptive Management Plan for Salmon Aquaculture in BC*, at UBC on December 4, 2003. The overall objective of the workshop was to gather input on the design of an adaptive management plan for salmon aquaculture in BC that will foster learning over time about key salmon aquaculture research topics, and will therefore serve as a basis for making better policy choices in the future. The plan is currently in its initial phases of creation, and the team believes it is very important to involve people who are interested in the future of salmon aquaculture in BC as the first major step in the planning process. The workshop participants included representatives of the BC Aboriginal Fisheries Commission, Tribal Fisheries Councils, the salmon aquaculture industry and its affiliates, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC ministries, Land and Water BC, regional districts, Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, Academic Institutions, AquaNet, local coastal communities, and NGO's. Individuals within these organizations represented interests of First Nations, industry, local communities, scientists, managers, planners, developers, and regulators. Plenary groups discussed the appropriate approach and objectives for the proposed adaptive management plan, as well as the key research topics which could be addressed by such a plan. Breakout groups began the process of determining key research questions that could be addressed by an adaptive management plan.

Despite the difficulty and complexity involved with determining key research topics and questions, the participants established a good initial list of topics and questions which will be used as a basis for initiating research into adaptive management alternatives over the coming months. The workshop participants and other interested individuals are forming a Technical Advisory Resource Group (TARG) which will have the opportunity to add to and build upon the ideas generated at the workshop. The TARG group will be asked to contribute their input on a semi-regular basis, as the project requires, and will assist the UBC team in developing a usable, accessible, and flexible adaptive management plan designed to foster learning about salmon aquaculture in BC.



Events

AquaNet-DFO Collaborative Forum on Marine Finfish Diversification February 11-12, 2004

AquaNet and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are collaborating to hold a 2 day Marine Finfish Forum in St. John's, Newfoundland, February 11-12, that will bring together representatives from funding agencies, the research community, industry, and other sector representatives. The objective of the forum is to identify key research areas and constraints in order to develop a diversified marine finfish sector in Canada. This will be a unique opportunity for funding agencies to hear about essential research needs, potential development and commercialisation activities, and to initiate the coordination of research funding. The forum also supports AquaNet's goal to help provide leadership in the coordination of Canadian aquaculture research. Participation is by invitation only.

Results from the forum will be posted on AquaNet's website.

World Aquaculture Society, March 1-5, 2004, Honolulu, Hawaii (<http://www.was.org>)

World Aquaculture 2004 brings together participants from all segments of the aquaculture sector. Several AquaNet investigators will be involved in the scientific program. AquaNet will also have a display booth and will be joined by our Norwegian research partner "Fiskeriforskning" to highlight AquaNet's global partnerships. For more information on Fiskeriforskning, please visit:
<http://www.fiskforsk.norut.no/>.



4th World Fisheries Congress, May 2-6, 2004, Vancouver, BC (<http://www.worldfisheries2004.org>)

The American Fisheries Society will focus its Fourth World Fisheries Congress on "Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: The Challenge of Managing Aquatic Ecosystems". The program includes keynote speakers, presentations, posters, round table discussions, forums, workshops and debates. For further information, please visit the American Fisheries Society website (see above for link).



Project Funding and Awards Opportunities

Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation Program (<http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca>)

The "Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation Program" of the federal government of Canada is requesting Letters of Interest to submit a proposal for research related to human health and well-being, including the area of marine and freshwater biotoxins and defining vulnerable population groups and communities. The completed LOI must be submitted by February 18, 2004. For more details, please visit the website listed above.

AAC 2004 Nominations for Special Awards (<http://www.aquacultureassociation.ca/index.html>)

The Aquaculture Association of Canada is seeking nominations for special awards related to life time achievement and research excellence. For further information, please contact the AAC office Susan Waddy - Association Office Manager and Managing Editor, AAC Bulletin; E-mail: aac@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; Tel. 506-529-4766.

