

Update

An Electronic Newsletter for AquaNet Members

June 2004



AquaNet

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Networks of Centres
of Excellence

Réseaux de centres
d'excellence

AquaNet IV

October 19-22, 2004, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, Québec City

Details regarding AquaNet IV, including delegate information (guidelines for Network sponsorship, travel and accommodation information), registration forms, program schedule, abstract guidelines, etc. are being posted on AquaNet's website as details are finalised.



Important Dates	
Immediately	Book Hotel Room
Friday, July 30	Submission of Abstracts Deadline
Sunday, August 1	Early Registration Deadline (save \$75)
Friday, September 10	Airfares should be purchased
Sunday, October 17	AAC Conference starts
Tuesday, October 19	Registration Opens / AquaNet IV joint banquet with AAC
Friday, October 22	Conference Ends

Please visit: <http://www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet4/index.php>.

REGISTRATION

All delegates are required to complete a registration form (download and fax / mail-in or register on-line). The registration forms are now posted on our website:

In English: <http://www.aquanet.ca/English/conference/aquanet4/registration.php>

In French: <http://www.aquanet.ca/French/conference/aquanet4/registration.php>

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

- A reminder that you are responsible for your own hotel reservation. Please connect directly with the hotel NOW (there is overlap with the AAC and high demand for July 17 - 20) and pay for your stay upon check-out (Fairmont Le Château Frontenac tel. 1-866-540-4460 or e-mail to agentres@fairmont.com). The special AAC/AquaNet conference hotel rate is \$149. Sponsored delegates will be reimbursed.
- Students are expected to share accommodation and organise this among themselves. AquaNet's Education Officer, Joanne Burry can help in pairing up roommates.
- You are expected to make your own travel arrangements.

	Up to August 1, 2004	After August 1, 2004
AquaNet Member (Researchers, Collaborators and Industry Partners) & AAC Participants	\$300	\$375
Non-AquaNet Member	\$350	\$425
One -Day Registration	\$200	\$200
Banquet (optional, not included in registration fee, waived for all AquaNet's graduate students and post-doctoral fellows)	\$60	\$60

For details on reimbursement guidelines, please check our website.



AquaNet IV (continued)

October 19-22, 2004, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, Québec City

STUDENT PARTICIPATION AT AQUACULTURE 2004 AND AQUANET IV

AquaNet sponsored students who wish to attend the AAC and have their registration fee covered need to register directly with the AAC. To get AAC sponsorships, students are expected to participate with oral and/or poster presentations. Please go to AAC's website for details:

<http://www.aquacultureassociation.ca/AC04/index.html>.

AquaNet will cover the additional 2 nights hotel accommodation for these students (based on room sharing) and per diem on meals not covered by the AAC conference.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Please check our website for the draft program.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (ORAL AND POSTER) DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2004

Oral presentations - one for each project - should focus on the overall project, findings and impacts, while poster presentations should focus on project and/or project components details. In addition, all network investigators and researchers are encouraged to present posters of their research and make use of the opportunity to present both at Aquaculture Canada 2004 and AquaNet IV.



Please check the Abstract and Presentation Guidelines posted in the AquaNet IV section of the website. Guidelines will be reinforced.

AquaNet posters located at the Rose room during the AAC conference will be moved by the company supplying the display panels to the Place D'Armes room for AquaNet IV.

If you have any questions, please contact Uschi Koebberling at 604-666-4452, cell 604-319-0615 or e-mail: uschi@interchange.ubc.ca



AquaNet Updates

AquaNet is getting into high gear to prepare its **RENEWAL APPLICATION**. The Board has established a Renewal Task Group that includes members from the Board and the Research Management Committee (RMC) to guide and help prepare the renewal application.

The **RMC**, chaired by Dr. Keith Culver, has been evaluating **ongoing and new research projects**, reflecting a shift towards achievement-focused project assessments, to advise the Board on project approval and funding decisions. The process has been lengthy and relying on the dedication of the Chair and Committee members. Their dedication to the Network and its research excellence is much appreciated.

Dr. Culver has also been instrumental in putting together a manual on RMC policies and procedures that can be a model for other NCEs. The Manual will be very useful in demonstrating our excellence in network management.

AquaNet has established an external **INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE** to advise on research priorities and network activities. We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Susan Stonich**, Chair of the Environmental Studies Program at the University of California, and **Dr. Ivan Burkow**, Director General of Fiskeriforskning, the Norwegian Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research, to the committee.



Please join us in welcoming **Dr. Jon Grant** as our new **ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY (EI)** theme leader. Jon, a professor of oceanography at Dalhousie University, joined the Research Management Committee last October. His record of grant awards from NSERC; his track record as a graduate student supervisor; his experience with other research networks; and his knowledge of wild-farm interactions, particularly in the development of site selection criteria, make him ideally suited for the EI theme.



We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Tillmann Benfey**, Professor at the University of New Brunswick, agreed to chair the re-established **EDUCATION COMMITTEE** to guide AquaNet's education and training initiatives and activities. Tillmann has been involved in AquaNet as a Principal Investigator, and for two years (2000-03), was the Network Investigator representative on AquaNet's Board of Directors. Over the years he has demonstrated his dedication to the education and training of our young scientists. He was on the Board of the Aquaculture Association of Canada and Chair of their Student Affairs Committee from 1995-97. AquaNet's Education Committee membership is currently being established and

Tillmann will convene the first committee meeting shortly. Please stay tuned for further updates on AquaNet's website.

Ms. Melissa Struthers, **AQUANET'S EDUCATION OFFICER** has left AquaNet to work for the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Association (CAIA) and we wish her all the best in her future career. We are very happy to have brought on board Joanne Burry (nee Harding) to fill the position. Having been a former AquaNet student and actively involved in student activities and CAIA's HR Standing Committee, Joanne brings valuable experiences and insights to the job. In the short time she has been with us, she has shown great enthusiasm and has "hit the ground running".



AquaNet Updates (continued)

As part of our assessment of achievements and planning for the future, AquaNet has engaged GPC International Inc., a public affairs and communications consulting firm, to help us in assessing the current perception of AquaNet among our key stakeholders and **providing advice on effectively communicating our key messages** to the aquaculture community and beyond. Some of you can expect to be contacted over the next couple of months to participate in a "perception audit" conducted by GPC staff. The results, summarised in a report, will be made available to the AquaNet community.



Please let us know when you and/or your AquaNet related research is getting **AQUANET IN THE NEWS**. It is an indication of the relevance and expertise of the Network investigators and their research. We post all "AquaNet in the News" on our website in the media and communications section. Please check it out to see who and what are "In the News".

As part of increasing its profile, **AQUANET HAS BEEN EXHIBITING** at two major tradeshow/conferences that are important to many of our researchers and partners: "Aquaculture 2004: Aquaculture - An Ecologically Sustainable and Profitable Venture", March 1-5, 2004, in Honolulu, Hawaii, and "AquaFair 2004", June 9-12, 2004, in St. Andrews by the Sea, New Brunswick.



Research Profile

Development of Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture Practices (EI 17)

This project is focused on the development of integrated aquaculture (fish/shellfish/seaweed) for environmentally and economically-balanced diversification and social acceptability.



AquaNet researchers Dr. Thierry Chopin, University of New Brunswick, and Dr. Shawn Robinson, DFO St. Andrews organized an international two-day workshop, March 25-26, 2004, in Saint John, NB, entitled "Defining the Appropriate Regulatory and Policy Framework for the Development of Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture Practices". Though the research is providing proof of concept of the feasibility and benefits of integrated aquaculture practices at the environmental, economic and social levels, the research cannot move from the 'pilot research' to the 'scale up'



Research Profile (continued)

Development of Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture Practices (EI 17)

stage because current federal and provincial regulations and policies prohibit implementation of integrated aquaculture systems.

Over 60 representatives from federal and provincial agencies involved in aquaculture regulations and policies, researchers, industry, professional associations, and environmental NGOs, attended the workshop in Saint John, which included presentations summarising the findings and achievements of the AquaNet project, the experiences with integrated aquaculture in other parts of the world, and the perspectives of key regulatory and policy agencies. Working group sessions, held on the second day, identified a) what work is needed to allow the development of integrated aquaculture, and b) what regulations and policies need to be amended and how.

The discussion of the way forward identified three specific action items to address regulatory and policy barriers:

1. A suggested process on how to address the 125 m limitation in federal regulations (Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program) which prevents shellfish culture operations in close proximity to salmon farms;
2. A presentation and submission of an application for a scale up of the AquaNet project to senior representatives at CFIA and DFO;
3. Involvement of relevant federal and provincial agencies to obtain appropriate permits and licences.

The working groups also outlined areas for further research related to scale-up research, and suggested a broad team of researchers, industry, professional associations, agencies (federal and provincial), and environmental NGOs to develop an integrated research plan that integrates environmental, economic and social aspects.



What could have turned into another bureaucratic exercise in re-stating the positions of the various agencies, turned out to be an excellent and fruitful dialogue in which the participants seemed genuinely interested in the integrated multi-trophic approach to aquaculture, and helped very constructively to move the agenda forward.

Presentations of the Workshop and results will be made public through a special issue of the Bulletin of the Aquaculture Association of Canada. Details of the workshop can be found on AquaNet's website (Events - Knowledge Exchange Workshops section). AquaNet also created a Fact Sheet of the project and displayed it at AquaFair 2004. A copy can be downloaded from AquaNet website or hard copies requested from the Administrative Centre.

For further details, please contact Dr. Thierry Chopin: Tel. 506-648-5507 or tchopin@unbsj.ca or Dr. Shawn Robinson: Tel. 506-529-5932 or robinsonsm@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca



Upcoming Events

Please let us know of any upcoming events that may be of interest to members in the AquaNet community. (email: info@aquanet.ca)

SEPTEMBER 26-29, 2004, HALIFAX, NS

49th annual Atlantic Fisheries Technology Conference

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2004, CAMPBELL RIVER, BC

Aquaculture Pacific Exchange - Conference and Exposition

