



## News Release

### **AquaNET initiates study on the development of vaccines to mitigate the devastating impact of two diseases on the health of cultured salmon**

**Vancouver, February 25, 2004** – AquaNET is issuing a directed call for proposals to develop novel and safe vaccines to reduce mortalities associated with two diseases of cultured salmonids in British Columbia. The diseases are Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV) and Soft Flesh Syndrome, a parasitic disease caused by *Kudoa thyrsites* (*Kudoa*). It is estimated that these diseases currently cost the British Columbia's aquaculture industry \$150M per year.

“Research is urgently needed to develop safe vaccines and stop the devastating effects these diseases are having on the health of cultured fish,” states AquaNET’s Executive Scientific Director, Dr. R. Scott McKinley. “AquaNET will respond by combining the Network’s research expertise with those involved in the fish health sector. This research will lead to a commercialisation strategy and reflect the Network’s principles of innovation and risk management.”

In 2003, AquaNET co-sponsored a research forum focused on IHNV that clearly outlined the need for research to develop effective and licensed vaccines that could be made available to the aquaculture industry. The goal of this call for proposals is to expedite the process of research, development and commercialisation of vaccines for treatments against IHNV and *Kudoa*.

All proposals submitted will be subject to AquaNET’s standard scientific peer review process. In addition, proposals will need to demonstrate relevance to the Canadian aquaculture sector; partnership support of at least 50% of the research costs; and commitment to a quick turn around of results.

Deadline for application is **March 25, 2004**.

For further information, please visit AquaNet’s website at [www.aquanet.ca](http://www.aquanet.ca) or Contact:

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