

AQUACULTURE INNOVATION AND MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM (AIMAP)

SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

- **The Government of Canada is committed to enhancing the sustainability and global competitiveness of Canada’s aquaculture industry by investing \$23.5 million over the next 5 years to spur innovation.**
- **The Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program (AIMAP) is designed to improve the competitiveness of the Canadian aquaculture industry by encouraging an aquaculture sector that continuously develops and adopts innovative technologies and management techniques to enhance its global competitiveness and environmental performance, along with positioning Canadian aquaculture products as having high value in the market place based on their environmental performance, traceability and other considerations.**
- **To date DFO has contributed \$9.4 million to 66 projects, with a total project value of nearly \$31.4 million.**

BACKGROUND

Budget 2008 announced \$70 million in funding for DFO over 5 years to address many of the sector specific constraints currently being experienced by the Canadian aquaculture industry. Within these funded parameters DFO has developed a new Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program (AIMAP).

AIMAP (\$4.7 million/year over 5 years) is a new nationally competitive grants and contribution program focusing on the competitiveness of existing products, new species development, environmental performance, and market access.

Funding for the program is allocated at the national level, with no regional allocation of funding. Annually \$4.5M is allocated for innovation projects and \$200,000 for market access activities.

For the first year of the program (08/09) 44 proposals requesting more than \$7M of AIMAP contributions and total project values of \$42M were received. The second year of the program (09/10) resulted in 117 proposals requesting \$32M from AIMAP, with total project values of \$101M.

The competition for the first call of Year 3 AIMAP (10/11) closed December 4, 2009 with 57 proposals requesting \$11.1 million from AIMAP funds, and total project values of nearly \$32 million. The national review committee met February 16 & 17 to review recommendations of the regional review committees. The national review committee recommended 27 innovation projects (\$3.7 M) and 3 market access projects (\$312,500) for funding.

Successful applicants will be notified the first week of March, with new projects commencing April 1, 2010. Please see the attached table for an overview of successful applicants and amounts awarded.

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