AQUACULTURE INNOVATION AND MARKET ACCESS
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
A call for proposals for the second year of the Aquaculture and Market Access Program (AIMAP) was launched in November. AIMAP aims to catalyze private sector and other investment that will improve the competitiveness of Canadian aquaculture through continuous development and adoption of innovation technologies and management techniques.

The deadline for submission of proposals is January 7, 2009.

The priority areas of AIMAP include sustainable production, diversification, and green technology. The priorities have been established through consultations with provinces, industry and other stakeholders.

For additional information on the program and priorities for 2009/2010, please visit www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/sustainable-durable/innovation-eng.htm

ACRDP 2008/2009 UPDATE
Aquaculture Collaborative Research and Development Program (ACRDP) is a collaborative R&D program between the aquaculture industry and DFO. Since the beginning of the program (2001-2007), ACRDP funded 230 projects worth $56M ($25.6M in ACRDP funds, $12.6M from industry contributions, $12.7M in other DFO funding and $5M from other partners).

For 2008/2009, the program is allocating $4.3M to 27 new projects and 30 ongoing projects, including 16 projects in the Pacific Region, 5 in the Central and Arctic, 12 in the Quebec Region, 20 in the Maritimes and Gulf Regions, and 4 in the Newfoundland Region. It is also funding a number of communications initiatives including the development of project fact sheets, key issue papers, and the 3rd bi-annual R&D Review summarizing current aquaculture research being undertaken in Canada. For more information, please visit: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/aquaculture/acrdp-pcrda/main_e.htm

AQUACULTURE SECTOR STRATEGIES INITIATIVE
DFO is undertaking a national aquaculture strategic action plan initiative to provide governments and industry with a modern, collaborative approach to the development of the aquaculture sector. The objectives of the initiative are to:

♦ establish measurable targets for development;
♦ outline roles and responsibilities;
♦ raise the profile of sustainable aquaculture.

Five action plans (west coast finfish and shellfish, freshwater, east coast finfish and shellfish) will be developed, building on existing strategies. The plans will set out steps to promote economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, and social acceptance of aquaculture.

The development of the plans will involve consultations with industry, government, communities and other stakeholders to be held from January through May 2009. The plans will be drafted in the summer, validated in the fall, and implemented from the beginning of the winter 2010.

FARMED SALMON: U.S. MARKETS

Prices of both fresh and fillet products in the U.S. dropped

U.S. salmon imports declined in Sept (in million US$)

Source: NMFS

Farmed salmon price US$/kg

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fresh (4 kg)</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fillet (1.3 kg)</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UB Comtell

Prices of both fresh and fillet products in the U.S. dropped

Source: UB Comtell
**AQUACULTURE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING INITIATIVE**

The production of aquaculture statistics began in 1991. Data were collected and released by Fisheries and Oceans up to 1994. In 1996, Statistics Canada published a time series, for the first time, using administrative data provided by each provincial ministry responsible for aquaculture.

In 1997, Statistics Canada introduced the value added account under the Unified Enterprise Survey Program designed to measure the economic contribution by the aquaculture sector to the economy. However, the survey does not address the concerns of Canadians regarding the environmental and social impact of aquaculture and the food safety of aquaculture products.

In 2009, Statistics Canada in cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans will be collecting additional information which will enable analysis of the social and economic benefits of the aquaculture industry and the advancements the industry has made in areas such as environmental management, food safety, traceability, fish health, and production efficiencies.

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**

**Marine Harvest Canada: Algae bloom slashes profitability in the third quarter**

In the Jun-Sept quarter, Marine Harvest Canada benefited from a relative strong market but suffered production and revenue losses as a result of an algae bloom and higher production of grade fish, reports Marine Harvest Group (link: [hugin.info/209/R/1269679/280874.pdf](http://hugin.info/209/R/1269679/280874.pdf)).

Due to higher mortality, production decreased 12% from the same period in 2007 to 6,827 tonnes. Revenues, however, increased by 7%, benefiting from a higher average price of salmon—Cdn$5.58/kg compared to Cdn$4.88/kg in the same period in the previous year. Below are the production trends (in tonnes) for Marine Harvest Group in Canada and three other major salmon producing countries:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>11,348</td>
<td>10,020</td>
<td>6,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>6,246</td>
<td>6,622</td>
<td>9,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>23,833</td>
<td>18,400</td>
<td>18,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>40,353</td>
<td>42,372</td>
<td>34,943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The rise in feed prices resulted in 11% increase in unit cost of production with respect to same period 2007.

The report forecasts a production of 9,000 tonnes in the final quarter and a total annual production of 37,000 tonnes for Marine Harvest Canada in 2008.

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Please send your comments to:
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**Last month’s events…**

**CAIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Canadian Aquaculture Industrial Alliance held its annual general meeting in Ottawa on Nov 25-27.

The ongoing economic crisis and challenges for the industry dominated the panel discussions, which featured industry analysts and industry representatives. The speakers noted that despite vulnerability, the Canadian industry would continue to benefit from Canada’s better financial markets and stronger retail markets.

Aquaculture Management Directorate presented the components of the new federal Sustainable Aquaculture Programme that is aimed to enhance the growth and competitiveness of the industry.

**ISO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE ANNUAL MEETING**

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Technical Committee (TC) 234—Fisheries and Aquaculture held its 2nd annual meeting in Madrid on Nov 11-12.

At the meeting, TC 234 established expert working groups to develop international standards (fisheries and aquaculture products) for aquaculture environmental monitoring and for traceability systems. The standards are expected to be complete by 2012. Member countries will nominate experts for the working groups by January 2009.

The next plenary meeting of TC 234 will be held in Canada in the fall of 2009.