

# *News Release*

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## **NEW BC AQUACULTURE PROJECTS TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMIES OF RURAL, COASTAL AND FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES**

**Campbell River, B.C.**—Three innovation projects designed to boost the productivity and economic performance of the aquaculture industry in B.C. will receive a total of \$524,000 in federal funding through the Government of Canada’s Aquaculture Innovation and Market Access Program (AIMAP).

“When we invest in our aquaculture industry, we are investing in improved conservation and sustainable jobs in British Columbia today and for years to come,” said Vancouver Island North MP John Duncan, who made the announcement on behalf of Fisheries Minister Gail Shea. “That is why our Government is investing \$23.5 million over the next five years to support the development of a vibrant and sustainable Canadian aquaculture industry that contributes to the economies of rural, coastal and First Nations communities.”

The projects, being lead by Kyuquot SEAfoods Ltd., the B.C. Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences and the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, include work to: develop environmentally friendly systems and components that will allow existing salmon farm infrastructure to be modified to incorporate the commercial-scale production of other marine species; to coordinate the development of additional aquaculture innovation projects, including providing information and expert advice to the industry; and transfer cryopreservation technology from fish growers in New Zealand to the aquaculture industry in Canada.

AIMAP’s overall goal is to support Canadian aquaculture and encourage innovation investments in this industry. Funding provided through the program will help recipients plan, manage and complete projects designed to enhance the productivity, economic viability and potential of the aquaculture industry in Canada, as well as to produce a healthy and nutritious food source.

Please visit the following website for more information on DFO’s aquaculture program and the AIMAP application process: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/sustainable-durable/innovation-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/sustainable-durable/innovation-eng.htm). For more information on the projects announced today, please view the media backgrounder on these initiatives at: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/back-fiche-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/media/back-fiche-eng.htm)

