

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW BRUNSWICK RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS PARTNER
TO AID LOCAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRIES**

Fredericton, Shippagan, July 16, 2007. - The New Brunswick Research & Productivity Council (RPC) of Fredericton, NB and the Coastal Zones Research Institute (CZRI) of Shippagan, NB have agreed to collaborate on several key research initiatives aimed at improving sustainability and profitability of local fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

RPC is a recognized leader in fish health diagnostics, genetics, microbiology & food science and the CZRI a leader in the development of shellfish, crustaceans and finfish which include several research areas such as nutrition, physiology, genetics and pathology.

Following several years of collaborative research involving projects ranging from fish health to genetics, RPC and CZRI have entered a three year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) capitalizing on the strengths of each organization and which outlines a joint plan for further research initiatives and publications.

Under the new agreement, RPC and CZRI will expand their collaboration to include research in the areas of alternative aquaculture species development, shellfish rearing and fish processing improvements, and the development of value added products and coproducts from the sea. Utilizing the expertise of both institutions will accelerate the field of research beyond that which one institution could do on it's own in helping to solve some of the pressing issues faced in both the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

One of the major catalysts to the formation of this partnership has been an ACOA-funded Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) project awarded to RPC for the development of probiotics for use in larviculture of alternative finfish species. The rearing of alternative species such as haddock has often been plagued by very low survival rates at the larval stages, being as low as 3-5% survival in some cases. The use of probiotics (live beneficial bacteria) has seen significant improvements in larval survival due to their ability to encourage the development of a healthy bacterial community with the larvae and exclude the establishment of harmful pathogens without the need for antibiotics.

Over the past year, Dr. Benjamin Forward of RPC has identified and developed over 30 different probiotic candidates for use with larviculture of haddock, cod and other species. Working with hatchery manager, Remy Hache, M.Sc. and the Scientific Director of the Aquaculture Division, Dr. Fabric Pernet of CZRI, some 23 different candidates have been tested with live larvae and show promise for improving survival in large scale production and the extension of this work to other species.

A new initiative (VALEUR.COM) is currently under evaluation by ACOA. This project relates to valorization of marine byproducts from the seafood processing plants. This project is under the direction of three researchers from CZRI, namely Dr. Sebastien Plante, Nadia Tchoukanova, M.Sc. and Dr. Jacques Gagnon. RPC will be instrumental in contaminants testing. Future collaborations are already planned in other research projects.

- more -

RPC is an independent contract R&D and technical services organization located in Fredericton, NB. RPC's complement of 100 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 13,000 sq. meter facility housing world-class analytical chemistry and material-testing laboratories. RPC is accredited by various organizations including SCC (Standard Council of Canada), CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) and CAEAL (Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories) and is ISO 9001:2000 certified. Success in accreditation programs assures our clients that our services can be relied upon to meet all essential standards of quality.

CZRI is a private non-profit institution affiliated with the Université de Moncton, Shippagan Campus (New Brunswick). CZRI's complement of 40 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 2325 sq. meter facility in the main pavilion, housing numerous state of the art analytical chemistry laboratories and equipment and in the aquaculture pavilion research facilities including dry lab and 14 wet laboratories. CZRI analytical laboratories are accredited by CAEAL (Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories) and is ISO IEC 17025 certified and is accredited by CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency).

RPC and CZRI are confident that this MOU will benefit both research institutes and the industry.

- 30 -

Contact for RPC :

Rachael Ritchie and Ben Forward
Research and Productivity Council (RPC)
506 452-1365
www.rpc.ca

Contact for CZRI:

Fabrice Pernet and Jacques Gagnon
Coastal Zones Research Institute Inc.
506 336-6600
irzc.umcs.ca