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SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
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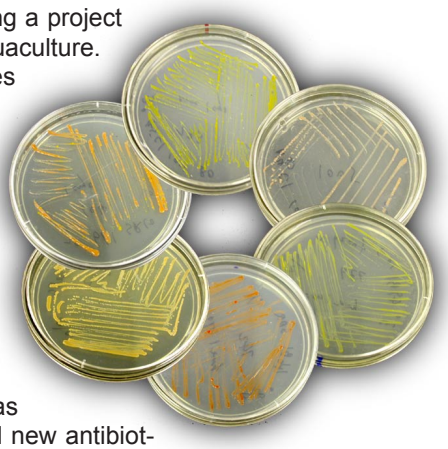
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fish Probioics May Have Human Medical Applications

Fredericton, January 6, 2012 - Probiotics are bacteria which confer benefit to their environment. Already widely employed in food products such as yogurts, bacteria have many other applications including mineral extraction, environmental processes and aquaculture.



Dr. Ben Forward, Senior Scientist with RPC's Bioscience group, has been leading a project to develop probiotics and other novel bacterially derived products for use in aquaculture. This research, initiated through funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) allowed RPC to establish significant expertise in the areas of probiotic discovery, testing and application, and in the related area of bio-prospecting.

Dr. Forward has established a collection of over 1800 bacteria derived from a variety of New Brunswick's unique coastal marine environments. Many of the bacteria in the library appear to be new species as well as those which have not been previously cultured. These bacteria have been screened for probiotics and antimicrobials for use in aquaculture.

Recent collaboration with MARBIONC's Dr. Jeffrey Wright in North Carolina has identified potential for human health applications such as cancer treatments and new antibiotics. Dr. Forward observes that, "The neat thing about bacteria is that they can have quite complex biochemistries, which allows them to synthesize some very complicated molecules that you probably couldn't synthesize in a lab."

Land-based microbials have led to important drug discoveries; the ocean represents a new, and expansive source of new biomolecules that may hold the solutions to the next generation of human health products.

To view the CBC video see:
http://www.cbc.ca/video/#/News/Local_News/NB/1317906492/ID=2183755106

To view the CBC web site story see:
http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/story/2012/01/04/nb-marine-bacteria-cancer-fighting.html

About RPC
RPC is New Brunswick's provincial research organization (PRO), an independent contract research and development and technical services organization located in Fredericton, NB. RPC's complement of 98 scientists, engineers and technologists are supported by a 13,000 sq. meter facility housing world-class analytical chemistry and material-testing laboratories, comprehensive life science capabilities, an internationally recognized fish health lab, extensive prototype design, manufacturing and testing services, and a wide variety of pilot facilities for the development and improvement of industrial and environmental processes and products.

RPC is accredited by various organizations including the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and is ISO 9001:2008 certified. Further information about RPC's services is available from http://www.rpc.ca.

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