

## **Call For Proposals – July 2007**

**The Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum (SARF) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for research and development projects in the following areas:**

**NOTE: Applicants must ensure that they can comply with the terms and conditions of the standard SARF contract which can be downloaded from the following web address: <http://www.sarf.org.uk/downloads/>**

### **DETAILS:**

**Project Area 1. Evaluation of risks of transmission and possible treatments to minimise the risk of transfer of parasites, infectious disease and pest species such as Signal Crayfish, between freshwater aquaculture sites and also freshwater fisheries through treatments to water used in the transport of live rainbow and brown trout.**

#### Research requirement:

The outcome of this research project should be a best practice guide to minimising the risk of transfer of parasites, infectious disease and pest species such as Signal Crayfish, founded on sound risk-based epidemiological and practical principles. Where appropriate, it is anticipated that models of risk will be validated in field experiments. Dissemination of this information to appropriate stakeholders must form a part of the work programme.

Estimated maximum contribution: £55K (including VAT where applicable)  
Estimated timescale: 12 months

**Project Area 2. Assessment of the potential to reduce the infaunal species list required to give an indication of stress in sediments.**

#### Research requirement:

SEPA require operators to submit environmental surveys of the sea bed around the cages. The analysis of the benthic fauna component of the gathered samples is time consuming, expensive and can only be carried out by highly trained and experienced analysts. Results of a recent fish farm Data Review Project indicate that there may be potential to develop a reduced species list that might be robust enough to give an indication of stress within the sediments. If such a list could be developed then it would open the way for the analysis of benthic faunal samples to be speeded up, be less expensive and the turnaround times would be more realistic. SARF is seeking further statistical assessment of the SEPA dataset to determine whether a reduced species list can be achieved.

Estimated maximum contribution: £15K (including VAT where applicable)  
Estimated timescale: 4 months

***Project Area 3. Improve understanding of species specific requirements for marine finfish cultivation.***

Research requirement:

There is a general requirement to minimise (i) environmental impact due to feed and (ii) inter-fish competition for feed on marine cage farms; by designing species-specific feed regimes based upon research into: feed delivery systems, feed monitoring systems, fish feeding behaviour, environmental / site parameters and farm management systems. SARF is seeking applications which will address these issues.

Estimated maximum project contribution: £90K (including VAT where applicable)

Estimated timescale: 36 months

***Project Area 4. Effectiveness of Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) as a method of predator control at fish-farms and assessment of their effects on cetacean and pinniped distribution and behaviour.***

Research requirement:

There is a requirement to investigate the impacts of the current ADDs available on cetacean distribution and behaviour, as recent research in Scotland is limited and has shown contradictory results. In addition there is a need to clarify the effectiveness of ADDs as a predator control method.

Field work, using sightings of cetaceans/pinnipeds and acoustic survey methodologies, should provide results that will assist in assessing and minimising the impacts of ADDs upon protected species and provide evidence of ADD efficacy. This work, together with an assessment of how ADDs are currently used in the industry, will help to develop recommendations of best practice for ADD use. This research will help fish-farms and competent authorities to comply with national and international nature conservation duties.

Estimated maximum contribution: £55K (including VAT where applicable)

Estimated timescale: 12 months

***Project Area 5. Assessment of evidence that fish farming impacts on tourism.***

Research requirement:

There is a need to independently establish whether there is any evidence to support the contention that aquaculture has an impact on tourism in Scotland and, if so, to define the scope and scale of such impact in recognised social and economic terms.

Estimated maximum contribution: £35K (including VAT where applicable)

Estimated timescale: 12 months

***Project Area 6. Socio-economic assessment of potential impacts of new/amended legislation (e.g. conservation designations - National Park, Nationally Important Marine Areas) on the cultivation of fish and shellfish species of current commercial importance.***

Research requirement:

There is a requirement for an independent assessment of the potential social and economic impacts of new and amended legislation relevant to conservation designations such as National Parks and Nationally Important Marine Areas with respect to both fish and shellfish aquaculture in Scotland.

Estimated maximum contribution: £35K (including VAT where applicable)

Estimated timescale: 12 months

## **IMPORTANT - NOTES FOR APPLICANTS**

Date of publication of call: **31/7/07**

**Deadline for submission of applications – 2/10/07**

Expected date for announcement of outcome of application: **27/11/07**

Expected start date for projects: **08/01/2008 or as soon as possible thereafter**

Application forms can be downloaded from the SARF website: <http://www.sarf.org.uk/downloads.html>

Applications should be submitted by email to: [research@sarf.org.uk](mailto:research@sarf.org.uk). A signed copy of the Declaration page of the application form only, should be sent by mail to the address provided on the application form.

All prospective applicants should refer to the Download section of the SARF website for Guidelines, Application forms and a copy of the Standard SARF Contract. **Applicants must ensure that they can meet the terms and conditions set out in the SARF contract. Variations to the contract will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and these will need to be formally agreed before an application is submitted.**

SARF does **not** accept unsolicited proposals and is not obliged to fund projects in the areas defined in this call.

Any inquiries related to this call for proposals should be directed to: Dr Mark James

Email: [majames@frmltd.com](mailto:majames@frmltd.com)

Tel:+44(0)1350 727484