EXHIBIT 109

The 2009 Research Award of Excellence goes to Drs. Thierry Chopin and Shawn Robinson, in recognition of their contributions to taking the concept of Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) from the 'proof stage' to the realm of commercial production with the help of their interdisciplinary team and industry partners. They realized that most of the challenges that would accompany large-scale IMTA development could not be thoroughly anticipated or studied in the laboratory or with pilot-scale projects and, consequently, emphasized the need for scientific research and commercial IMTA to develop together. This is what is now occurring, and to date no 'deal breakers' for the adoption of commercial IMTA have been identified. Their IMTA research has truly been an aquaculture good news story, with few aquaculture research projects having generated such international interest in mainstream and environmental non governmental organization (ENGO) media, including a National Geographic documentary.
Dr. Chopin was born and educated in France, where he obtained his Doctorate from the University of Western Brittany in 1985. He moved to Canada in 1989 and is now a Professor of Marine Biology at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John. He is Past President of the Phycological Society of America (2004) and of the Aquaculture Association of Canada (2004-05), and current President of the International Seaweed Association (2007-10).
Dr. Robinson was born in British Columbia and educated on both the east and west coasts, obtaining his PhD in 1988 at the University of British Columbia. He began his career with Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a research scientist at the Biological Station in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, in 1988. He is also a Past President of the Aquaculture Association of Canada (2002-03).

Dr. Chopin was originally an ecophysiologist and biochemist working on the relationship between nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) and the production of phycocolloids in seaweeds of commercial value, both in controlled culture conditions and natural beds. Dr. Robinson was an invertebrate ecologist interested in applying ecological principles to the harvest and culture of commercial species (scallops, clams and sea urchins) so that more efficient and sustainable commercial practices could be developed. They became interested in aquaculture in the late 1990's when they realized that the significant amount of inorganic nutrients and organic particles generated by fed finfish (salmon) aquaculture could be used to enhance the cultivation of extractive species, such as seaweeds (kelps and dulse) and invertebrates (suspension feeders such as mussels, and deposit feeders such as sea urchins, sea cucumbers and polychaetes), through the development of IMTA systems.

In 2000, Drs. Chopin and Robinson assembled an inter-disciplinary team to investigate the different, complex and inter-related aspects of IMTA. This team included natural and socioeconomic scientists and graduate students from the University of New Brunswick and the St. Andrews Biological Station, industrial partners (Heritage Salmon Ltd. and now Cooke Aquaculture Inc., Acadian Seaplants Limited and Ocean Nutrition Canada) and federal and provincial agencies (Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, New Brunswick Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and New Brunswick Innovation Foundation). They were funded from 2001 to 2006 by AquaNet, Canada's Network of Centres of Excellence for Aquaculture, which allowed them to make excellent progress in R&D due to the dedication of the team members and their interdisciplinary approach. Since 2006, the project has expanded from R&D to C (commercialization) with the support of ACOA's Atlantic Innovation Fund and industrial partners Cooke Aquaculture Inc. and Acadian Seaplants Limited. In 2008, Drs. Chopin and Robinson, now recognized as world leaders in the development of IMTA, were among the key players in the creation of the Canadian IMTA Network (CIMTAN), which became a reality in 2009. This pan-Canadian academic/government/industry partnership will provide the interdisciplinary R&D and the training of highly qualified personnel needed for the commercialization of IMTA in Canada, with a focus on 1) ecological design, ecosystem interactions and biomitigation efficiencies, 2) system innovation and engineering, 3) economic viability and societal acceptance, and 4) regulatory science.

Source : www.aquacultureassociation.ca

DFO website:

Canadian Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture Network

Prompted by the need for a concerted and strategic approach to the development of IMTA throughout Canada, the Canadian Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture Network (CIMTAN) was established under the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Strategic Network Grants program. This network involves 26 scientists from eight universities, six DFO locations and one provincial institution. CIMTAN research centers on areas of environmental system performance and species interactions, system design and engineering, and economic analysis and social implications. CIMTAN is funded by NSERC, DFO, the University of New Brunswick, and four industrial partners: Cooke Aquaculture Inc., Grieg Seafood BC, Kyuquot SEAfoods Ltd., and Marine Harvest Canada Ltd.