



## APRIL NEWSLETTER

Edition 1

### Co-ordinator's Introduction

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Welcome to the first issue of the Aquagenome newsletter! This EU-funded co-ordination action aims to improve the co-ordination of ongoing and future European research projects in the field of fish and shellfish genomics. This challenging goal will not only involve researchers but also aquaculture stakeholders and this involvement will aim to stimulate dialogues between these two communities. In this context, the production of a newsletter will be one of the tools aiming to develop some of these communication exchanges and contribute to structuring relevant proposals for the development of genomics in aquaculture. The success of this project will rely on the participation of all interested persons and in the success of the dissemination of information through this newsletter: Therefore, please transmit this newsletter to all contacts/colleagues you think they may be interested in learning about the activities of this project.

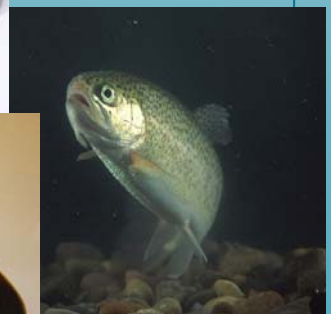
**Patrick Prunet**

To contact the Co-ordinator of Aquagenome please email Patrick Prunet at the following address:

[Patrick.Prunet@rennes.inra.fr](mailto:Patrick.Prunet@rennes.inra.fr)

The Aquagenome website is under construction, but some initial information can be found at:

<http://genomics.aqauculture-europe.org>





## **AQUAGENOME – Genomics in fish and shellfish: From re- search to aquaculture**

Aquagenome was a project that was constructed as an EU proposal in response to the FP6 call in Priority 8.1 – Policy-orientated research – Scientific support to policies (SSP). The project has now been launched and activities are already underway.

The proposal has been given the name AQUAGENOME – Genomics in fish and shellfish: From re- search to aquaculture, and aims to address the need for co-ordinated action in the application of ge- nomics in aquaculture. The proposal brings together 10 partners, including:

1. Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (France)
2. Institute of Marine Research (Norway)
3. Algarve University (Portugal)
4. Zoological Institute of Goteborg University (Sweden)
5. University of Stirling (Scotland)
6. Syndicat des Selectionneurs Avicoles et Aquacoles Francais (France)
7. Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (Greece)
8. Instituto Investigaciones Marinas (Spain)
9. Russian Federal Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (Russia)
10. Genesis Faraday (Scotland)



The main aims of the project will be:

- To inventory existing genomic resources and identify and evaluate new bioinformatics re- sources, genomic information and tools that are vital for the development of European aquacul- ture.
- To identify specific research domains in which genomic approaches should be developed in order to support the European aquaculture industry.
- To support exchanges of scientists and genomic resources between members of the AQUA- GENOME Associated Partner Network created.
- To determine the required actions to apply genomic tools and knowledge in an effective and sustainable manner in aquaculture, by interacting with producers and stakeholders.

### **Sign Up to Receive Aquagenome News**

If you would like to add your details to the distribution list for further news regarding the Aquagenome, please email [carol.didcock@genesis-faraday.org](mailto:carol.didcock@genesis-faraday.org). By signing up to the distribution list you will automati- cally receive all further newsletters, announcements of funding opportunities, details regarding workshops and other opportunities.

Please also invite your colleagues to sign up to the distribution list.



## Mini Symposium - State-of-the-art and future of genomics in aquaculture research

**Bergen – 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2007**

A mini-symposium is being planned to explore the use of genomics in major research domains and with high relevance to European aquaculture. The presentations will begin with an update on the status of genomic tools in aquaculture species and the outcomes of the Aquafunc project. There will then be a series of presentations and discussion sessions regarding topics that are relevant in European aquaculture and to which genomic approaches may bring substantial information, these will include subjects such as host-pathogen interactions, growth and nutrition and breeding. In addition there will also be some input to the discussions from representatives from industry, consumers and governments.

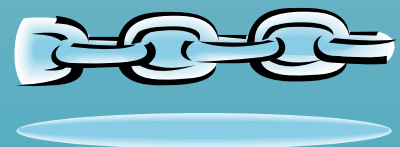
Please look out for further announcements regarding the mini symposium in the next few months, including details of how to register.



## Link Between AQUAFUNC and AQUAGENOME

The coordinators of the specific support action (SSA), **AQUAFUNC**, Fp 6, which has the objective of integrating the outcome of projects using functional genomics and related technologies to contribute to building a common knowledge base in aquaculture, would like to announce two upcoming events. A journal issue is being edited by Profs. K Sundell (University of Göteborg) and D.M. Power (CCMAR, Universidade do Algarve) which contains scientific reviews which synthesize important progress made in Fp5 and Fp6 projects using molecular methodologies in aquaculture. The peer reviewed papers will be published in a special journal issue of *Reviews in Fisheries Science* (Editor-in-Chief Robert R Stickney - Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas). It is hoped that the journal issue will hit the presses in August and be in print by September/October, although a sneak preview of the journal contents can be obtained by consulting the **Aquafunc/Aquagenome** website (<http://genomics.aquaculture-europe.org/>).

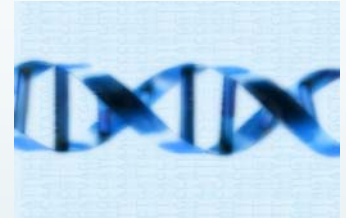
A further initiative which has the specific objective of divulging the progress of Fp5 and 6 projects in aquaculture to the Industry and public in general will be the presence of **Aquafunc** and **Aquagenome** project members at the AQUA NOR and AQUA NOR FORUM, Trondheim, in August 2007. The **Aquafunc** project and its main outcomes will be presented in a trade stand together with the first public launching of the **Aquagenome** project. We hope to meet as many people as possible in Trondheim. This event will mark the end of the **Aquafunc** project which will hand over to **Aquagenome**.





## Mobility grants and Research Exchange grants

Aquagenome will fund mobility of scientists and resources between European laboratories in the field of genomics in fish and shellfish aquaculture.



An extensive core of genomic tools and expertise generated by both European and National projects is spread among European research laboratories. The objective of mobility grants for individual training activity as well as for exchange of genomic resources is to support diffusion of genomic approaches within research laboratories in the field of genomics in fish and shellfish aquaculture. It was decided at the inception of the mobility grants and resource exchange grants that a “bottom-up” approach would be taken rather than pre-defining research areas within aquaculture genomics. It is hoped that this approach will widen the scope of the mobility grants and allow the greatest number as possible of European scientists to have access to this scheme.

Detailed information on calls for grants, guidelines for proposers, application forms and conditions for reporting along with forms for reporting and reimbursement will be posted on the Aquagenome webpage (<http://genomics.aquaculture-europe.org/>).

The first call for grants will be launched at the Aquagenome web site April 25<sup>th</sup> and the first of 6 cut-off dates for applications will be July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007.

Preference will be given to applications from junior scientists from research or the aquaculture industry. Women are encouraged to apply. The impact of these schemes will be assessed from short visit follow-up reports to be presented by the grant awardees and acknowledgement in scientific publications.

The coordinators of the **Mobility grants and Research Exchange grants** within the Aquagenome consortium are Profs. K Sundell ([k.sundell@zool.gu.se](mailto:k.sundell@zool.gu.se)) and D.M. Power ([dpower@alg.pt](mailto:dpower@alg.pt)) who will receive the applications and coordinate their evaluation.



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