Introduction to the UK Aquaculture Initiative

Jodie Mitchell, NERC and Charis Cook, BBSRC
The story so far:

2013
Aquaculture Strategy - Initial scoping of interest

Mar 2014
Foster collaborations & Include policy/other funders - Report is available

Oct 2014
Based on collaboration from workshop - 120 academics 20 projects £5M

Nov 2014
EoI and full applications - Sandpit February 2015 - Panel meeting 29 May 2015

Mar 2015
Pull together industry, policy & funding stakeholders - Report is available

Oct 2015
Working Group meeting - Report is available
Sustainable Aquaculture capacity-building research call (*phase 1*)
Launched October 2014
£5.8m (£5m from BBSRC & NERC)

**Priority areas**

1. Mechanisms of disease
2. Biology of health and disease resistance
3. Immunology of infection and protection
4. Tools, methods and technologies for diagnostics and experimental resources
5. New technologies for modelling weather and climate-related hazards
6. Determining interactions between wild and farmed fish
7. Assessing the long-term environmental capacity for increased aquaculture production

![Number of proposals](chart)
Sustainable Aquaculture capacity-building research call (*phase I*)

- The call received 63 applications representing 192 named researchers.
- The call was successful in attracting 41 researchers who were new to the aquaculture sector.

Backgrounds of named investigators on Sustainable Aquaculture capacity-building call applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Number of named investigators on:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background in Aquaculture</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New to Aquaculture</td>
<td>41</td>
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BBSRC and NERC Sustainable Aquaculture Industry Workshop – 26 March, Edinburgh

AIMS:
• Develop plans for multi-million pound investment in research and research translation.
• Engage businesses in determining the scope of an industrially relevant pre-competitive funding programme and its strategic direction.
• Introduce options for the programme delivery model and industry contribution.

• Over 70 delegates
• Significant outputs from two breakout sessions
UK Aquaculture Initiative

- Joint BBSRC-NERC programme, co-funded by Marine Scotland Science, Cefas, Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland Scotland
- Aim of developing a healthy, safe and sustainable UK aquaculture system
- £6 million over 5 years
- ‘Phase 2’ made up of 3 stages:
  1. Innovation projects call (including a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship)
  2. Networks in finfish and shellfish
     - Delivery of a Research and Innovation Strategy
  3. Collaborative research call
Why this approach?

The mixed-model approach will build a cohesive, connected aquaculture community that delivers solutions to industry needs.

- Encourage uptake of NERC and BBSRC science by industry
- Foster data sharing and long-lasting collaborations between complementary projects
- Develop a cohesive funding programme based on a community-led strategy
- Address cross-sector issues such as public perception
Knowledge Exchange Fellowship

- Work across biological and environmental science disciplines
- Broker links between academics and businesses of the UK aquaculture community
- Provide expert input and advice to the Networks
- Project duration: up to 3 years
- Between 60% and 80% FTE
- Up to £100k per annum
- Opening date: 4th February 2016
- Closing date 17th March 2016
- See NERC knowledge exchange webpages for more info.
Innovation projects call

- £1.2M available, £250k per project (max)
- Project duration: 2 years (max)
- Two stages: outline and full proposal
- Call opens: 29\textsuperscript{th} February 2016
- Outline closing date: 26\textsuperscript{th} April 2016
- Must involve an ‘end-user’
- Innovation projects should use or translate existing data, knowledge, expertise, techniques and technologies into new tools, technologies and approaches which meet a specific end-user need or to support decision-making.
Networks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intention to submit</td>
<td>29 Feb – 24 Mar 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicants’ workshop</td>
<td>20 Apr 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-stage proposals</td>
<td>20 Apr – 4 Jul 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networks launch</td>
<td>Sept – Dec 2016</td>
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£0.6M for one or two networks, initially for three years

Applicants must demonstrate ability to:

- Engage and lead a community of academics and companies
- Encourage and enable data sharing and collaboration
- Facilitate co-working to address challenges eg responsible innovation
- Community-led development of a research and innovation strategy to advise on major Research Council investment
Collaborative research

• £4 million investment informed by strategy developed by Networks

• May include:
  – Proof-of-concept funding
  – Collaborative research
  – Training
  – Pilot studies
Thematic areas – *in no particular order*

1. Monitoring and control of health and disease
2. Sustainable, nutritional feedstocks
3. Understanding and managing the effects of aquaculture on the environment
4. Understanding and managing the effects of the environment on aquaculture
5. Breeding and genetics approaches for stock enhancement
6. Finfish welfare

Cross-cutting issues

1. New facilities and technologies for monitoring and predicting risks, and to enhance the capacity of aquaculture
2. Data sharing and management
3. Safe food for human consumption
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Thank you

Any questions?