



UNH Hosts Canada / U.S. Sustainable Offshore Aquaculture Workshop

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DURHAM, N.H. -- The University of New Hampshire, the Canadian Consulate General, and the National Research Council of Canada are teaming up to host "Technology Partnership in Sustainable and Open Ocean Aquaculture," a workshop to be held Nov. 1 and 2 at UNH.

Seafood production from aquaculture now accounts for nearly 50 percent of the world supply. As the global appetite for seafood continues to rise, several countries have begun to explore the potential of farming finfish and shellfish offshore. This workshop will bring together U.S. and Canadian scientists, environmentalists, business leaders, and government representatives to discuss the challenges and opportunities of farming the deep blue.

"Offshore aquaculture has a great deal of potential, but for it to succeed, we need to work together, across national borders and disciplines," says Richard Langan, director of the newly established UNH Atlantic Marine Aquaculture Center. "The workshop is an opportunity to share ideas, develop joint ventures, and plan strategies to address the challenges of offshore aquaculture."

Workshop participants will explore environmental considerations related to offshore aquaculture, regulatory issues, technology development, and fish husbandry. Researchers and industry representatives have agreed to discuss research and development priorities that will enable commercial development of open ocean aquaculture in the near future.

"We hope this workshop will open up new technology commercialization opportunities and research partnerships for open ocean aquaculture," says Jacques Ruel, Consul for Science & Technology Partnering at the Canadian Consulate General in Boston.

"This is an opportunity to facilitate a dialogue and encourage further collaboration between major academic and industry players, as well as to encourage more cooperation between Canada and the New England states in the area of technology development for open ocean aquaculture," Ruel adds.

The newly established Atlantic Marine Aquaculture Center is a partnership of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and UNH. The center is dedicated to the development of sustainable aquaculture practices and technology.