



MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND ANTARCTIC STUDIES

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

The good oil on alternative aquafeeds – research collaboration receives inaugural award

A group of researchers investigating how to replace fish oil in Australian aquafeeds has been awarded the Aquaculture Science Research Award at the Australasian Aquaculture Awards.

Professor Chris Carter from the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) is part of the award-winning team. "Essentially the team has been recognised for helping Australian aquaculturists plan for a more sustainable future, in both economic and environmental senses, by reducing dependence on imported fish oil as an ingredient in aquafeeds," he said.

The inaugural Australasian Aquaculture Awards, aka the 'Blue Thumbs', sponsored by the Global Aquaculture Alliance Best Aquaculture Practices (GAA-BAP) certification program at Australasian Aquaculture 2012, recognised the application of innovative and sustainable practices that will have a lasting impact on Australasian aquaculture.

The Aquaculture Science Research Award recognised collaborative research involving IMAS, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, Deakin University, and CSIRO's Food Futures Flagship.

Prof Carter and Dr Nichols (CSIRO), with their PhD students and collaborators, undertook research on fish oil replacement in mainly Atlantic salmon and barramundi. The team conducted some of the first research on Atlantic salmon into the effects of elevated temperature on salmon omega 3 fatty acids, on the use of novel plant oils to stimulate expression of genes involved in omega 3 fatty acid synthesis, and on using novel marine microorganisms with high omega 3 levels in feeds.

"An important part of the research has been research training; many of our PhD students are now making significant contributions through their industry positions or as researchers. The team would really like to acknowledge their contribution and also the contribution of our other collaborators," Prof Carter said.

“The replacement of marine products in aquafeeds, including fish oil and fish meal, continues to be hugely important to ensure sustainable aquaculture. Sustainable aquaculture is essential to global food security and human health. Australia has best-practice industry and is at the forefront of research to ensure this happens.

“I am very honoured that our contribution has been recognised,” Prof Carter said.

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