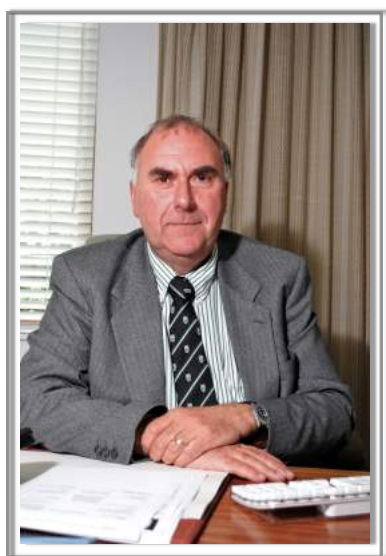


aquacultureNEWS



2013 has been a very productive period for the Institute of Aquaculture, which continued with a phase of expansion that saw the last of 11 new academic posts filled. These have enabled us to expand into new and emerging disciplines, namely marine biotechnology, aquatic food security, bioinformatics, modeling and virology. Two of our long serving academic colleagues were promoted, with congratulations going to James Bron and Kim Thompson, who were appointed to a well deserved Personal Chair and Readership, respectively. We said farewell to Derek Robertson, who was the Director of the External Facilities for many years; Mairi Cowan left MERL having been awarded a Marie Curie Research Fellowship to join the Fish Research Group at University of Cadiz in southern Spain; Andy Shinn left at the end of the year to join his wife in Thailand. We wish them all well for the future.

We were saddened to lose two former colleagues, James Muir and Rod Wootten, during the year. Both were well known in the aquaculture industry, and had achieved international reputations for their leading edge research. We will miss them greatly.

We continue to be active in co-operative ventures, including The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland [MASTS] in which Jimmy Turnbull is the Productive Seas Theme Leader, and Brendan McAndrew is the Sustainable Aquaculture Forum Convenor. Also, during the year we were active in developing a bid to the Scottish Funding Council with support from Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the aquaculture industry for an industry-focused Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre [SAIC], the outcome of which was a recommendation for funding by a review panel. The core function of SAIC will be to release the potential for growth through effective collaboration between the industry and the Scottish research community. This will include coordinated problem solving to address the major constraints to growth and development, support for new businesses and ensuring effective knowledge exchange. SAIC will be an effective one-stop-shop for expertise, investment, problem-solving and knowledge exchange. The negotiations with the funders are continuing, and should be concluded early in the new year.

This issue of Aquaculture News focuses on some of our current research activities including the use of lighting regimes on fish productivity and welfare, the exciting work involving the testing of Omega 3 levels in human blood, and chronotoxicity, i.e. the study of temporal variation in effects of chemicals administered at difference times of the day.

Professor Brian Austin Director

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