PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

The primary objective of the Fisheries Technology and New Opportunities Program (FTNOP) is to provide support for harvesting, processing, aquaculture development, and marketing initiatives in order to diversify and increase the overall viability of the provincial seafood industry. This program helps the fishing and the aquaculture industries become more innovative and competitive, while building a safer and more stable foundation.

The focus of FTNOP is research and development work in the harvesting and processing sectors, and growth in strategic areas of the aquaculture industry. In the harvesting and processing sectors, emphasis is on the adaptation of new technology, more efficient utilization of traditional species, better use of under-utilized species and enhanced value-realization of all fisheries resources. Emphasis will also be placed on recovery of raw material wastage and reduced discarding of fishery by-products. In the aquaculture sector, emphasis is on diversifying production, maintaining competiveness, increasing capacity in the supply and service sector, improving product quality, and enhancing sustainability.

These initiatives help ensure the Newfoundland and Labrador fishing and aquaculture industries continue to be a major economic contributor to the provincial economy.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The FTNOP is comprised of department-initiated, as well as industry-led projects. The focus is on research and development work in all sectors, with an emphasis on the adaptation of innovative technologies and methods. Opportunities for further fisheries development include traditional species such as groundfish, crab, shrimp, seal, herring, and mackerel, and innovative efforts to capitalize on other species such as sea cucumber, whelk and hagfish. Opportunities also exist to improve the commercial value of fisheries resources through innovative by-product recovery. Processing of by-products presents opportunities for increased revenues to the industry through ensiled feeds, chitin/chitosan derivatives and other uses.

Aquaculture proposals will be prioritized based on the three commercial species, Atlantic salmon, steelhead trout and blue mussels, as well as the development species, Atlantic cod.

Market research, development and promotion are undertaken in support of these various initiatives.
FUNDING LEVELS

The maximum contribution for any one project will not exceed $100,000. Projects initiated by DFA may be funded to 100%.

Projects initiated by non-profit institutions, associations or community groups may be funded up to 100% of cost (depending on partnership contributions from other funding agencies), inclusive of contracted labour, material and supplies. In all proposals, there should be a demonstration of solid industry partnership and commitment to projects. This would be demonstrated through the provision of some partial funding, labour, or raw material costs, etc.

The level of contribution for industry-led projects will vary by project, depending on factors such as: the level of risk to the applicant, the potential for broad industry application, and the nature of the applicant’s contribution, but will not normally exceed a maximum of 60% of eligible expenses.

FTNOP funding is not intended to replace existing administrative or overhead expenditures of any applicant.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

The following proponents are eligible for project assistance under the FTNOP:
• Licensed (in good standing) Newfoundland and Labrador harvesters, fish processing establishments and aquaculture companies, including the supply and service sector.
• Research and development institutions, fisheries organizations, community groups, development associations, and corporate entities involved in the harvesting, processing, farming, or marketing of fish products in Newfoundland and Labrador.
• Research and development enterprises, consultants, engineering companies, naval architects, fishing vessel designers, and fabricators.
• Eligible proponents also include enterprises involved in harvesting and aquaculture technology, as well as processing machinery fabrication and design.

Eligible types of activities include:
• Recovery of discards
• Alternative harvesting, processing and aquaculture technology
• Pilot projects
• Test fisheries
• Resource surveys
• Gear demonstrations
• Product development
• By-product development
• Market research
• Increased market awareness and market development into new domestic and international markets
• Quality improvement initiatives
• Initiatives to improve safety
• Energy efficiency initiatives
• Developing hatchery capacity
• Developing new growing areas
• Promoting sustainable development
Fisheries Technology and New Opportunities Program

Drop chain floatgear installation on a traditional shrimp trawl.

Project activities not eligible for funding include:

- Working capital
- Commonly used and/or traditional fish harvesting gear
- Commonly used and/or traditional processing technology
- Standard aquaculture equipment/technology/vessels
- Normal maintenance expenditures and repairs
- Expansion to primary processing capacity
- Buildings and works
- Projects by companies, groups, or individuals who are in default of debts to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and any related companies, associates or entities
- Debt refinancing
- Combining of enterprises
- Recurring participation in marketing events and trade shows
- Undertakings more suitable for alternate funding
- Recurring participation in marketing events and trade shows
APPLICATION/PROJECT PROPOSAL:

In order to be considered for funding, an application form and detailed project proposal must be submitted to:

Program Coordinator
Fisheries Technology and New Opportunities Program
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Petten Building
30 Strawberry Marsh Road
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6
Phone: (709) 729-0118
Fax: (709) 729-1884
E-mail: mrumboldt@gov.nl.ca

For additional information, please contact the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture regional office in your area as follows:

Western Region
Wilson Goosney,
Regional Director
P.O. Box 2006
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6J8
Tel. (709) 637-2565
Fax. (709) 637-2908
E-mail: wgoosney@gov.nl.ca

Aquaculture
58 Hardy Avenue
P.O Box 679
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL
A2A 2K2
Tel: (709) 292-4100
Fax: (709) 292-4113
Email: aquaculture@gov.nl.ca

Northern Region
Craig Taylor,
Regional Director
P.O. Box 3014, Station B
Happy Valley–Goose Bay, NL
A0P 1E0
Tel: (709) 896-3412
Fax: (709) 896-3483
E-mail: craig.taylor@gov.nl.ca

Eastern Region
Ron Brown,
Regional Director (A)
P. O. Box 880
Grand Bank, NL A0E 1W0
Tel: (709) 729-1143
Fax: (709) 729-1881
E-mail: ronbrown@gov.nl.ca

For more information go to our website: http://www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca