

## **Scientist at Malaspina's Centre for Shellfish Research Receives Aquaculture Innovation Award**

Malaspina's Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR) is pleased to announce that Dr. Abayomi (Yomi) Alabi recently received a prestigious BC Innovation Council *Aquaculture & Environment Innovation Award*. This award is intended to catalyze the formation of long-term collaborative research that will lead to environmental sustainability solutions for BC aquaculture.

Dr. Alabi is the Research Manager of the CSR's Shellfish Health and Husbandry Research Program. The award will enable Dr. Alabi to expand his research program to meet the critical needs of the BC shellfish aquaculture industry.

"Maintenance of a healthy marine environment is essential to the future of the shellfish aquaculture industry", says Dr. Alabi. "This award will allow the development of a long-term research program that provides a broader, more systematic understanding of the interrelationships between shellfish aquaculture husbandry practices, the marine environment and animal health."

The *Aquaculture & Environment Innovation Award* reflects an exciting new emphasis in the Innovation Council's support for aquacultural research. Valued at \$200,000 over a 5 year period, the award will allow Dr. Alabi to leverage additional funds from other sources to further develop his research program.

"Over the past several years, the Council has supported the development of aquaculture research capacity by funding short-term projects", says Don Tillapaugh, Director of the CSR. "This award shows that it is now focusing on long-term strategic research programs that can optimize the application of scarce R&D funding dollars - and thereby accelerate industry development."

The award also reflects recognition by the scientific community that Malaspina's CSR has come-of-age as a world class centre for innovative aquaculture research.

"Supported by an R&D infrastructure that is unparalleled on the west coast, the CSR has already established two cutting edge research programs", says David Drakeford, Dean of Science and Technology. "Dr. Alabi's research program complements the highly successful Ecological Interactions Research Program in a way that will ensure that the BC shellfish aquaculture industry sets a very high standard for environmental sustainability."

For more information contact:

Ruth Salmon, Communication Manger, CSR, 250-740-6183  
[www.csr.mala.bc.ca](http://www.csr.mala.bc.ca)