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SAIC is funding fish health and welfare research initiatives

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

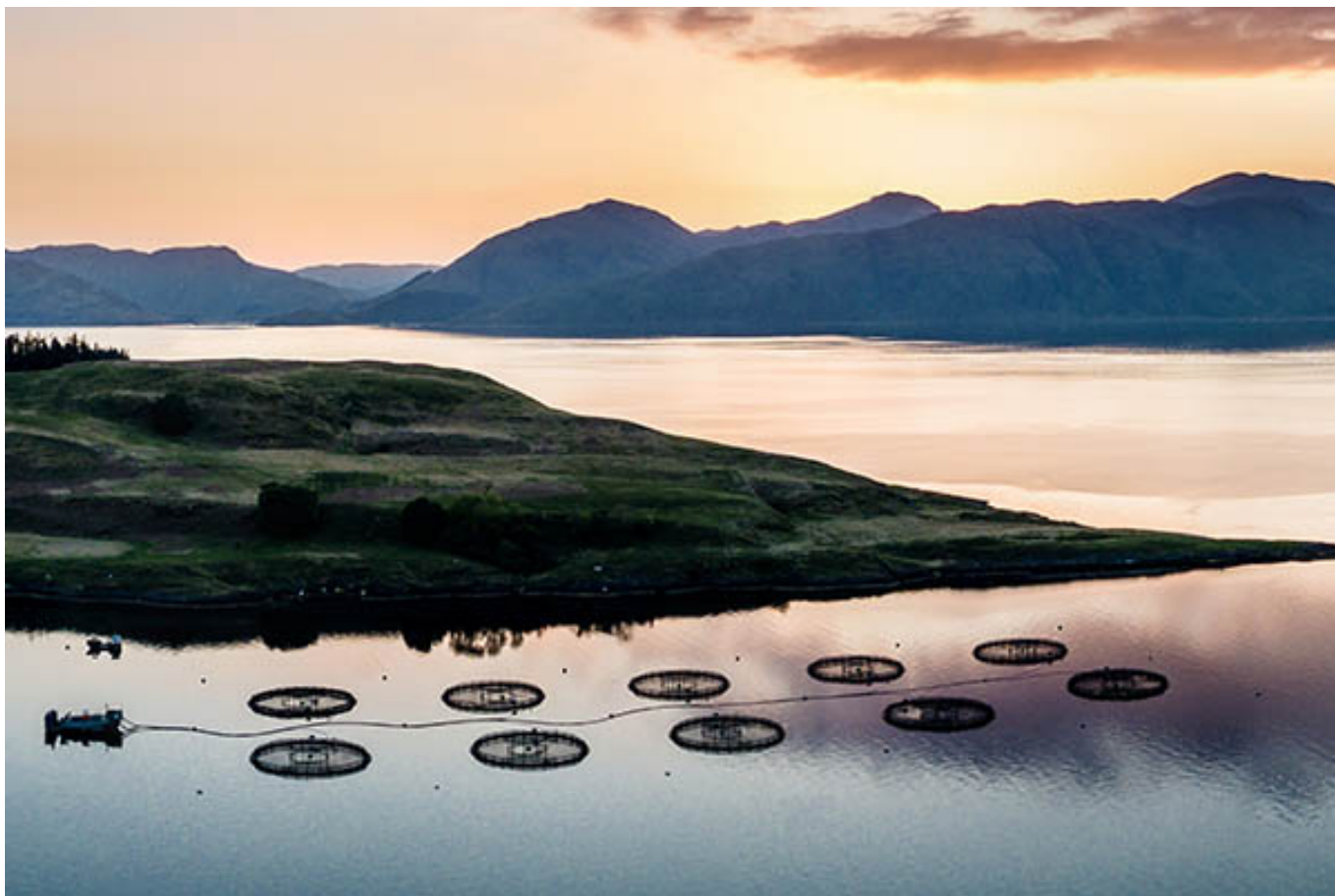
SAIC awards R&D support to seven innovation projects focused on fish health and welfare

In a bid to bolster research efforts aimed at enhancing fish health and welfare, the Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) has unveiled seven research projects set to receive substantial funding in 2024.

The successful initiatives, valued at £860,000 (U.S. \$1 million), have garnered more than £300,000 (U.S. \$376,585) from SAIC, supplemented by additional support from commercial partners. Research will kick off in early January, or before, with each group targeting a summer completion date.

Included among the successful initiatives are projects focused on gill health in Atlantic salmon, parasite management, cleaner fish health and welfare and managing or preventing disease through immunization and vaccinations. Several projects selected for funding are extensions of previous research supported by SAIC, with teams applying for a funding boost to take concepts to the next stage.

“Continued improvements in finfish health will underpin the sector’s sustainable future, make a big difference to the survivability and wellbeing of fish and help seafood producers to provide a nutritious



The Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) has unveiled seven research projects on fish health and welfare set to receive \$1 million in funding in 2024. Photo courtesy of SAIC.

protein source that will feed generations to come,” Heather Jones, CEO of SAIC.



(<https://link.chtbl.com/aquapod>).

The innovation centre’s team of experts as well as its Independent Scientific Panel assessed the seven applications, and all were found to match the criteria for its defined priorities around finfish health and welfare.

Novel chemical-free approach could create a circular model for treating aquaculture waste



An initiative could open up a new avenue for seafood producers to deal with aquaculture waste in a more circular way.



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Earlier this year, SAIC announced it had reached the milestone of 100 funded aquaculture innovation projects, with the combined value of the work to date reaching nearly £71 million (U.S. \$89 million) and involving 92 project partners from academia and the sector.

“We are pleased to be supporting further collaboration that could see a range of research concepts translated into a commercial reality,” said Jones. “Scotland has a great deal of expertise and experience in aquaculture and in connecting those with our world-class research institutions, we can make positive changes to ways of working across the sector that can pave the way for a more environmentally friendly and economically impactful future for finfish farming.”

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