

Introduction to the **AquaBioTech Group**

Aquaculture, Fisheries, Environmental and Marine Sciences Research, Testing, Consulting and Development Company

The **AquaBioTech Group (AquaBioTech Limited (C22950) & ABT Innovia Limited (C31464))** is an international aquaculture and fisheries consultancy firm based in Malta with experience across Europe, the Mediterranean and Middle East, although rapidly expanding its client based globally to over thirty countries.

Each division of the **AquaBioTech Group** has a specialist field of work, although all are in some way related to aquatic sciences and technology. The **AquaBioTech Group** is primarily involved in aquaculture, fisheries, environmental and other marine / oceanographic projects, however business consulting, marketing, market research / intelligence and strategic operations management is also becoming a major part of the **AquaBioTech Group's** activities, although still within the aforementioned specialised fields of work. The main team of consultants at the **AquaBioTech Group** number over twenty-five (25) personnel, all considered specialists in their relevant fields of work and are recruited from over ten countries.

The individual staff in the aquaculture division of the company, known as **ABT Aquaculture**, and the Group itself have extensive global experience over thirty countries and with a large variety of species. Skills include, project concept design, impact analysis, site assessment, diagnostic audits, cage and pond culture, fisheries economics, artisanal and community fishing, risk assessment and mitigation, socio-economics, recirculation systems, technical and financial feasibility assessments, engineering and technology sourcing.

Our environment team at **ABT Environmental** are experienced in biodiversity assessment, coastal zone management, environmental waste management, Environmental benchmarking and Impact Assessments (EIA), GIS platforms, remote sensing, satellite imaging and environmental auditing.



The **AquaBioTech Group** have worked with many species including, tuna, cobia, sea breams, sea bass species, grouper, tilapia, shrimp, prawns, amberjacks, Salmon, trout, carp, mullet, milkfish, catfish and new species under commercial development.

ABT Innovia Limited is an independent research facility that hosts a laboratory and a fully operational fish and shrimp hatchery unit using the very latest technology. The facility is constantly working towards developing new techniques for improving hatchery production / efficiency and knowledge of new species production in both commercial and ornamental aquaculture. **ABT Innovia** pioneers new hatchery design and development, feed testing, algae and livefeed production, larval production technologies, land-based on-growing, operations management, vaccine, efficacy, safety testing and challenge trials.

The **AquaBioTech Group** has previous experience with CRAFT projects and more recently is commencing on a collaborative FP6 research project entitled SustainAqua. Our aquaculture development policy and experience is designed to promote disease prevention through biosecurity, environmental protection and benchmarking. The fisheries and aquaculture economics team is skilled in investigating the economic dimension of sustainable fishing and aquaculture. **AquaBioTech** works closely with Maltese aquaculture including Bluefin tuna (BFT) penning, the fishing industry and research institutions.

The **AquaBioTech Group** (*involving either or both Maltese registered companies*) are searching for partners with whom to collaborate on proposals for call 1.3 “*Modernisation and sustainability of fisheries, including aquaculture-based production systems*”. All tasks are considered for potential research projects including any project involving the development, testing or application of new technologies and methodologies in the fields of terrestrial and offshore aquaculture (fish and shrimp), responsible fisheries, coastal zone management, aquaculture economics, policy support, eco-systems and marine monitoring and management.

Task 9 – Capture-based aquaculture of bluefin tuna (BFT): The fattening of bluefin tuna (BFT) in cages based on the capture of wild fish, is an increasing

practice in Mediterranean countries. However, there is a growing concern among different stakeholders about interactions between fisheries and BFT aquaculture, which could have profound impacts. Despite some research efforts, there are still many gaps in the knowledge base required for a controlled development of this activity, e.g. impact of catching different age classes, impact of fishing of feed species, economical and social impacts.

The objective of this task is to establish the scientific knowledge base on the interactions between BFT aquaculture and fisheries from biological, economical and social short- to long-term perspectives.

Specific Details

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Type: Consultancy; Research; Technology transfer; SME

No of Employees: 10 - 49

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