



## **Island Coastal Economic Trust Announces Funding for Deep Bay Field Station for Shellfish Farming**

**For Immediate Release**

**March 27, 2008**

Lake Cowichan, B.C. – W.J. (Jack) Peake, Chair of the Island Coastal Economic Trust (Trust), today announced funding approval of \$1,000,000 for the Deep Bay Field Station, to be built and managed by the Malaspina University-College’s Centre for Shellfish Research. The total cost of this project is estimated around \$8,000,000.

“The Trust’s financial commitment for \$1,000,000 to the Deep Bay Shellfish Station signals our strong support for this facility. I understand that the Centre has already obtained commitment of \$3,300,000 towards the project goal of \$8,000,000. The Trust’s commitment will send a strong signal to other potential funding partners that Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast endorses this economic development project so it can proceed into construction in the very near future. The Field Station responds to the Trust’s mandate to invest in agriculture and aquaculture, with the latter having a potential of becoming a \$100 million industry in the future,” stated Jack Peake.

Don Tillapaugh, Director for the Centre for Shellfish Research, indicates that the Deep Bay Field Station will play a pivotal role in achieving this economic potential and creating 1,000 new jobs. “By clustering social, educational, economic, environmental, and scientific programming into one unique, world-class facility, we hope to create a centre of excellence and innovation that achieves general acceptance for the shellfish industry in BC and that commands the attention of the world’s shellfish growers and consumers” states Tillapaugh.

Ralph Nilson, President of Malaspina University-College, explains “the Deep Bay Field Station will continue Malaspina’s commitment to community development by supporting the regional economy. The Island Coastal Economic Trust is an important driver of economic development on Vancouver Island and shares with Malaspina the same values of education, economic growth, and most importantly, community support and innovation. Upon completion, the success of the Deep Bay Field Station will become locally and nationally recognizable through the students, scientists, and Aboriginal communities all benefiting from its shellfish aquaculture facilities.”

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The Deep Bay Field Station will be built on a 3 hectare waterfront property in Deep Bay, at the southern end of Baynes Sound, between Denman Island and Vancouver Island. The facility will be architecturally unique, embracing and integrating green energy design, reflecting the unique physical location and the need for pristine water to support the shellfish industry.

### **About Island Coastal Economic Trust**

The Island Coastal Economic Trust was established by Provincial legislation on February 27, 2006. It provides \$50-million that is managed by an independent board of directors made up of 8 locally elected government representatives and 5 provincially appointed members from the community. The board's mandate is to makes strategic investments in regional economic priorities such as forestry, transportation, tourism, mining, energy, Olympic opportunities, economic development, agriculture and aquaculture, and small business. Information about the Trust can be found on [www.islandcoastaltrust.ca](http://www.islandcoastaltrust.ca).

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# DEEP BAY FIELD STATION

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE SHELLFISH FARMING

## Background and Fact Sheet

- Malaspina University-College's Centre for Shellfish Research is building the Deep Bay Field Station - a unique world-class facility that will integrate scientific research and industry training, with innovative programs for community outreach, public engagement and tourism and marketing – all in support of a sustainable shellfish farming industry.
- The Deep Bay Field Station is being constructed on a picturesque 3-hectare ocean-front property in Deep Bay (Bowser), an hour's drive north of Nanaimo. It will include a 10,000 square foot multi-use facility, a pump ashore seawater research centre and a working R&D/training shellfish farm.
- The Field Station is being designed as a green building demonstration facility and will serve as a model of how various coastal and marine activities can coexist harmoniously. Project Architects are Vancouver based, Larry McFarland Architects known for developing the first Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System™) building in Canada.
- Malaspina University-College is a comprehensive, four year, post secondary institution serving students in the region of central Vancouver Island and coastal British Columbia. Established in 1968, Malaspina has grown into a thriving institution that plays an important role in the educational, cultural and economic life of the region. Malaspina University-College offers a wide range of academic, applied, career/technical, vocational and development programs leading to certificates, diplomas and degrees.
- In 2006-07 Malaspina enrolled over 19,000 individual students (7,500 full-time equivalents) including approximately 2000 First Nation Students.
- In 2001, Malaspina University-College created the Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR) to support the development of an ecologically sustainable, world-class shellfish farming industry fully integrated into the economic and social fabric of B.C.'s west coast. A \$4-million research laboratory was opened at Malaspina University-College's Nanaimo campus in 2004. The Deep Bay Field Station is the second component of infrastructure required to support shellfish aquaculture industry development.
- The Centre for Shellfish Research and the associated Deep Bay Field Station will become the foundation to grow a sustainable and profitable industry in B.C. By clustering social, economic, environmental and scientific programming in one facility, we hope to create a centre of excellence and innovation that commands the attention of the world's shellfish growers and consumers.
- Shellfish farming is, by definition, green and sustainable. Mollusks cannot tolerate the discharge of sewage or other toxins. Being green is not an option, but a necessity, for the industry. That's why shellfish farming is endorsed by environmental groups such as the Audubon Society, Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch and Eco-Fish.
- Innovative Programming at the Deep Bay Field Station will include:
  - **Technology Transfer and Training:** CSR has developed a considerable capacity for technology transfer and training, which is particularly important for the many First Nations that are becoming actively involved in creating shellfish farming operations. Training will also include youth leadership camps for First Nations seeking to establish sustainable economic development ventures in their communities.
  - **Promoting Sustainable Communities.** The rural area surrounding the Field Station is predicted to grow by 10,000 to 20,000 residents over the next two decades - a significant challenge to the marine environment (especially water quality). Through kindergarten to grade 12 learning experiences and community outreach, the Field Station will promote sustainable development and the integrated use of the marine environment.



- **Eco and Culinary Tourism:** The Deep Bay Field Station will provide a tourism venue by offering marine ecology and shellfish farm tourism experiences as well as culinary offerings through the Malaspina Culinary Institute of Vancouver Island.
- Commercial shellfish farming in B.C. began in 1912. Shellfish farmers now grow virtually all of the oysters, mussels and scallops—and half of the clams—harvested commercially in B.C. In 2006, the industry had a wholesale value of \$34 million. The provincial industry has the potential to expand to \$100 million and create 1,000 new jobs.
- Much of the economic benefit associated with the industry remains in the coastal communities of Vancouver Island—seventy-eight cents of every dollar spent in direct industry purchases remains in the local economy.
- Many rural communities and First Nations believe shellfish farming can help to revitalize their stagnant economies. Nearly 9,000 people have moved away from B.C.'s rural coastal communities in the past decade as the traditional fishing, forestry and mining sectors have declined. Surveys of coastal First Nations have found unemployment rates as high as 60 percent.
- Global population growth—together with increased per capita consumption of seafood—has created a dramatic increase in seafood demand. At the same time, capture fisheries are at, or beyond, sustainable harvest limits. Together, this could result in a shortfall in seafood production of 50 to 80 million tonnes by 2030—a \$50 billion opportunity. Shellfish farming can fill this gap between supply and demand efficiently and ecologically.

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