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UK and Australian companies join forces to offer a specialist fish health economics service.

UK based aquaculture consultants, Patterson Peddie Consulting, will work with Queensland-based health consultancy Digsfish Services Pty Ltd to offer a fish health economics service to commercial farmers, pharmaceutical companies and government agencies in New Zealand, Australasia, the Pacific Islands and Asia.

As Dr Scott Peddie, Senior Partner at Patterson Peddie Consulting explains, the health economics approach is used in two main ways:

- 1) To assess the economic impact of disease at farm, regional, national and international level, therefore helping decision-makers prioritise disease prevention and control strategies.
- 2) To assess different control options and their financial implications. By putting disease management at the centre of the business planning process, it helps producers optimise returns and reduce costs and risks where possible.

“We are already involved in developing consultancy services in this area in the Northern Hemisphere”, added Dr Peddie. “The progression to the Southern Hemisphere is therefore a natural extension of what we’re already doing. By working with Dr Diggles and Digsfish Services Pty Ltd, we are committed to ensuring a high quality, cost-effective and professional service designed to meet the clients needs.”

“This is a product which provides a number of benefits to fish and shellfish farmers as well as many in the allied fish health industries”, says Dr Ben Diggles. “It’s about time aquaculturists in the southern hemisphere had access to these innovative tools. An objective analysis of the costs and benefits associated with various disease treatment and prevention strategies is vital in todays economic climate, and we are delighted to be in partnership with Patterson Peddie Consulting to allow delivery of these services to those who need them in Australasia and elsewhere in the southern hemisphere”