

EXCERPT FROM:  
**BOTTOM FISH ACTION FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 06-10,  
1999**  
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DECEMBER 14, 1999  
**BOTTOM-FISH REVIEW**

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**Altius**

Altius Minerals Corp (ALS-V: \$0.38) has announced that Billiton will option 50% of the Taylor Brook nickel-copper-cobalt-PGM prospect for \$250,000 exploration over the next year. Billiton also has the option to increase its stake to 60% by spending a further \$750,000, though Altius has the right to reduce Billiton back to 51% by spending a subsequent \$275,000. This quirky feature of the agreement is designed to let Billiton nail down operatorship by taking on the initial exploration risk. Should Billiton decide to stay with a 50:50 JV Altius can force it to spend the next \$250,000. Billiton plans to drill next year after additional trenching and geophysical surveys. Taylor Brook is part of Altius' Plateau Nickel project, which includes two other 100% owned prospects called Tadpole and Seahorse. The area is virgin territory, so anything could happen. Meanwhile Noveder Inc and Teck have dropped their respective options on the Wild Cove and Moosehead prospects after disappointing results. If you want an exploration bottom-fish focused on Newfoundland, Altius is your best choice. Management has a philosophy of generating prospects from scratch, dressing them up at minimal expenditure, and farming them out to others. This strategy may seem doubtful as the world mutates into a virtual reality that no longer subsists on raw materials, but enough people remember that the butt of virtual reality is planted on a real world chair. More importantly, unlike a spent company such as Major General, Altius has on board financial backers who can put the stock into orbit when the time is right. Altius Tel#: (709) 576-3440.

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