



Letter from the Director

Aloha,

July marks an important milestone in our annual development process. Earlier this month, our Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee converged at their annual meeting to discuss and vote on the 20 Pre-Proposals CTSA received in response to our FY14 Request.



CTSA IAC & TC members discuss FY14 Pre-Proposals at their annual meeting

I would like to thank the IAC & TC members for their diligent participation in this process, as well as their spirit of teamwork. Although they work together for the best interest of CTSA, each member is equal during the process of pre-proposal review and selection, and entitled to their individual selections. CTSA only requests full proposals from pre-proposals that receive support from more than 50% of members.

I appreciate everyone who submitted pre-proposals this year, and want to encourage those who did not get enough votes to proceed by communicating with our aquaculture community and identifying the most critical issues. Thus, the industry problem or challenges that the proposed work will address can be clearly stated, and the pre-proposal will be more likely to receive the endorsement from industry representatives.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee

Executive Director, CTSA

Regional Aquaculture Industry Updates

As part of the annual IAC/TC meeting, IAC members prepare and share updates about aquaculture activities in their location or area of expertise. [Click here to read this year's updates about aquaculture in Palau, Kauai, and Hawaii, as well as Marine Food Fish and Marine Shrimp Aquaculture in the CTSA region.](#)

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The following is a portion of the update on aquaculture in Hawaii provided by IAC member John Corbin. This section features a snapshot of Hawaii aquaculture data obtained from the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Hawaii is a leader in U.S. aquaculture!

- Market value for production = \$56,450,000
- **Rank in U.S. states = 10th**
- Rank in Hawaii Ag production = 6th
- Per cent of total Ag sales = 8.5%
- Market value of Hawaii County = \$46,783,000.
- **Hawaii County rank among all U.S. Counties = 4th**

Aquaculture Education & Outreach at the Hawaii State Farm Fair

by Meredith Brooks

CTSA was pleased to participate in the 52nd annual Hawaii State Farm Fair at Kualoa Ranch on Saturday, July 12. The CTSA booth was located in the "Keiki Farm Hands" tent, an area designated for kids to have hands-on experiences that relate to life on the farm.

To give kids an idea of what it is like to work on an aquaculture farm, the CTSA booth conducted a water quality testing activity. Children were able to extract a sample from bottles containing water from one of three different sources (Moli'i Fishpond, a tilapia farm, and tap water) and test it for a variety of parameters important in aquaculture farming. The keiki were enthralled with this activity, and several returned multiple times to test different samples. Many parents expressed delight with the inclusion of a scientific experiment at the Fair.



Water quality testing

"This activity is showing my daughter that farming is more than getting dirty - there is science involved, and she loves science," stated North Shore mother Jeni Knabben. "I think it's important, because we need to encourage our keiki to care about local farming."



CTSA's Maggie Ma helped kids make colorful fish and oyster shell prints

Our booth also featured Gyotaku fish printing, an activity that is always popular when we participate at public events. Kids were able to create frame-able prints by painting and pressing oyster shells (donated by Moli'i Fishpond) and fish (donated by Hawaii Fish Co.) onto paper.

Between the two activities and the myriad of information available at our booth, the Farm Fair provided a fantastic opportunity for CTSA to share our mission with Hawaii's youth and their families.

Public understanding and support for aquaculture is a critical factor in the expansion of farming in Hawaii and beyond. To this end, CTSA has supported education and outreach efforts, most recently through a project co-sponsored by NOAA. The primary output of the project was a 50+ page aquaculture curriculum, which was on display at our farm fair booth. [Click here to download the curriculum 'A.Q.U.A. ~ A Quest to Understand Aquaculture'](#)

We are looking forward to participating in the Hawaii State Farm Fair and events like it for many years to come! If you are participating in or conducting aquaculture outreach in your area and you would like assistance planning activities and/or to use CTSA informational material, please email mbrooks@ctsa.org.

USDA Announces New Support for Beginning Farmers

from USDA AquaContacts, July 24, 2014.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently announced the implementation of new Farm Bill measures and other policy changes to improve the financial security of new and beginning farmers and ranchers. According to the USDA press release, part of the increased support comes in the form of a new website (www.usda.gov/newfarmers) that "will provide a centralized, one-stop resource where beginning farmers and ranchers can explore the variety of USDA initiatives designed to help them succeed."

"New and beginning farmers are the future of American agriculture," said U.S. Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden. "The average age of an American farmer is 58 and rising, so we must help new farmers get started if America is going to continue feeding the world and maintain a strong agriculture economy. The new policies...will help give beginning farmers the financial security they need to succeed. Our new online tool will provide one-stop shopping for beginning farmers to learn more about accessing USDA services that can help their operations thrive."

According to the release, "USDA's New Farmers website has in depth information for new farmers and ranchers, including: how to increase access to land and capital; build new market opportunities; participate in conservation opportunities; select and use the right risk management tools; and access USDA education, and technical support programs. These issues have been identified as top priorities by new farmers. The website will also feature instructive case studies about beginning farmers who have successfully utilized USDA resources to start or expand their business operations."

[Click here to view the full announcement.](#)

AquaClip ~ USA - CUSP Makes Impact in D.C. With Unified Front for Aquaculture

By Aquafeed.com staff. July 21, 2014

Since announcing its formation six months ago at the Aquaculture Americas Conference in Seattle, the Coalition of U.S. Seafood Production (CUSP) has found that there is certainly strength in numbers when advocating as a unified industry. Coalition members have met twice with federal agencies and legislators in Washington, D.C. this spring to support government action to grow domestic aquaculture, and they are optimistic about progress made to date.

"CUSP has already had an impact," said Don Kent, President of Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute. "There has been a lack of cohesiveness in the aquaculture industry with the different players not talking to each other. CUSP was conceptualized as representing a horizontally and vertically integrated business community, spanning different aquaculture methods and seafood species, and the entire supply stream -- feed and equipment companies, fish farmers, seafood distributors, retailers and restaurants. CUSP is the aquaculture industry in a nutshell - and your voice gets heard more effectively the larger the group represented."

In March, a group of CUSP members, including representatives from the Soy Aquaculture Alliance (SAA), Icicle Seafoods, Bell Aquaculture, and the Maine Aquaculture Association (MAA), met in Washington, D.C. with newly appointed NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan. The group urged for finalization of the Fishery Management Plan for Regulating Offshore Marine Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico, which was approved by the Gulf Regional Fisheries Council and sent to NOAA in 2009. Although the agency could not specify when the Plan would be finalized at the meeting, one week later the Plan was released to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, a critical step in finalization

The group also met with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, who encouraged CUSP to work on public/private partnerships for aquaculture demonstration projects. This subject was further discussed with Dr. Jo Handesman, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

[Click here to view the full article.](#)

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) is one of five regional aquaculture centers in the United States established and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) under grants 2008-38500-19435, 2010-38500-20948, and 2012-38500-19566. The regional aquaculture centers integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development. CTSA was established in 1986 and is jointly administered by the Oceanic Institute and the University of Hawaii.

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