



*Regional
e-Notes*

Letter from the Director

Aloha!

As many of you know, today is Earth Day, the day the world collectively celebrates environmental causes and champions. One of the greatest challenges facing our environment and world, and something we are all closely tied to by the nature of our industry, is the growing food crisis. While this challenge is one of the greatest of our time, it also presents one of the greatest opportunities for aquaculture to become a beacon of sustainable food production.

I thank you for actively being part of an industry that has, and I believe is acting-on, an opportunity to make a big difference. NOAA is currently drafting their aquaculture policy, and is asking for your input; this is a special opportunity to express your vision for the future of aquaculture. Specifically in the remote Pacific Islands, where farming land is limited and the major natural resource is the open ocean, your participation in this process will ensure that your opinions are taken into consideration.

Additionally, I would like to thank all of those who submitted a Pre-Proposal for our FY2010 funding cycle. We received requests for many potentially exciting projects, and are looking forward to the selection process.

If you have any suggestions, concerns, or comments, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee
Executive Director, CTSA

In This Issue

Letter from the Director
Share Your Vision With NOAA
Get Involved!
April AquaClip - Sustainable
Aquaculture Needed for Food
Security

Quick Links

www.ctsa.org
www.oceanicinstitute.org



[Join our Mailing List!](#)

Shape the Future by Sharing Your Vision for Aquaculture with NOAA

NOAA will hold six listening sessions in April and May to hear recommendations from the public that will help the agency develop a new national policy for sustainable marine aquaculture: make sure your voice is heard, either in person or via an online comment.

Dates for the listening sessions with NOAA officials applicable to the CTSA region are as follows:

April 27: In person in Honolulu
2:00 - 4:30 p.m. (HST)
Ala Moana Hotel

May 6: National call-in hosted by NOAA on a toll-free line

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)
Tollfree number: 1-877-779-7421
Participant passcode: NOAA

Details on the other listening session locations are available on the [NOAA Aquaculture Program website](#). The agency also will accept public comment through the Web. To leave your comment, visit the following website: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/policy1/comments.htm>

After the listening sessions, NOAA will analyze the public input and develop a draft national policy for review and public comment. Once that process is complete, the agency will issue the new NOAA aquaculture policy. NOAA's goal is to issue a new national policy that will enable sustainable marine aquaculture within the context of the agency's multiple ocean stewardship missions and broader social and economic goals.

Get Involved By...

...Supporting Restaurants Serving Locally-Grown Fish

Chef Alan Wong will be highlighting Hilo-Farm Raised Sturgeon in his upcoming Farmer Series Dinner on Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at his flagship restaurant, Alan Wong's Honolulu. The dinner will be a 5-course meal comprised of locally-grown products, including Siberian sturgeon raised by Mr. Howard Takata of Akolea Aquaculture in partnership with CTSA-funded researcher Dr. Kevin Hopkins of UH Hilo and Day2Resources, as well as the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center.

The menu for the evening also features Kauai Shrimp, Big Island Butterfish, Kuahiwi Natural Beef, and locally produced Okara from Honda Tofu. The prix fixe dinner is available for \$80/person or \$110 with wine pairing. Reservations accepted from 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. The ala carte menu will not be served this night. For more information, read the [full article in Honolulu Magazine](#).

...Improving Aquaculture Drugs via Participation in the "Sedative Challenge"

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Drug Approval Working Group (DAWG) needs your help to gather information on two potentially beneficial aquaculture drugs: BENZOAK (benzocaine) and AQUIS E (eugenol). Both drugs appear to be viable candidates for FDA approval as an immediate-release sedative, but the DAWG still needs additional data to determine which is the best candidate.

The agency is requesting assistance from aquaculturists and fisheries managers via participation on either (preferably both) of the USFWS-held Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) exemptions for these drugs. There is no participation fee to take the "Sedative Challenge", and your assistance can provide essential information relating to effectiveness, animal safety, ease of use, etc. For more information, please visit the [website](#).

April AquaClip - Sustainable Fisheries Needed for Global Food Security

Source: Duke University; published on esciencenews.com February 11, 2010.

Increased aid from developed countries, earmarked specifically for sustainable seafood infrastructure in developing countries, could improve global food security, according to a policy paper by an international working group of 20 economists, marine scientists and seafood experts in the Feb. 12 issue of *Science*. Seafood is a significant source of protein for nearly 3 billion people and is the planet's most highly traded food commodity, contributing to the livelihoods of more than 560 million people. But a lack of coordinated policy threatens global seafood supplies.

To help safeguard future supply, "the price of seafood has to reflect the cost of maintaining ecosystem health in the countries that capture or farm most of it," says Martin D. Smith, lead author of the paper and associate professor of environmental economics at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. "Many imports are coming from developing countries that are not

necessarily well-positioned to manage their resources sustainably."

"In an ideal world, each country governs its own resources well and the seafood trade contributes to worldwide economic growth and food security," Smith says. "But that's not the world we live in right now." Developing countries may produce more seafood than they can consume, exporting it and using the earnings to purchase other foods, goods or services.

In their Science article, Smith and his co-authors examine the complex environmental, political and economic factors that jeopardize global seafood supplies and livelihoods.

"Issues of resource ownership and governance are at the top of the list," says Cathy A. Roheim of the University of Rhode Island. No one owns fish stocks or has sole control over what their catch limits should be, or what type of gear or practices can be used to catch them. This has pushed many stocks beyond maximum sustainable yields, and has led to the current precarious role of fisheries in food security.

Concurrently, "aquaculture (farming seafood) has great promise for enhancing food security but is also threatened when regulations fail to protect the supporting ecosystems," says Smith.

[Click here to read the rest of this 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 2005-38500-15720, 2006-38500-16901, 2007-38500-18471, and 2008-38500-19435. 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.