

Letter from the Director

Aloha,

August has been a busy month. We are in the midst of the annual CTSA development cycle, lining up reviewers in preparation for receiving full proposals next week. Each proposal will undergo a thorough internal and external review by a panel of experts. This is an exciting time in our process, when thoughtful concepts shared through pre-proposals bloom into complete peer-reviewed projects to benefit the local aquaculture industry. We strongly encourage all of our PIs to connect directly with farmers and technicians in the field to not only address problems in need of research solutions, but to also learn from their on-farm ingenuity. With our region's limited aquaculture workforce, it is critical to support the small pool of stakeholders working to address industry bottlenecks and keep --as well as bring more-- island farms on-line.

I am continually impressed by the dedication and resourcefulness of our island farmers. Using innovative approaches, they are able to do so much with the limited land space and precious resources of our remote region. This month I had the pleasure of traveling to Maui and Kauai to check in with a few of our farm stakeholders (photos below). On Maui, I visited Kula Haven Farms, where rainbow trout and watercress are being farmed together using aquaponics; Mr. John Dobovan is genuinely invested in the health and well-being of his fish and produce. He is looking forward to expanding his operation to meet increasing market demands, and enjoys encouraging youth volunteers in food production. I also traveled to Kauai Sea Farm, which is working on developing aquaculture of local sea cucumbers and integrating them into Hawaiian fishpond production. CTSA is proud to support this research alongside NOAA, and is hopeful that it will result in a new species for local farming. In addition, the farm's production manager Dave Anderson is working on aquaculture of oysters, clams and fish. I then visited Kona Bay Shrimp, which has brought local shrimp farming a long way in recent years with the integration of Hendrix animal genetics expertise. It was so nice to hear about the advances in shrimp farming technology from Grant Kunishima and Robert Kanna. There is no doubt that Hawaii will continue to play an important role in global marine shrimp farming. We are all in agreement about the importance of working together and preserving our region's favorable environmental conditions for aquatic species for generations to come.

I would like to note that most of the people I met with this month --including key operators at the two Kauai farms-- have at some point participated in training or employment at the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawaii Pacific University. OI has indeed served as an essential aquaculture incubator for not only Hawaii, but much of the Pacific region and beyond, and is responsible for cultivating generations of aquaculture talent. CTSA thanks OI and its faculty and staff for their continued dedication and positive impacts on our regional aquaculture capacity. We look forward to continuing the collaborative sustainable development of aquaculture together with OI and institutions across our region.

Mahalo,
Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee
Executive Director, CTSA



Visiting with John Dobovan at Kula Haven Farms

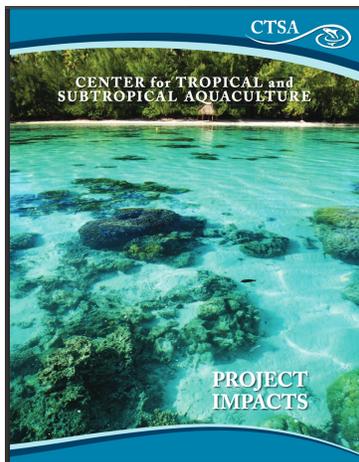


Dave Anderson, Kauai Sea Farm



sea cucumber

CTSA is Seeking Eye-Catching Aquaculture Photos for New 'Project Impacts' Publication



CTSA is in the process of producing our latest *Project Impacts* publication to highlight the accomplishments of the Center and our funded projects. We are seeking high quality aquaculture photos, including a captivating image for the cover!

We invite you to submit your best photos of farms, fishponds, fish, bivalves or other species. Photos should represent aquaculture in the CTSA region (Hawaii, Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Micronesia). Photos must be high resolution and ideally professional quality – drone shots are encouraged! The photo and photographer chosen for the cover will receive promotional exposure through our newsletter and other media. **Please submit photos to mbrooks@ctsa.org by September 15.**

The forthcoming publication will serve as an update to the *Project Impacts* publication released nearly a decade ago (pictured), and will focus on impacts since 2013. [Click here to read the 2013 publication.](#)

[USDA NIFA FY23 SBIR/STTR Phase1 Applications due October 25](#)

USDA NIFA released the FY23 SBIR/STTR Phase 1 RFA. The SBIR program supports US-based small businesses solving issues (with commercial potential) related to food and agriculture. This program has and continues to support an Aquaculture priority area (SBIR 8.7). [Click here to learn more.](#)

[Reminder: Sign Up For 2022 Census of Aquaculture](#)

The 2022 Census of Agriculture is right around the corner and USDA NASS is making every effort to count all aquaculture producers in the United States. If you produce any aquaculture products and want to make sure that you are counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture and the 2023 Census of Aquaculture, please sign up your operation using this online form: <https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/cgi-bin/counts/>. Once you have signed up, you might receive a short survey in the next two years to further categorize your operation. Most likely, you will not receive a survey until the 2022 Census of Agriculture in January or February, 2023

AquaClip: New BAP Sustainable Feed Ingredients Vanguard Standard Released for Public Comment

The Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) Sustainable Feed Ingredients Vanguard Standard is now available for public comment. The 60-day public comment period ends on Oct. 3.

Currently, feed mills find it difficult to meet sustainability goals because of the limited availability of certified ingredients, particularly plant-based ones. This new Vanguard standard will incentivize feed mills to dedicate a portion of their production to meeting demand for feeds with the highest sustainability credentials. The standard is designed to encourage the uptake of non-traditional feed ingredients that can demonstrate strong sustainability credentials, either in their own right or as alternatives to established ingredients with greater impacts.

Producers must be certified to BAP Feed Mill Standard Issue 3.1 to apply for certification to the BAP Sustainable Feed Ingredients Vanguard Standard. Auditing compliance with the standard would involve multiple traceability, mass balance checking exercises and document reviews to verify that the volumes of incoming certified ingredients correspond to the volumes of outgoing feed products that carry the claim of compliance to the Sustainable Feed Ingredients Vanguard Standard.

To comment on the BAP Sustainable Feed Ingredients Vanguard Standard, visit the [BAP standards webpage](#), review the standard, and fill out and submit the public comment form linked on the page. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to comment, and all properly submitted comments will be acknowledged.

Source: Global Seafood Alliance // [Full Article](#)

This newsletter is written and prepared by the CTSA Information Specialist Meredith Brooks.

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 active grants 2016-38500-25751, 2018-38500-28886, and 2020-38500-32559. 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 University of Hawaii and the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University.

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture
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