



## Letter from the Director

Aloha,

On a recent trip to Hilo, I visited shellfish operations that are thriving in part due to ongoing support from CTSA. The PACRC training program led by Dr. Maria Haws and oyster hatchery work at Hawaiian Shellfish LLC, which also supplies producers in the Pacific Northwest, are impressive demonstrations of our regional industry's ability to fill significant gaps in U.S. aquaculture. If we are methodical in our allocation of funds, CTSA can support projects that sustainably utilize our unique and pristine environment to resolve issues affecting global aquaculture production, such as access to quality seedstock (SPF shrimp and oysters), and at the same time create new local revenue streams and improve food security.

As we approach the FY 2015 Plan of Work development cycle, I would like to solicit your help in identifying the area(s) where CTSA can make a significant contribution to regional aquaculture. Your input is essential in the development of the FY15 "Request for Pre-Proposals," which will set the tone for the next year of CTSA research and demonstration efforts. The priority species and technical challenges for the Western Pacific that were determined at our recent "Partnership for Success" meeting Guam will also be incorporated into the RFP-P (to be released in May).

In addition to our own upcoming award cycle, this month's issue of e-Notes features information leading to valuable funding opportunities for farmers and researchers, including a free grant writing webinar and the announcement of a business competition. I strongly believe that seeking and leveraging resources across funding sources will result in more successful projects with lasting impacts, and I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mahalo,

*Cheng-Sheng Lee*

Executive Director, CTSA

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[www.ctsa.org](http://www.ctsa.org)

[www.oceanicinstitute.org](http://www.oceanicinstitute.org)

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## FREE USDA Grant Writing Webinar This Wednesday!

On Wednesday February 25, the USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) will conduct a free webinar on grant writing basics. The webinar "You Can Do It!" will take place from 2-4pm EST (9-11am HST), and will feature presentations by Dr. Mark Mirando (USDA-NIFA), Margaret Krome (Michael Fields Agricultural Institute), and Una Van Duvall (Cross Management Services,



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Inc.).

Several USDA-NIFA grant opportunities are applicable to aquaculture activities in the CTSA region. However, many stakeholders have expressed that they are hesitant to apply because they are unfamiliar with the ins and outs of grant writing. This free workshop is intended to provide researchers, farmers, and other interested parties with the necessary tools and confidence to prepare and submit grant applications. We

encourage anyone with a desire to apply for government grants (including CTSA awards) to participate in the webinar.

**[Click here](#) on Feb 25 (2-4 EST) to connect to the webinar, or cut and paste this link:  
<http://nifa-connect.nifa.usda.gov/grantwritingbasics>**

**If you cannot access the webinar, dial-in for audio: 888-844-9904  
access code: 9649398**

### **\*New\* Regional Aquaculture Center "Farming Our Waters" Brochure**

For the last several months, CTSA has worked closely with the directors and staff of our partner Regional Aquaculture Centers to update the program brochure, "Farming Our Waters." The new version features a brief overview of the program, and clarifies the primary goal of the RACs to address aquaculture challenges and opportunities typically pertaining to the following categories: Economic Viability of U.S. Aquaculture; Disease Management and Prevention; Sustainable Feeds; Environmental Responsibility; and Reliable Seed Source for Target Species. Each center and its noteworthy research and demonstration efforts in those categories are described on the inside panel. Contact information is provided as well.

This brochure is intended to provide legislators and stakeholders with valuable information on the purpose, services, and value of the RAC program. Although we will print a limited amount of brochures, the primary method of sharing this informational piece is electronically. A hyper-linked version of the "Farming Our Waters" brochure is available for viewing and download on the CTSA website; [click here to view](#).

If you have any questions comments, please contact [mbrooks@ctsa.org](mailto:mbrooks@ctsa.org).



### **2015 Fish 2.0 Business Competition Now Open!**

**- Cash Prizes and Investment Potential -**

***The following announcement about the launch of the 2015 Fish 2.0 Business Competition is excerpted from the Fish 2.0 newsletter. CTSA stakeholders may be eligible to participate as a competing aquaculture business, or register to serve as an advisor or online judge during the course of the competition. Participants must register and complete the [Phase 1 questionnaire](#) by April 27, 2015. Visit [www.fish20.org](http://www.fish20.org) for more information.***



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This year, businesses from around the world will compete for over \$180,000 in cash prizes. 36 finalists will present their ideas to a broad group of investors during the competition finals at Stanford University. Fish 2.0 provides businesses

with an opportunity to gain visibility, find strategic partners, and ultimately garner new investments in the range of \$100,000 to over \$10 million. Investors who participate as advisors or judges see a number of seafood businesses in one place and learn more about the seafood sector.

The 2015 competition will offer three tracks for businesses to compete with their peers. For details on these tracks and on specific business eligibility, [click here to view the 2015 competition details on the Fish 2.0 web site](#) . You can also register for the competition by going to the "Participate" section on the same link.

### **Fish 2.0 Upcoming Events and Webinars**

In 2015, Fish 2.0 will be holding a series of fun, educational and informative events aimed at improving business knowledge of how to engage investors, investor understanding of the seafood sector and opportunities therein, and at building connections and strong businesses. Register for webinars on the website or contact [info@fish20.org](mailto:info@fish20.org) for questions on the Pacific workshops. Events for the next two months include:

#### ***March 10-12: Business Preparation Workshop in Nadi, Fiji***

Fish 2.0 is partnering with IdEA, WWF-Pacific and IUCN Oceania to offer a workshop on how to engage effectively with investors for Pacific businesses interested in participating in the competition.

#### ***March 25: Webinar- Fish 2.0: What's involved and Why get involved?***

Interested enterprises, advisors and investors can learn more about the Fish 2.0 process, criteria and events, and ask questions directly to our team. 2013 competition finalists and semi-finalists will talk about their experiences during the competition and their achievements since the competition finals

#### ***April 14: Filling out your Fish 2.0 Entry Application Successful***

This webinar led by the Fish 2.0 Team, will guide you through the Fish 2.0 entry application for each of the three competition tracks. We will answer questions about how to complete the application and explain why each section of the application is important.

### **AquaClip ~ 2015 US Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Submits Report; Seafood Consumption encouraged.**

**\*Now Open for Public Comments\***

*by Aquafeed.com staff. February 19, 2015*

The 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee has submitted its recommendations to Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, in order to inform the 2015 edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Among the findings, the inclusion of fish in the diet of Americans is emphasized.

Today, the Secretaries have released the advisory committee's recommendations report online, making it available for public review and comment. The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA) will consider this report, along with input from other federal agencies and comments from the public as they develop the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2015, to be released later this year.

"For decades, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans have been at the core of our efforts to promote the health and well-being of American families," said Secretaries Burwell and Vilsack in a joint statement. "Now that the advisory committee has completed its recommendations, HHS and USDA will review this advisory report, along with comments from the public-including other experts-and input from other federal agencies as we begin the process of updating the guidelines."

The public is encouraged to view the independent advisory group's report and provide written comments at [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov) for a period of 45 days after publication in the Federal Register. The public will also have an opportunity to offer oral comments at a public meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, on March 24, 2015. Those interested in providing oral comments at the March 24, 2015, public meeting can register at [www.DietaryGuidelines.gov](http://www.DietaryGuidelines.gov). Capacity is limited, so participants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Click here to read the full article on aquafeed.com.](#)

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 2010-38500-20948, 2012-38500-19566, and 2014-38500-22241. 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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