September 2010 Vol 2, Issue 9

CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

Regional e-Notes

Letter from the Director

Aloha!

This month's issue of Regional e-Notes highlights a new publication from a CTSA-funded shrimp demonstration project in Saipan and Guam, and contains information on multiple upcoming workshops in Hawaii.

Also in this issue is a request for your input in the development of our new website. We are currently in the process of redoing the CTSA website, and want to make sure that it meets the needs of the farmers, researchers, and other aquaculture stakeholders we are here to serve. Please take a moment to submit your comments.

I hope you enjoy this issue and, as always, 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

Quick Links

www.ctsa.org
www.oceanicinstitute.org

CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

Join our Mailing List!

New Publication Available from CTSA funded Saipan Shrimp Project

The CTSA-funded project "Shrimp Production Demonstration and Aquaculture Training for Industry Stakeholders of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Guam" recently came to a close.

One of the key objectives of this project was the introduction of Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) technology to the region as a means to to improve production and simultaneously reduce high energy costs. Currently, most shrimp farming in the CNMI and Guam is done using traditional pond methods. Trials using RAS systems were conducted successfully at SyAqua, and the company subsequently purchased a system for full-time implementation.

The advantages of using RAS technology are highlighted in a new brochure produced under the project. The brochure also features information on culture species, seedstock supply, feed supply, likely characteristics of a Pacific Island shrimp farm, and local resources for starting a business.

To download an electronic copy of the brochure, please click this link to the CTSA website. To obtain hard copies of the brochure, please contact the project's Principal Investigator Dustin Moss at dmoss@oceanicinstitute.org.

Upcoming Aquaculture and Fisheries Workshops & Events

Oceanic Institute (OI) Standard Research Diet (SRD) Workshop

The Aquatic Feeds and Nutrition Department of OI is hosting a workshop on standard research diets on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 and Thursday, October 28th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Institute's OLC. The sessions are open to the public.

Multiple guest speakers will be on hand to discuss topics including egg to market, research studies, SRD formulations and feed manufacturing for shrimp, Pacific threadfin (moi), longfin amberjack (kahala), abalone, limpets (opihi), and urchin (uni). In addition, participants will observe an extruder setup and multiple feeds processing runs, as well as quality control tests.

The workshop is free, however, seating is limited. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lindon Hansink at lhansink@oceanicinstitute.org or call (808) 259-3180.

International Genetics Meeting in Hawaii

The First International Meeting on Genes, Animal Agriculture and Aquaculture will take place in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 21-23, 2011. This meeting is being organized by a committee of scientists representing Hawaii, China, and Canada to promote collaborations and scientific communications among scientists, business people and governmental agencies, and to catch up with the latest developments in gene-based technology in animal science and aquaculture.

Plenary sessions will include animal reproduction and breeding genetics, significant genes in livestock and aquatic species, gene expressions and functional genomics, animal cloning and transgenic technology, and DNA markers and animal breeding, to name just a few. The deadline for abstract submission is December 6, 2010. For complete details, please click here to view the announcement on the CTSA website. The announcement is also available in Chinese. For questions, please contact conference organizer and CTSA-sponsored researcher Jinzeng Yang, Ph.D., at jinzeng@hawaii.edu.

Fisheries Management Fall Seminar Series

The fisheries management seminar series will provide exposure to the latest status and contemporary issues facing resource managers in the U.S. Western Pacific Fisheries Region. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss case studies and a variety of fisheries management perspectives with commercial fishermen, fisheries scientists and fisheries resource managers.

Upcoming seminars:

Sept 30th - *EARs in the sea: What listening to shrimp, fish and whales can tell us about their world* by Marc Lammers, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Oct 7th - *Fisheries ecosystem research* by Alan Friedlander, Univ of Hawaii Dept of Zoology
Oct 14th - *Stock assessments* by Gerard DiNardo, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Oct 21st - *Economic importance of recreational fishing in Hawaii* by Justin Hospital, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Oct 28th - *The National Marine Fisheries Observer Program* by John Kelly, NOAA Marine Fisheries Service
Nov 14th - *Structure of federal fisheries management in the United States* by Mark Mitsuyasu, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
Nov 18th - *Marine debris* by Carey Morishige, NOAA National Ocean Service
Dec 2nd - *Economics of tuna fisheries* by Jim Cook, Pacific Ocean Producers
Dec 9th - *Climate change in the North Pacific and its impacts on marine ecosystems* by Jeffery Polovina, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

This seminar series, sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, is open to the public. Seminars are held at the Hawaii Pacific University Hawaii Loa campua on the front lanai from 3:30-4:30pm.

New CTSA Website Still Needs Your Imput!

At CTSA, it is our desire to incorporate industry needs into the ongoing development of the Center. We are currently in the process of updating our website, and would like to hear from you on ways that we can improve it. Here are a couple of questions to ponder:

- How can we enhance our website to better serve your (industry) needs?
- What information would you like to see more of?
- What are some frequently asked questions you receive about aquaculture that we should be sure to include in our new FAQ section?

Please email your thoughts on these questions and any other suggestions to mbrooks@oceanicinstitute.org. We look forward to your input. Mahalo!

Pacific Island Spotlight: Local Aquaculture Development Equals Found Money in CNMI

From the Saipan Tribune. September 13, 2010.
This article is the first in a series by contributing author Tony Pellegrino, owner of SyAqua and CTSA IAC Member.

Come with me as we discover millions of dollars lying directly under our feet. Not only will we find this money but we will be creating hundreds, perhaps thousands, of local jobs. But the most important thing is, along with this new found money will be the pride that we did it on our own. Everyone becomes a winner. None of the ideas require huge sums of money. But they do require determination.
Let's sit down and discuss the ideas. When you finish, rush up to the Legislature, call them at home, meet them for coffee anywhere and stress that these ideas are viable. We have millions of dollars lying directly under our feet.

The surest and fastest way to increase revenue immediately is to place a protective tariff on all imported food and on other items that compete with the things we can grow or produce ourselves. A protective tariff is a duty imposed on imports to raise their price, making them less attractive to consumers and thus protecting domestic industries from foreign competition. In these times of need, we must protect our home industries from foreign competition. Think about all the imports we see in our stores that we could produce ourselves.

Every country in the world has protective duties to protect their domestic businesses. These protective duties are also used to protect fledging businesses in a country. The most recent blatant example, which hurt us badly, was what happened in the garment industry. Recall that when import tariffs were reduced in 2005, the United States became flooded with garments from other countries, upsetting and destroying the garment industry that had been flourishing in the CNMI. So how does this work?

We grow many different produce in the CNMI. To mention a few, we grow eggplants, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, and assorted green vegetables. We grow pineapples, bananas, tangerines, mangos, papayas and other fruits. There are lots more we could grow.

Some people are now growing aquaculture seafood such as tilapia and shrimp. We have devoted fishermen catching fish within our waters enough to feed us. We process and sell drinking water in small and large bottles. Currently there are about 10 bottling companies on island. Other people are growing lovely flowers. This is only a short list of all the items and foodstuffs that we are growing or producing currently in the CNMI.

To prove that our produce is just as good as any grown in the United States, recently an associate and I sold several hundred pounds of locally grown sweet potatoes to the U.S. military commissary in Guam. The potatoes were sold out quickly. I have also sold shrimp there. This proves that our produce can be accepted for export. We have capabilities that we refuse to acknowledge.

So why are we importing these items that we can produce ourselves and exporting our scarce dollars?

The read the full article, click here.

August AquaClips - Innovative Shallow Current Meter Costs Less

by University of Rhode Island, from pddnet.com, September 14 2010

When a federal fisheries scientist sought to learn how ocean currents affect the catch rate of lobsters, he turned to a University of Rhode Island oceanographer who had developed an innovative and inexpensive meter for measuring currents near the bottom of bays, rivers and other shallow waters. So did aquaculture farmers in Rhode Island looking to identify the best site for farming oysters, Cape Cod officials interested in understanding tidal fluctuations in Waquoit Bay, and students at Cohasset (Mass.) High School studying circulation patterns in Cohasset Bay.

They all called on Vitalii Sheremet, associate marine research scientist at URI's Graduate School of Oceanography, whose expertise about currents, tides and waves, along with his SeaHorse tilt current meter, provided the answers.

Currents cause the meter - a buoyant plastic pipe containing an accelerometer and an electronics package that is anchored vertically to the sea floor - to tilt at an angle, with stronger currents creating a greater tilt.
"It's lightweight, it's inexpensive, it's easy to deploy, and you can deploy large numbers of them to gain different perspectives on whatever problem you're looking at," said Sheremet.

Most current meters used by scientists cost about $15,000 each, while Sheremet's meter is only about $500, and he makes each one by hand. It takes him about a week to build and calibrate 10 of them. He hopes to have them commercially available sometime next year as soon as the final design is chosen...

...In October the URI scientist will present his technology at a meeting of aquaculture industry representatives. Sheremet said that it is especially important for oyster farmers to select sites that have strong currents, and his meter is the perfect device for identifying the sites with the best flow rate.

Click here to read 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 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.