Letter from the Director

Aloha!

The Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) recently published the results of an economic assessment which found that a modest investment of just over $4 million in NRAC projects from 2005-2014 generated almost $79 million in GDP and 777 jobs in NRAC states. This data provides clear evidence that the Regional Aquaculture Centers are a worthwhile grassroots driven federal program, and I congratulate the stakeholders who contributed to bring the Northeast aquaculture industry to this point of significant return on investment!

As we commend the economic success of our fellow Center and the Regional Aquaculture Center program, the assessment has prompted me to think about what we can accomplish through aquaculture in our own isolated region. The Pacific Islands have an abundance of pristine resources that can be sustainably utilized to expand U.S. aquaculture production. However, logistical challenges have made large-scale commercial farming difficult, and our aquaculture industry remains relatively small.

In spite of our differences from our counterparts across the country, both in the status of aquaculture and levels of production, I believe we must strategically focus on making the most meaningful impacts using our regional capabilities. Accordingly, CTSA has...

USDA Approves CTSA FY16 Plan of Work, New Projects Begin

The USDA recently approved the FY2016 Plan of Work, which includes funding for four new projects, one continuation project, and multi-year activities of three projects approved in previous Plans of Work.

The overall goals of the new project "Francisella noatunensis subsp. orientalis incidence and genetic assessment of feral Tilapia populations in Hawaii" are to determine the prevalence of Fno on islands other than Oahu, and to determine what species are infected and established in natural bodies of water in Hawaii...

The new project "Disease Prevalence Survey of Wild Mud Crab Populations in the US-Affiliated..."
Pacific Islands" will aim to determine the prevalence of harmful pathogens in wild populations of mud crabs in the USAPI, as well as in mud crabs imported into the region...

Also in Palau, the project "Testing the feasibility of Open Ocean Cage Culture of Grouper in Palau" will test the feasibility of grouper cage culture in Palau, with particular focus on density, growth rate, and FCR...

The overall goals of the project "Cost-Effective, Local Aquatic Feeds for Carnivorous and Omnivorous Fish with Varying Physical Characteristics" are to develop cost-effective feed formulations using locally sourced ingredients with varying physical characteristics (i.e. sinking or floating pellets), and to evaluate these feeds in carnivorous and omnivorous fish...  Read More

NRAC Funding Grows the Northeast Aquaculture Industry

From 2005 to 2014, the Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) invested $4.1 million in 32 aquaculture research and extension projects. A multidisciplinary team of researchers from the University of New Hampshire conducted an evaluation of these projects to assess: their economic impact on the aquaculture industry and overall economies in the Northeast; their effectiveness in solving problems confronting the aquaculture industry; and their effectiveness in securing other research grants.

The assessment found that money invested in the 32 NRAC-funded projects reviewed has benefitted regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP), job growth, and state and local tax revenues. A modest investment of just over $4 million resulted in an increase of almost $79 million in GDP of NRAC states and 777 new jobs, as well as over $4 million in state and local tax revenues and over $9.5 million in federal tax revenues. NRAC has released a Fact Sheet...  Read More

NOAA SK Funding Announcement & Grant Writing Training Sessions

NOAA Fisheries has announced the 2018 Saltonstall-Kennedy (SK) Grant competition is open for applications. The goal of the SK program is to fund projects that address the needs of fishing communities, optimize economic benefits by building and maintaining sustainable fisheries, and increase other opportunities to keep working waterfronts viable.

Coinciding with the announcement, NOAA is holding free one-day Effective Grant Writing training sessions and associated one-on-one grant review sessions (1.5 days total) at various locations across Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), and Am. Samoa. The topics to be covered include the fundamentals of good grant writing, common pitfalls and mistakes...  Read More
SBIR Road Tour - Hawaii

The SBA SBIR Road Tour is coming to Hawaii! HTDC is pleased to host this National program as part of the HI SBIR Biennial Conference. Click here for conference agenda and more info.

If you're an innovator, entrepreneur, researcher, post doc, graduate student or small technology firm, take advantage of this coveted local opportunity to hear directly from federal agency program managers, and meet one-on-one with program decision makers.

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is now offering competitive grants to qualified small businesses. This program aims to support innovation that tackles scientific problems and local opportunities that can lead to improving communities. Aquaculture projects are encouraged to apply, especially concepts that look at issues such as reproductive efficiency and health management, among others... Read More.

AquaClip: ASC releases new Feed Standard and other documents for public comments

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) recently launched seven documents for public consultation. Comments are welcome on each of the following documents:

- ASC Feed Standard
- ASC Flatfish Standard
- ASC Freshwater Trout Standard
- ASC Pangasius Standard
- ASC Salmon Standard
- ASC Seabass/Seabream/Maegre
- ASC Tropical Marine Finfish

The ASC Feed Standard will define requirements for both responsible factory practices, and requirements that define parameters for responsible ingredients for the three main ingredient groups used in aqua feed: marine ingredients, terrestrial plant ingredients and terrestrial animal ingredients.

Source: Aquafeed / Read Article

www.ctsa.org

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 2012-38500-19566, 2014-38500-22241, and 2016-38500-25751. 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 of Hawaii Pacific University and the University of Hawaii.