



Letter from the Director

Aloha,

On January 26, the CTSA Board of Directors (BOD) held their annual meeting at the UH Magoon facility in Manoa. CTSA would like to express our sincere appreciation to the University of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University for continuously providing logistical support and space for our offices and meetings.

The CTSA budget situation was a primary topic at the meeting, as BOD members discussed how the program can make significant impacts with a limited amount of funds. Considering the increased number of multi-year projects, CTSA will face an unprecedented situation of having very limited (or perhaps no) funds to support new projects this coming funding cycle. One of the ways the Board is ensuring that we maximize our program spending is through closer project monitoring. For example, if a multi-year project is not meeting its objectives in a timely manner, it is unlikely that the BOD will release funding for the next year of project activities, thereby freeing up funds to support other projects.

Moving forward, the BOD will presumably take fewer risks on projects that might be successful and will instead focus on supporting projects that are almost guaranteed to have immediate application and impacts on the regional aquaculture industry. I recommend that researchers and stakeholders keep this in mind as the next funding cycle approaches this spring. With that said, we encourage close dialogue between the industry stakeholders and researchers; we look forward to the ideas you will bring to the table this year!

Wishing you a Happy Lunar New Year!

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee

Executive Director, CTSA

***New* CTSA Video: Managing *Fno* Outbreaks in Cultured Tilapia**

Francisella noatunensis subsp. *orientalis*, or *Fno*, is a bacteria that occurs in cultured and wild populations of freshwater and marine fish as well as invertebrates worldwide. While *Fno* does not cause disease in humans, an outbreak can be devastating to fish stocks.

CTSA prepared the following short video about the impact of *Fno* on Hawaii tilapia farming, including ways to spot it and what to do if your fish have it. The video also highlights the two *Fno*-free tilapia supply centers on Oahu, which were established under a recently completed CTSA project. [Click here to watch the video!](#)

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For more information, please contact the laboratories referenced in the video. [Click here](#) to download the accompanying CTSA publication "Francisellosis in Tilapia."

Free Workshop Announcement: 'Molecular Tools Used in Marine Science'

Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University (OI-HPU) is offering two (2) week-long workshops (March 7-11th or April 4-8th) on the use of molecular tools in marine science. The workshops are for residents of Hawaii and U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands who are early-career marine science professionals, science teachers (secondary), or students (graduate and advanced undergraduate) pursuing a career in marine science. Each workshop is limited to twelve participants.

OI-HPU is a recognized leader in aquaculture research, with both national and international projects on-going at our facility in Waimanalo, HI. Recently a state-of-the-art molecular laboratory was built. The laboratory is equipped for DNA extraction, PCR, quantitative PCR, Sanger Sequencing, bacterial analysis and microscopy.

During the week-long workshop, each participant will gain hands-on experience using molecular tools in the context of on-going research projects at OI-HPU. Our goal is to introduce participants to the molecular techniques and equipment used in today's genetic laboratories, providing take-home skills necessary to advance their career.

Topics include:

- * Tissue sampling and preservation
- * Determination of genetic diversity
- * DNA extraction and "clean up"
- * Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- * Environmental DNA (eDNA)
- * Microsatellite analysis
- * Sequencing basics
- * Parentage assessment
- * Introduction to bioinformatics

To apply, please fill out an [application](#) and send to Dr. Brett Olds (bolds@hpu.edu). The deadline for receipt of applications is February 19th 2016. There is no cost to participants as they are defrayed with support from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

AquaClip ~ China looking to control overseas fishmeal producers

by AquaFeed.com staff, January 28, 2016.

Investment banks who advise some of China's largest agricultural conglomerates have been telling SeafoodSource of intense interest in overseas producers of fishmeal. Big names like New Hope, Tongwei and the two giants of Guangdong province, Haid Co and Wen's Co, are very interested in acquiring fishmeal assets overseas to feed growing demand in China. Struggling with over-capacity in their core business of animal feed, the firms are seeking out profitable new niche businesses.



In this they also have the tacit approval and support of Chinese policy makers. Global fishmeal supplies today are lower than a decade ago, and the El Niño weather phenomenon in Peru makes forecasting supplies difficult. As the world's top importer of fishmeal, China doesn't like this uncertainty - something pointed out in official government documents on the fisheries industry.

China needs more fishmeal to expand its shrimp industry and to increase production of high value fish. Byproducts from processing are decreasing, as processors seek to maximise use of fish waste.

China's big feed companies already source far and wide. Sanhe Hopeful, one of the companies interested in fishmeal supplies notes its key suppliers of soybeans as Francesco Macri, the father of Argentina's new president Mauricio Macri. Companies such as New Hope and Guangdong Haid have investments in grain and oilseeds plantations, and processing facilities in Bolivia, Zimbabwe and Cambodia.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

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 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.

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, 41-
202 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Waimanalo, HI 96795

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