



Regional e-Notes ~ May 2019 ~ Volume 11, Issue 5

Letter from the Director

Aloha!

As we begin the development cycle for the FY19 CTSA Plan of Work, my thoughts are focused on how we can best utilize our program to address serious issues that impact our planet, from food security to critical species restoration.



Earlier this month, several government agencies participated in Endangered Species Day, which is intended to bring awareness to the importance of protecting endangered species. This is a significant issue that we all need to consider because, as cautioned in a recent UN report, the extinction of various species may have serious consequences for human beings and the rest of life on Earth. The report discussed in the May 6 National Geographic article "One million species at risk of extinction, UN report warns," is a wakeup call for all humans. We must do what we can to mitigate the major drivers of these extinctions, including overfishing and climate change.

As reported in another National Geographic article, "ocean species are disappearing faster than those on Land" (Christina Nunez, April 24, 2019). This is likely because marine animals are far more vulnerable to extinctions than their earthbound counterparts, according to a study of more than 400 cold-blooded species. With fewer ways to seek refuge from warming, ocean-dwelling species are disappearing from their habitats at twice the rate of those on land. The study, led by researchers from New Jersey's Rutgers University and published in the journal Nature, is the first to compare the impacts of higher temperatures in the ocean and on land for a range of cold-blooded wildlife, from fish and mollusks to lizards and dragonflies. While previous research has suggested warm-blooded animals are better at adapting to climate change than cold-blooded ones, this study clarifies the heightened risk for sea creatures.

I am pleased to see community and industry leaders in Hawaii paying more attention to the importance of preserving our natural resources. Recently, the Directors and General Managers from Maui Ocean Center, Waikiki Aquarium, and Sea Life Park approached... [Read More](#)

Reminder: CTSA FY2019 Pre-Proposals Due June 14!

As a reminder, the FY19 Request for Pre-Proposals is available for download on the CTSA website. Pre-Proposals are due to CTSA on Friday, June 14.

CTSA's mission is to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education in order to enhance viable and profitable aquaculture in the United States.

REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS
Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture
Due Friday, June 14 2019

The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) requests pre-proposals for applied research and extension that addresses problems and opportunities in the regional aquaculture industry.

It is important to note that CTSA has a limited budget for new projects during this funding cycle. The amount is lower than most other years due to CTSA's commitment to fund succeeding project years of multi-year projects that were approved under the FY18 Plan of Work. In consideration of this funding limitation, **projects exceeding \$50,000 per project year will receive additional scrutiny during this FY19 funding cycle.**

CTSA stakeholders have identified the below strategic areas and species as the top aquaculture development priorities for this unique funding cycle. Pre-proposals that target these strategic areas and priority species will receive highest preference. However, pre-proposals that do not fall under specific priority areas but address CTSA's mission will be considered in our development process. Our main focus is on funding projects that will have immediate, positive impacts on the regional aquaculture industry.

The FY19 Request lists the top priority areas and species as identified by industry stakeholders in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. Our main focus is on funding projects that will have immediate, positive impacts on the regional aquaculture industry. FY 2019 Strategic Areas & Priority Species include Cost Effective Locally-Made Aquatic Feed, Marine Finfish and Ornamental Farming Technology, Disease Diagnostic... [Read More](#)

Calling All Aquaculture Start-Ups and Innovators! Hatch Sustainable Aquaculture Accelerator Sets Sights on Hawaii



There is a lot of excitement buzzing around the Hawaii aquaculture industry as [Hatch](#), the world's first sustainable aquaculture accelerator, searches for its third cohort of startups and prepares for its kick off at NELHA on the Big Island. CTSA had the opportunity to speak with Hatch Co-Founder and COO Wayne Murphy to learn more about this innovative program --which just won an 'International Impact' award at the 2019 Aquaculture Awards-- and its potential to stimulate our local aquaculture industry.

"We are very happy to be in Hawaii developing aquaculture talent, and we've got a really big mission to deliver here," exclaimed Mr. Murphy. "We are looking to help develop and support Hawaii's indigenous talent. We want to invest in Hawaiian technology and Hawaiian entrepreneurs who are involved in aquaculture."

The purpose behind the Hatch accelerator, which started with its first cohort in April 2018, is to provide participating startups with resources and a global perspective of aquaculture so they are able to meet industry demands and hone/scale their technology to drive their own success.

"NELHA is the perfect place for our startups to engage with aquaculture farms and really learn first hand the challenges they have, and maybe tweak their technologies to deliver solutions to known problems," stated Mr. Murphy.

The third Hatch cohort will begin this August and spend the bulk of its time at NELHA before traveling to the aquaculture hub of Bergen Norway, where salmon production runs into the tens of billions of dollars. After Norway, the teams will travel to Singapore, home to the world's largest seafood market and a melting pot of cultures and technologies. This rotation helps to provide companies with a well-rounded service.

A key aspect of the accelerator is helping startups raise funds. According to Mr. Murphy, the first Hatch cohort has been able to raise over \$7 million in funding in just over one year because "this opportunity makes them visible and gives them a platform to attract investors." Each participating company also receives 100,000 euros from Hatch to help them scale up and network their business. Half of the money is presented as a cash investment and the remaining half as in-kind support in the form of training, networking, marketing, etc. This support is critical for the startups, as many do not come from a traditional aquaculture setting.

"There are many different technologies that are not currently used in aquaculture that can have application in aquaculture," stated Mr. Murphy. The Hatch accelerator is the perfect place to incubate these technologies. One startup from the second Hatch cohort was originally a human health services company that was encouraged to 'pivot' and apply their proprietary technology to aquaculture; they are now working to eradicate sea lice on salmon farms, and just won the 'Best New Entrant' award at the 2019 Aquaculture Awards in Europe.

"I don't believe all the problems that exist in aquaculture are going to be solved by fish nutritionists or marine biologists," continued Mr. Murphy. "A lot of them are going to be solved by

engineers, computer scientists, data analysts, and a host of different disciplines. What Hatch is trying to do is attract these people and point them towards aquaculture, which is"... [Read More](#)

Paying Tribute to NIFA Pioneer Dr. Meryl C. Broussard Jr.

USDA-NIFA aquaculture pioneer Dr. Meryl C. Broussard Jr. passed away earlier this month. CTSA would like to express our gratitude for Dr. Broussard and his important impacts on U.S. aquaculture, from his tenure as the first National Program Leader for Aquaculture to his instrumental leadership in the creation of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). In the words of Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee, "Meryl definitely helped the development of the aquaculture program at the Capitol."



The following are excerpts from the [tribute page](#) for Dr. Broussard:

Before joining the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1985, Meryl held several faculty positions at Texas A&M University. He began his federal career as USDA's first National Program Leader for Aquaculture. While he was there, he provided effective leadership for development and implementation of major new university based aquaculture research and extension outreach programs. In 1996, his leadership skills were recognized nationally and internationally, and he was elected as President of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS).

As a result of his ability to lead programs and people, in 2002, he was promoted to the position of Director for the Animal Systems Division within the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES). With this position, he led the USDA's extramural research and extension outreach programs aimed at developing enhanced and sustainable livestock production systems. In 2007, he joined the Senior Executive Service as the Deputy Administrator for Plant and Animal Systems within CSREES. He provided leadership for the agency's science portfolio for sustainable plant and livestock production systems including the agency's mission critical agro-security programs. In 2008, he was asked to provide leadership for the planning, development, and establishment of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) as mandated in the 2008 Farm Bill. As a result of his leadership, NIFA was built from the ground up providing a framework to optimize organizational effectiveness and to catalyze efforts of the agency. This helped to advance the goals of the Administration through a renewed commitment to excellence in the agricultural sciences.

Following the establishment of NIFA, he was appointed as the first Deputy Director for Agriculture and Natural Resources at NIFA. In 2014, following the administrative realignment of the program and operational functions of the agency, he was appointed as the Associate Director for Programs responsible for the agency's \$1.5 billion science portfolio. His strong commitment to diversity goals and equal employment opportunities has enhanced program delivery while also fostering a workplace environment that ensures co-workers, customers, partners, and stakeholders are treated fairly, and with dignity and respect. He received USDA's Unsung Hero Award from the Secretary of Agriculture that same year and in 2015, he received the NIFA Hall of Fame Award... [Read More](#)

AquaClip: CTSA's Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee featured in Televised KITV News Interview on Hawaii Aquaculture Accelerator

Something is fishy about Hawaii's newest business accelerator!

Because it aims to bring in technology companies for state aquaculture.

Hawaii residents like to eat a lot of seafood, on average about 37 pounds per person every year. And we are not alone.

"The demand for seafood is rising every year, and cannot be met by wild catch alone," said Hawaii Governor David Ige.

That means aquaculture is not just a growing industry, but a critical one for our food sustainability. "Since 2016, aquaculture has provided 50% of the seafood we are eating," stated Cheng-Sheng Lee, with the University of Hawaii's Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture.

Hawaii doesn't have too many large scale aquaculture operations. Most of the aquaculture people see are small aquaponics set-ups in people's backyard,

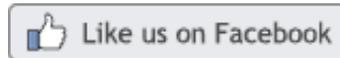
"Although we are small scale and don't produce a large quantity of aquaculture, Hawaii in terms of research worldwide is significant," added Lee.

Here pathogen-free shrimp were developed, and parasite resistant strains of fish were breed then sent around the global to re-stock important fisheries.

Now, Hawaii wants to round up technology companies to provide even more of a boost to the industry. It is opening an aquaculture accelerator, for start-up companies from the islands and around the world.

Source: KITV.com / [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.

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