



Letter from the Director

Aloha!

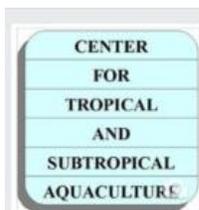
As you may have heard, there was recently an outbreak of Hepatitis A on the island of Oahu linked to frozen scallops imported from the Philippines. Over 270 people were sickened in the outbreak, with over 60 requiring hospitalization. Crises such as this highlight the importance of seafood safety, and provide an opportunity to make a strong case for aquaculture development in the Pacific region.

Although it may seem ironic, the Hawaiian islands import a significant amount of seafood to meet local demand. For example, over 400,000 oysters are shipped in per month. Meanwhile, Hawaii is home to hundreds of ancient fishponds that can be utilized to produce shellfish and other seafood, not to mention other local opportunities for both marine and freshwater aquaculture.

Producing seafood locally can help reduce our reliance on importation and contribute to the awareness of food safety, resulting in improved standards for imported seafood. U.S. aquaculture is a highly regulated industry. Food safety and food security are top priorities of NIFA, CTSA and the other Regional Aquaculture Centers. I welcome your suggestions as to how we can work together to use aquaculture to secure a safe and sustainable supply of seafood in Hawaii and the Pacific region.

Mahalo,
Cheng-Sheng Lee
Executive Director, CTSA

Using Social Media to Increase Awareness of Sustainable U.S. Aquaculture



The Center for
Tropical and
Subtropical
Aquaculture

@racpacific



With over 2.3 billion active users, social media has taken the world by storm over the last decade. At CTSA, we see social media as an opportunity for our industry to connect with each other and also our end users, consumers, on a more personal level. Since 2011, we have used YouTube and Vimeo to share videos highlighting aquaculture farmers and activities in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. Our videos have a total of over 50,000 combined views, and have

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received feedback from users across the globe. Eager to increase exposure for our program and regional partners, CTSA is beginning to actively use [Facebook](#) (and soon, other social media platforms) to share the results of our development efforts with a broader audience.

Hawaii is the birth place of some of the most significant aquaculture technology currently in use across the globe, i.e., SPF shrimp. While the U.S. has yet to fully capitalize on its opportunities for commercial aquaculture, other countries have adapted our technology and are leading the world in production. As we work towards a more robust U.S. aquaculture industry, we can utilize social media to engage with people in our country and abroad, and to share our past and present success stories in the hopes of improving understanding and perception of aquaculture.

The issue of aquaculture's less-than-perfect reputation in the United States was addressed in a recent USA Today article (shared on the CTSA Facebook page). There are many who perceive aquaculture in a negative light, due in large part to damaging stories about unsanitary and environmentally destructive aquaculture operations in other countries. We must work together as an industry and use the tools available to us to demonstrate that aquaculture is not a problem, but rather part of a solution to several problems we are facing as a global society, including food security, food safety, climate change, and economic crises.

CTSA is excited to use social media to share a wide range of content including videos, photos, and stories to disseminate the results of our funded projects, as well as other captivating aquaculture information. As we increase our engagement in the world of social media and explore the numerous platforms, we will increase our presence beyond YouTube, Vimeo, and Facebook - keep an eye out for more announcements in the near future. In the meantime, we hope you will 'Like' [our page](#) and join in the conversation on sustainable U.S. aquaculture.

Aquaculture Announcements

Highlights from NCRAC webinar on the Regulatory Costs of U.S. Aquaculture Businesses; Next FREE webinar will take place October 12

Earlier this week, the United States Aquaculture Society, National Aquaculture Association and North Central Regional Aquaculture Center offered a free webinar focused on the regulatory costs incurred by bait and sportfish farmers. Many aquaculture producers and scientists have long pointed to an excessively burdensome regulatory environment in the United States as a constraint to growth and development of aquaculture. However, there has been little research done to determine the magnitude of the specific costs incurred by aquaculture producers as they comply with regulations.

The 1-hour webinar presented results of the first-ever study to measure the specific costs of regulations and how these costs affect U.S. baitfish and sportfish farms. Researchers found that regulations cost the industry an estimated \$12 million per year, with an average national cost of \$2,953 per acre; 1% of those costs are related to permits and licensing, while 99% are indirect. The research team argued that streamlining through a uniform model for aquatic animal health may help reduce costs for producers.

The next FREE webinar will cover the topic of Oyster production, and will be held on October 12. Please contact Josh Tenney at jstenney@iastate.edu for more information.

USDA authorizes immediate release of Marine Finfish after exposure to AQUI-S 20E

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine has approved the immediate release of marine finfish for field based fishery management activities under INAD 11-741. This means all freshwater AND marine finfish that are sedated with AQUI-S ® 20E at 10-100 mg/L for up to 15 min as part of field-based fishery management activities, may be released immediately after treatment. Hatchery use, for both freshwater and marine fish, still has a 72 hr withdrawal period; however fish that are illegal for harvest may be released immediately.

All AQUI-S ® 20E work must be done under the approved INAD (11-741). Please contact Bonnie Johnson (bonnie_johnson@fws.gov) to sign-up to use AQUI-S ® 20E.

Aquaculture Drug Update: New INAD Erymicin 200

Authorization has been received from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine for new INAD 12-781 for the use of erythromycin (Erymicin 200 Injection) treatment to

control bacterial kidney disease (BKD; causative agent *Renibacterium salmoninarum*) in salmonids. More specifically, Erymicin 200 Injection treatment may be used to 1) control mortality caused by BKD in salmonid species, and 2) reduce or minimize *R. Salmoninarum* levels in BKD positive female salmonid broodstock in order to control (prevent) the vertical transmission of *R. Salmoninarum* to eggs/progeny.

Bacterial kidney has long posed a serious health concern in both cultured and free-ranging salmonid populations, and we are pleased to announce this opportunity for not only a new BKD treatment option, but also for AADAP to begin cooperatively generating safety and effectiveness data that can ultimately be used to support FDA-approval of Erymicin 200 Injection for use in aquatic species. [Learn more.](#)

AquaClip ~ NOAA, public discuss aquaculture expansion to deep, unregulated waters

by Max Dible, West Hawaii Today. September 16, 2016.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration held a meeting Wednesday evening in Kona to receive public comments and suggestions on the establishment of a federal management program for aquaculture fisheries in the exclusive economic zone around Hawaii and other Pacific islands under U.S. jurisdiction.

The aquaculture industry hasn't yet established itself in the EEZ, which typically spans ocean areas between 3-200 nautical miles off of U.S. coastlines.

Only one industrial aquaculture fishery currently operates in these waters, but because of the inherent advantages of deep-sea aquaculture and its potential to help feed the ever-increasing human population, NOAA representatives are taking initiative to get ahead of the issue from a managerial standpoint.

"We do kind of expect there to be more operations and ultimately, we would like to develop a coordinated, consistent and efficient regulatory process for marine aquaculture," said David Nichols, fishery management specialist with NOAA. "We are looking for input from the public to get a better handle on what their concerns are that we might not know or might have missed before we even start down this path."

The management program, in simple terms, would develop a permitting process for businesses that wish to operate in the EEZ and would include regulations for environmental assessments and impact studies while also considering economic concerns.

[Read 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 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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