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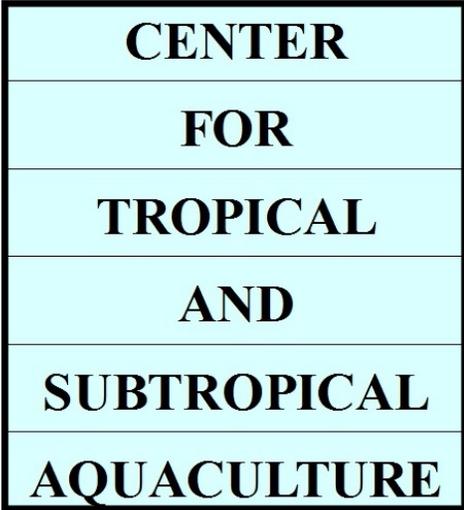
Letter from the Director

Aloha,

As you are likely aware, the U.S. aquaculture industry has been a hot topic on Capitol Hill this year. From legislators and government agencies to industry stakeholders and trade groups, many are calling for concerted efforts to increase domestic aquaculture production.

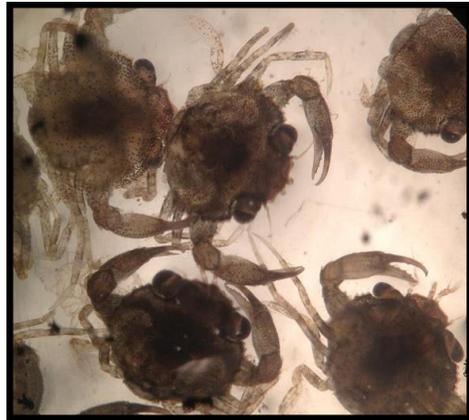
Ramping up aquaculture production can help the U.S. reduce the seafood trade deficit and improve the economy through increased revenue and job creation. A key part of expanding domestic production will be opening more areas to farming. One area that holds great potential to sustainably produce more seafood is the EEZ. The U.S. has the second largest EEZ in the world with an area roughly 4.4 million square miles across three oceans, the Caribbean sea and the Gulf of Mexico. However, regulations for marine aquaculture have been an issue.

The Department of Commerce has clarified that they would like to see a one-stop-shop for aquaculture regulations. To address this, there is currently a bill -- sponsored by U.S. Senator Roger Wicker and co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Marco Rubio -- named the "Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture Act," which calls for the creation of the Office of Marine Aquaculture within NOAA Fisheries. That office would oversee... [Read More](#)



CTSA Project Summary: Improving Mangrove Crab Hatchery Production in Palau

Farming the mangrove crab (*Scylla serrata* Forskall) has become popular in Palau due to its high market demand and lucrative price. Hatchery techniques have been successfully established through a mangrove crab seed production project funded by CTSA in recent years. However, production of juvenile crabs is insufficient to support the needs of the farmers. This is due, in large part, to low survival during the nursery phase of production, which is mostly a result of cannibalism. Cannibalism is likely caused by high stocking density, absence of shelter, elevated temperatures, or artificial diets. The recently completed one-year project "Improving nursery and grow-out culture of mangrove crab by minimizing cannibalism and developing feed supplements"



aimed to address these issues.

The project was a joint effort between the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawaii Pacific University and the Palau Community College (PCC). Efforts to improve the tank based nursery rearing techniques for hatchery produced mangrove crab juveniles were conducted at the PCC hatchery. After trying several different substrates and types of shelter, the PCC team developed a sand + black netting shelter technique that increased mangrove crab survival.

Across the Pacific, the OI team analyzed commercially available mangrove crab feeds and ingredients from Palau in order to formulate a local diet and provide nutrient data for local mangrove crab farms. A series of feeding trials determined that feeding mangrove crabs a mixture of fresh milkfish byproduct and commercial prawn feed resulted in better mangrove crab growth and higher profit due to better shell quality. Accordingly, the research group developed two feed supplements for farmers using prawn feed and milkfish byproducts. A complete summary of the project results is available on the CTSA website...[Read More](#)

NIFA Listens: Stakeholder Input Opportunity



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NIFA is requesting stakeholder input related to the challenges, priorities and needed breakthroughs in food and agricultural sciences through the "NIFA Listens: Investing in Science to Transform Lives," initiative.

Four in-person listening sessions, in combination with an online stakeholder input form, will offer stakeholders opportunities to provide feedback to the following questions:

- *What is the greatest challenge that should be addressed through NIFA's research, education, and extension programs?*
- *In your field, what is the most-needed breakthrough in science/technology that would advance your agricultural enterprise?*
- *What is your top priority in food and agricultural research, extension, or education that NIFA should address? ... [Read More](#)*

AquaClip: Federal court rules Magnuson-Stevens, NOAA don't regulate aquaculture

A ruling in a Louisiana federal court earlier this week could have major implications for how the United States regulates aquaculture in federal waters.

On Monday, 24 September, U.S. District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo ruled in favor of environmental, public interest and fishing groups who filed suit against the federal government two years ago, claiming NOAA Fisheries did not have the authority to regulate aquaculture through the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The judge said the law deals with only the traditional fishing of wild fish and that the agency's interpretation of the word harvesting in the law was done on purely a semantic level.

"It is often said that 'Congress does not hide elephants in mouseholes,' and this court cannot imagine a more fitting example," Milazzo wrote. "Had Congress intended to give (NOAA Fisheries) the authority to create an entirely new regulatory permitting scheme for aquaculture operations, it would have said more than 'harvesting.' The MSA is a conservation statute, aimed at the conservation and management of natural resources. Fish farmed in aquaculture are neither 'found' off the coasts of the United States nor are they 'natural resources.'"

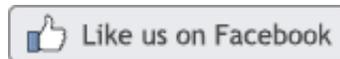
After getting the court victory, the plaintiffs, which included such organizations as the Center for Food Safety, the Recirculating Farms Coalition and the Gulf Fishermen's Association and the Gulf Restoration Network, said they will now look to stop current legislation designed to regulate aquaculture. That includes the AQUAA Act filed earlier this year by U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi).

Stronger America Though Seafood, an industry group that's lobbying for increased aquaculture production in the United States, told SeafoodSource that the ruling makes it crucial that Congress grant NOAA Fisheries the authority to regulate the industry.

Jennie Lyons, a NOAA spokeswoman, told SeafoodSource the agency is considering whether to appeal the decision. She added that the courts system has created conflicting rulings and that the agency supports Congressional action to give NOAA Fisheries clear authority over aquaculture.

Source: SeafoodSource / [Read Full 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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