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# National Aquaculture Extension Conference

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## General Information

<i>Reporting Period</i>	September 1, 2006–August 31, 2007 (termination report)
<i>Funding Level</i>	<b>\$11,249</b>
<i>Participants</i>	<b>James P. Szyper</b> , Ph.D., Extension Specialist Sea Grant College Program, University of Hawaii at Manoa  Clyde S. Tamaru, Ph.D., Extension Specialist Sea Grant College Program, University of Hawaii at Manoa

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## Objectives

The overall goal of this project was to arrange CTSA participation and representation at the Fourth National Aquaculture Extension Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 30–May 4, 2007.

This project had two specific objectives:

1. Support the travel and reporting activity of CTSA representatives to the conference.
2. Support the costs of conference organization as a contributing RAC.

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## Principal Accomplishments

***Objective 1: Support the travel and reporting activity of the CTSA representatives to the conference.***

Two participants from the CTSA region were supported for travel to the conference: Project Work Group leader James Szyper, Ph.D., who is a member of the National Aquaculture Extension Steering

Committee, and John Gonzalez, the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program's aquaculture extension agent in American Samoa at the time. The proposal specified that a participant from the Pacific islands region would be supported; Gonzalez was invited in that capacity. Project participant Clyde Tamaru, Ph.D., also of UH Sea Grant, was the regional representative to the Conference Planning Committee. He participated in conference planning but was unable to make the trip to the conference. Charles Laidley, Ph.D., of the Oceanic Institute attended the conference as an additional regional representative, under separate CTSA funding.

Conference participants were lodged mainly at the Garfield Suites hotel in downtown Cincinnati; conference sessions were held at the nearby Cincinnati Club. More than 80 participants and several dozen invited speakers were involved in plenary sessions on the morning of Tuesday, May 1, with two concurrent sessions running on that afternoon and during the next two days. Activities for Friday, May 4, consisted of optional tours, including the aquaculture facilities of Kentucky State and Ohio State Universities.

CTSA contributions included an afternoon-long session titled, "Open-Ocean Aquaculture," organized by Clyde Tamaru for the conference planning committee. The session, moderated by James Szyper, included two invited presentations, each followed by a group discussion. University of Hawaii professor emeritus Charles Helsley, Ph.D., gave a talk titled, "Hawaii Offshore Aquaculture Research Project: Experience and Its Lessons for Extension Agents." Charles Laidley of the Oceanic Institute partnered with Helsley during that named project and contributed to discussion at this session. The second presentation was given by Richard Langan of the University of New Hampshire, and was titled, "Offshore Aquaculture and the Environment: a Case Study of Environmentally Responsible Practices at an Experimental Offshore Farm in New England." Laidley also represented CTSA in presenting a center update during the conference-opening plenary session titled, "Regional Aquaculture Center Successes and Current Challenges," moderated by Gary Jensen of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Extension, and Education Service (CSREES).

This conference also provided an opportunity for an in-person meeting of the National Aquaculture Extension Steering Committee (NAESC), for which Szyper is the CTSA representative. This committee is jointly convened by USDA CSREES and NOAA. The conveners from those organizations, Gary Jensen and Andy Lazur, respectively, facilitate the conduct of work by the committee through in-person meetings and conference calls several times each year. The in-person meetings are most often attached to professional conferences so that the participants can more readily arrange externally funded travel. The committee consists of representatives from the USDA Regional Aquaculture Centers, including CTSA, and of several other organizations in addition to the conveners. Membership revolves, with staggered three-year terms for most members. This meeting included introduction of several new members, with discussion aimed at providing background on the committee's work to them. Pending and new issues were raised; these issues are discussed below in terms of their carryover into the August committee meeting.

In addition to support of travel to the NAE conference, project funds also supported project leader James Szyper's travel to the Washington, D.C., area in August 2007 for an in-person meeting of the

NAESC. It was held on Wednesday and Thursday, August 29–30, 2007, at the Ramada Inn BWI, near the Baltimore-Washington International Airport, as a central and convenient meeting point. Differing from the usual practice of using the occasion of a national conference, this session was held as a stand-alone event, because the committee was involved in several items targeted for the U.S. Aquaculture Society's Aquaculture America 2008 conference to be held in the Orlando, Florida, area in February 2008.

These items include development and presentation of a poster paper describing the committee's nature and work, another poster presenting its proposed U.S. Aquaculture Extension Association, a two-hour professional development session on production of voiced-over PowerPoint slide shows, and its fourth Emerging Issues session, at which invited speakers bring national and international conference participants current on selected topics. This latter session will be followed by an oral presentation on the proposed U.S. Aquaculture Extension Association. Committee members volunteered leadership and subcommittee participation on these and other topics. For example, James Szyper delivered to the group, after this meeting, an example of a pre/post-evaluation instrument that could be modified to evaluate the professional development session mentioned above. He also agreed to work with the subcommittee that is developing state aquaculture update templates to be solicited nationwide and made accessible on the AquaNIC web site.

***Objective 2. Support the costs of conference organization as a contributing RAC.***

The budgeted amount of \$5,000 was transferred to the conference planning committee by the UH Sea Grant fiscal office.

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## Impacts

The conference provided participating aquaculture extension professionals with opportunities to learn new technical information derived from research and extension work from around the U.S., learn of the extension approaches used nationwide, and meet and exchange ideas with other extension professionals. Such experience will result in broader perspectives from which to view new and ongoing challenges.

The conference will also result in strengthened linkages between research and extension in a manner that is complementary and in partnership with private sector interests.

Participants left the conference better informed of timely research topics and funding programs that can support research on these topics. This will result in increased funding of the salaries and activities of extension professionals.

## **Recommended Follow-up Activities**

In the future, CTSA should provide support for the next National Aquaculture Extension Conference in a manner similar to what was given for this project.

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## **Publications in Print, Manuscripts, and Papers Presented**

None.