



Regional e-Notes ~ May 2020 ~ Volume 12, Issue 5

Letter from the Director

Aloha,

As we prepare to enter a third month of 'modified movement' in society, my team and I hope that this newsletter finds you safe and sound. As I said last month, the tragic toll of the global pandemic cannot be understated, and we send our condolences and healing thoughts to all who are experiencing hardship. With a major spotlight on food security, we all know that farmers and other essential workers in the food supply chain continue to work through these challenging times, and we share our gratitude to you for keeping food on our tables.



Like most things at the moment, some aspects of this year's development process will be out of the ordinary, but CTSA is continuing our work and pressing on to prepare the FY20 Plan of Work. As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, the FY20 Request for Pre-Proposals was released earlier this month via the CTSA website. There is an announcement included in this month's issue as well - please note, if you are interested in submitting a Pre-Proposal, you must complete and submit our new Pre-Proposal form (which can be downloaded on the [website](#) or via request to mbrooks@ctsa.org) by next Friday, June 5. We will then move to the next phase of development through the aid of digital technology by holding our first ever virtual Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee meeting via Zoom. We are looking forward to reconnecting with our members in this 'new normal.' We are also assisting our researchers to host a virtual Rabbitfish workshop in June (announcement below).

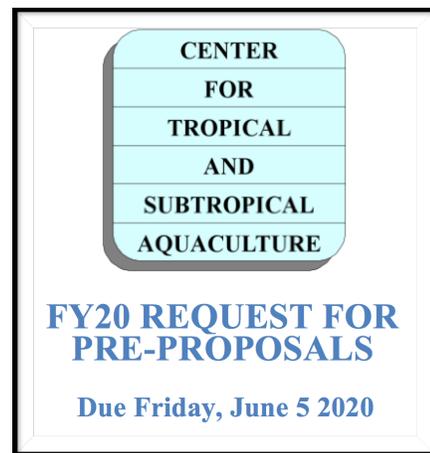
Last month, I had the pleasure of participating in the University of Guam (UOG) Island Sustainability Conference via a similar digital platform. Even though we were not in the same room, we still managed to have a very constructive discussion. I am especially pleased that the Governor of Guam and the President of UOG are very supportive of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region. They discussed the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge with technological innovations to effectively manage natural resources. "Island wisdom," as they described, holds the answers to addressing the growing challenges of feeding people in extremely isolated areas. I am a firm believer in this as well, especially when it comes to bringing multiple disciplines and stakeholders together to create real progress.

Our longtime readers know well that I often use this platform to preach about the importance of partnership. It is especially critical during this unprecedented time, as there is an increasing focus on food safety, food security, and self-sustainability. We depend on our partners --researchers, internal committee members, external reviewers, and other stakeholders-- to help ensure that CTSA funding addresses critical industry needs and opportunities in our remote...[Read More](#)

Reminder: CTSA FY2020 Pre-Proposals due June 5

As a reminder, CTSA released its FY20 Request for Pre-Proposals via the program website and subsequent regional announcement on April 30. Pre-proposals are due to CTSA by 5pm HST on Friday, June 5.

New for FY2020: CTSA is now using a standard form for all pre-proposal submissions. Pre-proposal forms can be downloaded on the [CTSA website](#) or via request to mbrooks@ctsa.org. Pre-proposals received by the deadline will be reviewed by CTSA's Industry Advisory Council (IAC) and Technical Committee (TC). Pre-proposals that receive a majority of votes will move forward with requests for a full proposal.



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.

The FY20 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 2020 Strategic Areas & Priority Species include Marine Finfish Farming Technology, Macroalgae/Microalgae, Disease Management, Innovations in Aquaculture Technology, Hawaiian Fishponds, and...[Read More](#)

Announcement: CTSA Project Will Conduct Virtual Training on Rabbitfish Hatchery, Nursery, and Grow-out

The ongoing CTSA project "Improving Rabbitfish Seed Production Capacity in Palau" will hold a three-day virtual training workshop in the afternoons of June 21, 22, and 23 (Hawaii Standard Time). The workshop will cover the hatchery, nursery, and grow-out protocols for the farming of rabbitfish, a popular food fish throughout the Western Pacific region.



The workshop will be led by researchers and project Co-P.I.'s Miguel de los Santos of Palau Community College (PCC) and Dr. Chatham Callan of the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University (OI). Trainees who participate will learn basic tools for rabbitfish hatchery, nursery, and grow-out in Palau, as well as broodstock management, spawning, egg incubation, larval rearing, feed production, and more.

At the end of the workshop, CTSA will host a discussion on the current status and future opportunities for rabbitfish production throughout the Pacific region.

The free virtual workshop is being held to replace the project's in-person workshop that was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All three days of the program will be conducted via Zoom. If you are a farmer, researcher, or other stakeholder located in the CTSA region who is interested in registering for the event, please email mbrooks@ctsa.org. In your email, please provide your name, professional or educational affiliation, and primary reason for attending the workshop. CTSA will send registered participants the necessary links to attend the training via Zoom, as well as additional information on the agenda.

We ask that you please share this announcement with others in the region who may be interested in attending the virtual workshop.

USDA Now Accepting Applications for COVID-19 Relief for Aquaculture Farmers

Earlier this month, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.



In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need.

"America's farming community is facing an unprecedented situation as our nation tackles the coronavirus. President Trump has authorized USDA to ensure our patriotic farmers, ranchers, and producers are supported and we are moving quickly to open applications to get payments out the door and into the pockets of farmers," said Secretary Perdue. "These payments will help keep farmers afloat while market demand returns as our nation reopens and recovers. America's farmers are resilient and will get through this challenge just like they always do with faith, hard work, and determination."

As of May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses. To apply for CFAP payments, producers must submit a completed CFAP application either in person, by mail, e-mail, or facsimile to an FSA county office.

Notice: EPA Seeking Public Comment on Rotenone

The EPA is seeking public comment on their draft rotenone ecological risk assessment. You are encouraged to comment to the agency and refine or correct the draft by providing:

- Any use (use sites) and usage (average and maximum amounts of rotenone applied, frequencies of applications, intervals between applications, precautions, etc.)
- Any registration information and assumptions which are incorrect.

Re-registration is going to be a multi-step process. Once the agency is finished with the risk assessment they will post a notice for public comment on the Preliminary Interim Decision or PID. Associated with this posting will be a request for information describing the benefits rotenone provides.

Benefits comments (value to aquaculture, managing pest species, etc.) are very important as the Federal Fungicides, Insecticides and Rodenticides Act (FIFRA) requires consideration of economic benefits as well as risks to make a proposed interim decision to continue registration of the active ingredient (rotenone), assuming EPA can make a reasonable certainty of no harm finding under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).



AquaClip - Trump to promote and fund aquaculture industry

The Trump administration signed a new executive order promoting American seafood competitiveness and economic growth. This new executive order will propel the U.S. forward as a seafood superpower by strengthening the American economy, improving the competitiveness of American industry, ensuring food security, providing environmentally safe and sustainable seafood, supporting American workers, and ensuring coordinated and transparent federal actions.



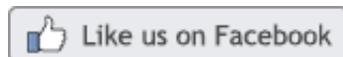
Specifically, the executive order calls for the expansion of sustainable U.S. seafood production through more efficient and predictable aquaculture permitting, cutting-edge research and development, regulatory reform to maximize commercial fishing, and enforcement of common-sense restrictions on seafood imports that do not meet American standards.

As part of this effort, the Department of Commerce will co-chair a newly-established Seafood Trade Task Force and will work closely with interagency partners to develop a comprehensive interagency seafood trade strategy that identifies opportunities to improve access to foreign markets through trade policy and negotiations, resolves technical barriers to U.S. seafood exports, and otherwise supports fair market access for U.S. seafood products.

In addition, the Secretary of Commerce announced the allocation of \$300 million in fisheries assistance funding provided by Sec. 12005 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also called the CARES Act, to states, tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who have been negatively affected by COVID-19. Privately owned aquaculture businesses growing products in state or federal marine waters of the United States and the hatcheries that supply them may be eligible for these assistance funds. This includes all molluscan shellfish and marine algae as well as non-salmonid marine finfish grown in marine waters not covered by USDA.

Source: Aquafeed.com / [Read Original Article](#)

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This newsletter is written and prepared by the CTSA Information Specialist Meredith Brooks. 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 active grants 2016-38500-25751 and 2018-38500-28886. 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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