

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Regional e-Notes ~ November 2012

Vol 4, Issue 11



Letter from the Director

Aloha,

During the holiday season, we often find ourselves reflecting on what we are most thankful for. I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the people that help to strengthen CTSA.

The success of our organization can be attributed to our stakeholders, and I always appreciate their input and continuous participation in CTSA activities. This year, we changed our format and used an internet survey to develop our funding priorities. Stakeholder participation in the process was the highest we have ever experienced! The resulting Plan of Work addresses key areas affecting aquaculture in the region, as identified in the survey results.

Throughout the year, CTSA's Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee, especially the chairmen Ron Weidenbach and Dr. Harry Ako, expend great effort to develop our Plan of Work and ensure that the Center is fulfilling its mission. I am very thankful for their attention to detail, as well as their dedication to our organization.

On a sadder note, the pioneer fish nutritionist Dr. John E. Halver passed away in October. I am certain that I speak on behalf of the industry when I say that we are all appreciative for his many contributions to the field of nutritional biochemistry. He will be missed by the global aquaculture industry. [Please click here](#) to read Dr. Halver's obituary.

As always, if you have any suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee
Executive Director, CTSA

Developing a value-added product "half-pearls" from the blacklip pearl oyster *Pinctada margaritifera* in Pohnpei (the Federated States of Micronesia)

By Masahiro Ito
Director and Chief Scientist, Aquaculture Research and Extension, College of Micronesia Land Grant Program
P.O. Box 1179, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM96941, Federated States of Micronesia.

In This Issue

Letter from the Director
Micronesia Half-Pearls
Announcements & Reminders
November AquaClip

Quick Links

www.ctsa.org
www.oceanicinstitute.org

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

hiroito@mail.fm

Value-added products need to be unique; Micronesian brand half-pearls are more colorful than the ordinary whitish or grayish half-pearls existing in the jewelry market. Through this CTSA-sponsored project, The College of Micronesia Land Grant Program (COM) continued to train core pearl technicians by a master grafting technician and by a pearl grading expert.



Fig 1. Round- and half-pearl grading training and graded shells with half-pearls.

Creating Micronesian seeding, or grafting, technicians is one of the key elements of success for sustainable pearl industry development, and such technology transfer should be done among the Micronesians. This project aimed to create half-pearl seeding technicians from the local communities and outer islands. In order to deliver technical support on the value-added products for a small-scale pearl business development in Pohnpei and its outer islands, the project also conducted trial sales in Pohnpei for the half-pearl accessories. For marketing development and sale promotions, the PI also collaborated with overseas pearl experts and jewelry industries in Australia, Japan and Switzerland and USA.

The primary objective of this project was to produce high quality half-pearls or "Mabe" (hemispherical pearls) as a valued-added product from pearl farming activity and transfer production techniques between the Micronesians. The main objectives were as follows:

- Objective 1. To conduct half-pearl seeding and produce half-pearls.*
- Objective 2. To demonstrate and train half-pearl seeding techniques by COM's Micronesian technicians to select youths from pearl farming communities.*
- Objective 3. To demonstrate half-pearl pendants and accessory making by COM staff.*
- Objective 4. To conduct quality assessment of half-pearls and pearl shell-related accessories.*

Accomplishments

The first project activities were carried out in August 2010 at the COM's pilot farm and marine laboratory at Nett Point in Pohnpei. A series of half-pearl pearl seeding, harvesting, and accessory making workshops were expanded to the outer islands of Pakin Atoll, Pingelap Atoll and Pweniau Island. During Year 1, a total of 43 local youths were involved in the project's seeding



training. Two COM technicians continued training of the half-pearl seeding skills to 13 trainees in the second year of this project. In August 2011, half-pearl products such as pendants and earrings produced from the skill training were also sold for the first time in Pohnpei as a part of the Micronesian pearl products display-sale in Kolonia.

Impacts

Half-pearls are a value-added product to the pearl farming business. Operation costs for half-pearls are far less than those of the round-pearls because of a shorter cultivation period and relatively easy nucleus

Fig 2. Designing, grinding shells and cutting out half-pearls for pendants making.

period and relatively easy nuclear implantation techniques. Participating individuals and communities, as well

as local consumers, became aware of half-pearl accessories as a new source of income generation. Jewelry-cut half-pearls are the items most frequently enquired about from local and overseas buyers. As a result of marketing efforts, offers for sale promotions and orders for the products also began arriving from overseas. This project has shown clearly that high quality half-pearls with unique color and luster can be produced by the local labor force to develop a new export market. The Micronesians are building their own expertise by transferring technology among them, reviving international half-pearl trading and laying a foundation for pearl industry development.



Fig 3. Finished products ready for sale.

Announcements and Reminders

NIFA Announcement: Registration Now Open for Two New Online Aquaculture Courses

Brunswick Community College is once again offering two online continuing education courses in aquaculture in the spring semester, beginning January 14 and running for 16 weeks until May 6, 2013. The courses are "Introduction to Aquaculture" and "Advanced Aquaculture". The fee is \$175 for each course, regardless of state or nation of residence. The courses are designed to require about 6 hours each week of self-paced study time, which the student may schedule at their convenience. The courses have no prerequisites, are open to everybody worldwide, and are taught by Doug Holland in English. Upon completion of each course (completion of at least 60% of the material), the student will receive a Certificate of Completion. The courses are funded by the State of NC as Workforce and Economic Development and should qualify as continuing ed credit for entry level aquaculturists.

Additional information may be found on the departmental website:

<http://www.brunswickcc.edu/professional-technical/aquaculture-technology>

To register, students should contact Lori Summerlin at (910) 755-7408 or longl@brunswickcc.edu

NAA Reminder: Guide to Using Drugs, Biologics, and Chemicals in Aquaculture and Companion Treatment Calculator Now Available

All aquaculture operations have occasional demand for drugs, biologics, and other chemicals, collectively referred to as "regulated products". The Guide was developed by the Fish Culture Section Working Group on Aquaculture Drugs, Chemicals, and Biologics as a comprehensive introduction to the use of regulated products in aquaculture and a resource for fisheries professionals.

Available below, the Guide includes updated information on aquaculture drugs and contacts for

providing feedback. The updated treatment calculator now includes INAD drugs, and is also available in both Excel 97-2003 (.xls) and Excel 2007 (.xlsx) formats. [Click here to download the Guide.](#)

AquaClip: Warming Temperatures Affect Size of Aquatic Animals

November 5, 2012. From [esciencenews.com](#)

Warmer temperatures cause greater reduction in the adult sizes of aquatic animals than in land-dwellers in a new study by scientists from Queen Mary, University of London and the University of Liverpool. The research published Nov 5 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) shows that the body size of marine and freshwater species are affected disproportionately by warmer temperatures. This could have implications for aquatic food webs and the production of food by aquaculture.

The researchers compared the extent to which the adult size of 169 terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species responded to different non-harmful temperatures, in the largest study of its kind.

Summarising the results, co-author Dr Andrew Hirst from Queen Mary's School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, said:

"Aquatic animals shrink 10 times more than land-dwellers in species the size of large insects or small fish. While animals in water decrease in size by 5 percent for every degree Celsius of warming, similarly sized species on land shrink, on average, by just half a percent."

[Click here to read the 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 2007-38500-18471, 2008-38500-19435, and 2010-38500-20948. 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.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to mbrooks@oceanicinstitute.org by mbrooks@oceanicinstitute.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture | 41-202 Kalaniana'ole Highway | Waimanalo | HI | 96795