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Regional e-Notes ~ February 2013

Vol 5, Issue 2



Letter from the Director

Aloha,

Last month, the CTSA Board of Directors' met in Kona for a two-day meeting and retreat. Historically, the CTSA Board holds a one-day meeting every January to approve the Plan of Work. This year, we appreciate that our Board members dedicated an extra day to discuss key issues regarding CTSA operational procedures. I am pleased to share that this meeting was very productive, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board members for their positive comments and constructive suggestions. I would also like to thank our retreat facilitator James Hollyer of CTAHR.



CTSA Board Members visit Cyanotech (NELHA)

At the retreat, our Board discussed and made decisions on a variety of issues related to our annual development process and project monitoring. These decisions will be incorporated into our procedures this year in an effort to make CTSA more effective. In general, we will require increased participation from project PI's and industry members in order to improve our program's true impacts on aquaculture development in the Pacific region.

The USDA is paying closer attention to impacts from all of its federally funded programs, including ours, and looking to spend money in the most efficient ways possible. As research funding becomes harder to obtain, it is increasingly important for CTSA to support projects that will have tangible and immediate effects on our regional aquaculture industry. We encourage you to send us your

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suggestions and ideas to achieve this goal.

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee

Executive Director, CTSA

Register for the Upcoming Tilapia Workshop at WCC

[Click here to register](#) for the workshop "Aquaculture of Tilapia in Hawaii," co-sponsored by CTSA. The workshop will be held at Windward Community College on Saturday, March 16. The \$25 registration fee for this workshop also covers one year membership in the Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association. Seats are filling up fast, so register before it's too late!



Did you know...

- Farmed tilapia is now the second most cultured species in the world surpassing farmed salmon.
- Approximately 800,000 lbs. of tilapia is imported into Hawaii.
- In a double blind taste test Hawaii's farmed tilapia was preferred over fresh mahimahi by a ratio of 3:1.

Topics & Activities

- Hear about the challenges and opportunities of farming tilapia in Hawaii from commercial aquaculture and aquaponic producers.
- Learn what the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) researchers and extension faculty are doing to expand and diversify tilapia aquaculture in Hawaii.
- Workshop attendees will be participating in a brainstorming session focused to obtain input on two challenges facing Hawaii's tilapia stakeholders.
- Developing Free Centers for tilapia production
- How would you expand tilapia aquaculture in Hawaii?
- A basic skill to be mastered by aquafarmers is the ability to estimate the number of fish in a system. Test your skill by entering the tilapia guessing contest. (see info below)

Registration Fee - (*Workshop is almost full! Sign up today*)

\$25 per person (non-HAAA members, includes 1 year HAAA membership)

\$10 per person (HAAA members)

Limited enrollment. There will not be another Tilapia Workshop.

Pre-registration is on a first-come first-serve basis and pre-payment will be required to participate in the workshop.

Link to register: <http://windwardcc.snappages.com/aquaculture-aquaponics.htm>

CTSA Announcements and Reminders

Upcoming Water Quality Workshop

Due to overwhelming interest in this month's Water Quality Workshop at Windward Community College, CTSA will co-sponsor an additional Water Quality workshop in the near future (date TBD). To place your name on the waiting list for this workshop, please visit <http://windwardcce.org/water-testing>. Water quality workshop participants will be able to obtain a Certificate of Professional Development from WCC if they pass a competency test after completing the workshop with a grade of

70% or higher.



ATTENTION FARMERS: Have you Participated in the 2012 Agriculture Census Yet? IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

The USDA-NASS is still accepting responses to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, but only until April 26, 2013. This year's Census includes some aquaculture specific questions, so it is more important than ever that you participate. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your response online.

Your participation in this Census will help track trends and changes in the industry, and resulting data will likely be used to help create or improve programs that benefit your operation. Furthermore, it is imperative that aquaculture producers who receive the 2012 Census of Agriculture respond in order to qualify for participation in the 2013 Census of Aquaculture, which will provide more extensive information and data on the US aquaculture industry.

For more information about the Census, including helpful tips on completing your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). Farmers and ranchers can return their forms by mail or online by visiting the secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov.

If you did not receive the Ag Census form and would like to be counted, [click here to sign up](#). Signing up now should assure that you will receive the follow-up 2013 Census of Aquaculture. The deadline to sign up to participate in the 2012 Census of Agriculture is March 26, 2013.

FDA "Office of Foods" is Now "Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine"

Received from aquacontacts mail group

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently announced in the Federal Register a reorganization for the Foods and Veterinary Medicine (FVM) program that was implemented on October 1, 2012. Under the reorganization, the Office of Foods is now the Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, led by Michael Taylor, the Deputy Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine.

The Office of Foods was created in 2009 to elevate leadership on food and feed safety and to reflect the vision that success on food and feed safety requires an integrated approach that leverages resources. This reorganization will further the integration that has already been achieved and better position the program to implement the FVM Strategic Plan for 2012-20162 and the Food Safety Modernization Act, which emphasizes a systematic approach to risk-based priority setting and resource allocation.

MarketMaker: FREE Website to Advertise & Find Seafood and Aquaculture Businesses

MarketMaker is an internet marketing tool linking growers and producers with grocery stores, food processors, specialty outlets and food industry groups. It is also a great resource to search for seafood and aquaculture businesses. Visit <http://foodmarketmaker.com> for more information.

Note: the site specific to Hawaii is still under development.

Pacific Islands Spotlight: College of Marshall Islands Seeking New Aquaculture Researcher

The College of the Marshall Islands, a community college located in the warm central Pacific six degrees north of the Equator on Majuro atoll, seeks a qualified person to join our leadership team. The College of the Marshall Islands is the national college of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and seeks to be the role model for community colleges in the Pacific region.

Position - Aquaculture Researcher

General Description: Under the direction of the Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE) Associate Director/Dean, the Aquaculture Researcher supports operations of the CRE program at CMI Arrak Campus, Majuro, Marshall Islands. The incumbent plans, organizes and conducts Research, workshops, meetings and conducts outreach activities in the villages and in schools throughout islands/atolls in the Marshall Islands.

Attention WAS Attendees!! A representative of CMI will be attending the World Aquaculture Society Meetings in Nashville, TN on Feb. 21-25. If you are interested in obtaining more information on CMI and the position, please see the Job Bulletin Board at the conference for information on how to make contact with the representative.

[Please click here for the full job announcement.](#)

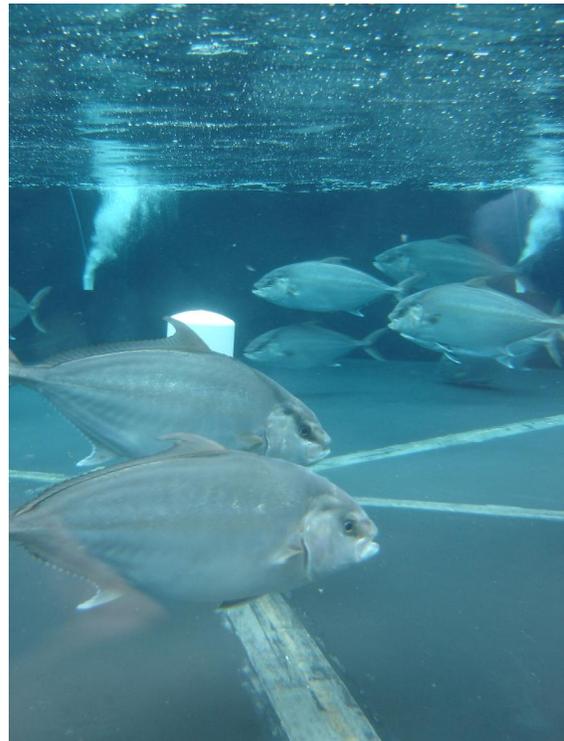
AquaClip: Share Your Comments on the Proposed New Set of Aquaculture Standards for Cobia and Seriola (Including Kahala)

From www.seafoodsource.com, February 12, 2013.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released a proposed new set of aquaculture standards for cobia and seriola, and invited the public to comment on the proposal. This will be the first of two 60-day public comment periods on the proposed new standards, which take into account more modern technology and other aquaculture advances, according to a release from the WWF. The new standards are also intended to reduce the negative impacts of seriola and cobia aquaculture on the environment.

The WWF and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) are coordinating the effort by scientists, conservationists, producers and other interested parties to improve aquaculture standards for many species. To date, the effort has already revised standards for pangasius, tilapia, abalone, bivalves, salmon and freshwater, with shrimp standards expected to be finalized this year.

"Key to meaningful and credible aquaculture standards is full transparency and diverse participation in the process, and that's exactly what we have with these dialogues," said Jose Villalon, Vice President of WWF's Aquaculture Program and coordinator of the full set of standards dialogues. "By integrating input and expertise from a range of voices involved with seriola and cobia production, these standards will be critical in conserving the world's oceans at the scale needed to meet rising global demand for farmed seafood."



There will be a second public comment period beginning in May 2013. Coordinators are expecting to

finalize the standards by the end of the year.

[Click here to read the original 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.

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