CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

Regional e-Notes ~ April 2023 ~ Volume 15, Issue 4

Letter from the Director

Aloha and Happy Earth Month,

First and foremost, I would express a*mahalo nui loa* (big thanks) to the aquaculture companies and individuals who submitted testimonies to the U.S. Congress on behalf of the regional aquaculture center program and national aquaculture development. I especially appreciate the three individuals from Hawai'i who participated in this critical annual process. Their testimonies remind me of the wide-ranging impacts of our projects, and provide concrete examples of how our regional industry can apply CTSA-funded work to improve farming operations. Each letter highlights the importance of the ongoing dialogue between the RACs and the aquaculture industries we serve. 'Partnership for success' is the motto of our program, and I am encouraged by the strong relationships being forged between our supported researchers and commercial operators.

On the same note, I would like to thank the stakeholders who participated in our FY23 Priority Areas and Species survey this month. The survey is an important part of our annual development process and helps to provide a more complete picture of the needs and priorities of our regional aquaculture industry. We have incorporated the results of this year's survey into the FY23 Request for Pre-Proposals, included below in this issue. Please note that pre-proposals are due to CTSA by June 5, 2023. As always, we are very excited to learn about a new set of research and demonstration project ideas to address industry needs and accelerate sustainable aquaculture farming in the Pacific Islands.

To adapt to the unique circumstances of our isolated region, we need to continually develop food production technologies that effectively utilize and help preserve our natural resources. As I reflect on the annual celebration of Earth Day/Month, my thoughts center on this delicate relationship between humans and our planet. It is our industry's hope that aquaculture can help improve the environment while sustainably increasing food security. To this end, CTSA will participate in an informal meeting on Guam this summer to develop a strategic plan for regional aquaculture production. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of two retiring regional aquaculture champions, Dr. Lee Yudin and Singeru Singeo. The meeting is in the early stages of planning and we welcome stakeholder comments and input on the strategic planning process; please reach out anytime!

Mahalo,
Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee
Executive Director, CTSA

CTSA FY23 Request for Pre-Proposals

CTSA is pleased to release the **FY2023 Request for Pre-Proposals**. The Request lists the top priority areas and species as identified by industry stakeholders in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands, as well as instructions for submitting a pre-proposal by the deadline of 5pm HST on Monday, June 5. CTSA uses 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. Our main focus is on funding projects that will have immediate, positive impacts on the regional aquaculture industry. FY 2023 Strategic Areas & Priority Species include Innovations in Aquaculture Technology, Finfish Farming Technology, Macroalgae/ Microalgae, Aquatic Animal Health, Hawaiian Fishponds, Aquatic Feed Development, and others.

FY 2023 Request for Pre-Proposals

Regional Research, Demonstration and Extension Projects

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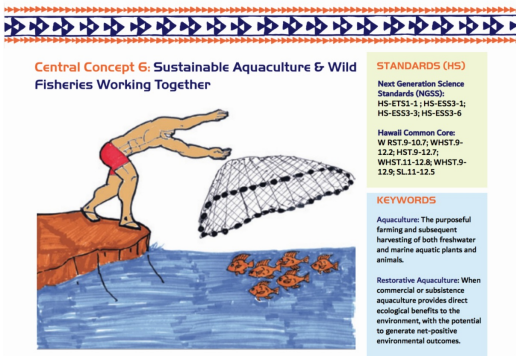
USDA NIFA
United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

In Case You Missed It: New A.Q.U.A. Curriculum Lessons

As reported last month, CTSA has developed and released four new lessons for our A.Q.U.A. (A Quest to Understand Aquaculture) K-12 curriculum.

The new lessons cover the topics of Aquatic Animal Nutrition, Water Quality, Sustainable Aquaculture & Wild Fisheries Working Together; Careers in Aquaculture & Seafood, and Seafood Nutrition. They were developed under the auspices of an ongoing NOAA Sea Grant project.

Click here to visit the Education section of the CTSA website, or **click here to view / download the new lessons directly**.



SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available to Hawaii Small Businesses

Small nonfarm businesses in Maui and Kalawao counties are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration, announced Director Tanya N. Garfield of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West. These loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by drought in Maui County that began Jan. 1, 2023.

"SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster," Garfield said.

Small nonfarm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to $2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

"Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3.305 percentfor businesses and 2.375 percentfor private nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years and are available to small businesses and most private nonprofits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Garfield said.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. The Secretary declared this disaster on March 17, 2023.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Service Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance in drought disasters.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.govfor more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for economic injury is Nov. 17, 2023.

AquaClip: HATCH Launches Fifth Accelerator Application Call for Aquaculture Startups

HATCH Blue has announced the call for applications for HATCH Accelerator 5.0. The accelerator will accept startups with innovations in aquaculture, alternative seafood and - as part of its expanded focus - will also consider companies in marine biotech and blue carbon. One important distinction to this year's program is that it is only open to companies incorporated in the US.

"The timing is right for us to create a US-focused program, as the region is fertile ground for innovative ideas, entrepreneurial talent and smart investment capital. This year's search for applicants will include aquaculture, alternative seafood, marine biotech and blue carbon technologies as these sectors grow increasingly in importance for our oceans and sustainable planet health. We are looking forward to seeing how we can help this year's cohort to really make a difference and scale their companies further," explained Wayne Murphy, Co-Founder and Partner at HATCH.

Taking place over 14 weeks, the program will combine online and in-person activities. Within this period participants will spend two-and-a-half weeks in Hawaii, 10 days in Norway, and 10 days combined between Singapore and Vietnam. This structure offers them valuable opportunities to meet with, and learn from, an international selection of experts and investors. Between these visits, online events and activities will be scheduled.

The program will kick-off at NELHA in Hawaii – a location with world-class research facilities, where Hatch is working closely with Hawaii Science and Technology Park (HOST) to bring through a new generation of blue innovation startups.

Applications are open until May 8, 2023. Click here for more details.

Source: Newswires // Original Article

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 2018-38500-28886, and 2020-38500-32559. 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 University of Hawaii and the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University.

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