CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

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Letter from the Director

Aloha,

As we have been sharing for the last few months, CTSA is deep in the midst of our annual development process. This cycle has been a bit different from previous years, resulting in some permanent changes to our procedure. In addition to sending out requests for full proposals, it is standard CTSA procedure to send out denial letters to pre-proposals that did not receive enough support from the IAC and TC. In an effort to provide context for PIs, these letters include comments that CTSA captured during the IAC and TC discussion on each proposal. This year, we received communications from a few PIs that did not agree with the captured comments. We decided to create a new procedure that allows PI's to respond to committee comments and provide clarification on any items that were potentially misunderstood.

CTSA understands it is difficult to capture the entire idea and scope of a project in a three page pre-proposal; however, we utilize this structure –just as many other funding agencies do—to assess if a project is a good fit for our program's funding priorities. We hope this saves PIs time and energy from preparing full proposals that are unlikely to be funded. CTSA's funding priorities are determined by the regional aquaculture industry through an annual survey. We strongly encourage any PIs interested in receiving CTSA funding to reach out to and collaborate with farmers and other industry stakeholders.

Our programmatic focus is on pinpointing and addressing critical industry needs that need solutions. The CTSA region often struggles with developing realistic, achievable ideas for immediate implementation; we must resolve the apparent issue of synthesizing what the industry wants/needs and the ideas that are delivered to the IAC and TC for funding consideration. CTSA still has capacity to entertain good ideas that can be implemented in the near term to help develop new industries and/or help existing industries be more profitable. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

One major regional industry challenge that CTSA has been working on for years is the high cost of importing feed to our remote islands; feed accounts for more than half of all production costs. Our latest efforts to address the issue have been a collaboration with UH CTAHR and Sea Grant to assess the feasibility of a feed mill in Hawaii. We are holding a workshop in October to gather stakeholder input and hope that you will join us there; details are in the flyer below.

On another note, there have been recent declines in prices for major seafood items. I am hopeful this will get more people eating seafood as a protein source that has additional health benefits. Seafood Month is coming up soon (October) – we would love to share some of the ways our readers enjoy seafood. Please send your stories and photos to ctsa@hawaii.edu to be featured in the October issue of e-Notes.

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

Register Now for the Hawaii Feed Mill Workshop in October

CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

Sea Grant University of Hawai'i

COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Feasibility of Feed Mill Operation in Hawaii End Users Input Workshop Thursday, October 26, 2023

Hawai'i is the most remote archipelago on Earth; close to 90% of its food, including seafood, is imported. Hawai'i has the water resources and favorable climate conditions for aquaculture development. However, aquaculture development in the islands has faced several roadblocks. A recent survey conducted by the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) -funded by a grant from NOAA- indicated that there are two key bottlenecks for aquaculture development throughout the Pacific Island region: strict regulations and a lack of inexpensive/affordable local feed sources.

The limited availability of affordable feed has hindered the expansion of aquaculture in the region. The most recent thorough study on the problem and prospects of livestock feed in Hawai'i was conducted and reported in 1975 by Nishimura (1975). It concluded that feed was the largest cost item in livestock production, representing between 50% to 75% of the total cost of production. Feed costs in aquaculture typically account for between 40% and 60% of production costs (De Silva and Hasan, 2007). Considering transportation, the cost is even higher in Hawai'i. Can feed be feasibly produced in Hawai'i?

Andini Desita Ekaputri, a graduate student under the guidance of Dr. Stuart T. Nakamoto and Dr. PingSun Leung at the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), has developed a spreadsheet to estimate the cost of a feed mill in Hawai'i. CTSA and the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program will hold a workshop on October 26 to present the feed mill spreadsheet and solicit industry input on the feasibility of an aquatic feed mill in Hawai'i. The meeting will be held in Room 219 of the Agricultural Science building on the UH Manoa campus, and online. A detailed agenda will be released soon.

Please register by October 15, 2023: https://forms.gle/hCDHxajJfveuZDXo6
Questions? Contact myma@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-3974

SOAR Shellfish Growers Resiliency Fund for Farmers

The Nature Conservancy and The Pew Charitable Trusts' Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (SOAR) program has issued a request for proposals (RFP) for the Shellfish Growers Resiliency Fund (Fund). The Fund aims to pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable U.S. shellfish industry that benefits the ocean and the communities which rely

upon it. Funding will be open to applicants in the United States and U.S. Territories.

The award will fund projects up to $20,000 for one-to-two-year projects and will target shellfish growers, shellfish aquaculture industry associations, and closely linked supply chain companies supporting aquaculture. **The application deadline for the RFP is October 6, 2023**.

The priorities for the Fund were established with the support of a wide range of Steering Committee members made up of representatives from government agencies, growers, Tribes, aquaculture associations, academia, and NGOs.

To learn more about the Fund and the application process, visit the SOAR webpage. If you have questions about the Resiliency Fund, please contact Rebekah Borgert (rebekah.borgert@tnc.org, soar@tnc.org).

FDA Approves NADA for Terramycin® 200 for Fish

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine recently approved another supplemental new animal drug application (NADA) for Terramycin® 200 for Fish. This supplemental approval provides for the addition of an indication for the control of mortality due to columnaris disease associated with *Flavobacterium columnare* in catfish and freshwater-reared salmonids.

Label details: treatment dose of 3.75 g OTC per 100 lbs fish/day for 10 days; withdrawal period of 21 days; and will need a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) to order the medicated feed. Note: this label expansion now includes **all** freshwater-reared salmonids. Previously it was limited to *Oncorhynchus mykiss.*

AquaClip: U.S. Lawmakers Introduce 'Supporting Equity for Aquaculture and Seafood' (SEAS) Act

A group of U.S. lawmakers are continuing their campaign to ensure the aquaculture industry is getting adequate support and fair treatment from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

U.S. Representative Frank Pallone (D-New Jersey) introduced the Supporting Equity for Aquaculture and Seafood (SEAS) Act, which would require the USDA to ensure it provides “fair funding levels” to aquaculture producers in its program. The USDA, Pallone claimed, devotes a disproportionate percentage of its program funding to animal agriculture.

Under the SEAS Act, the USDA would be required to give the same consideration to aquaculture producers as animal agriculture producers in awarding grants and produce two reports to Congress – one on seafood and aquaculture expenditures and grants, and one on the USDA’s role in supporting aquaculture and the seafood industry. It would also increase USDA funding for regional aquaculture centers to USD 30 million (EUR 27 million), and charge the department with developing a policy for aquaculture coverage under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

“Investing in aquaculture will help ensure all Americans have access to safe and affordable seafood nationwide. When we increase the consumption of American seafood, we can alleviate food insecurity, create new economic opportunities, and reduce our food system’s impact on the environment,” Pallone said. “The SEAS Act will help us meet the growing demand for American seafood and provides critical Congressional support for USDA’s aquaculture programs. My bill makes critical investments in our aquaculture and seafood industries now, so that our food system is resilient in the future.”

Aquaculture groups from Pallone’s state of New Jersey, including the Baymen’s Protective Association, the New Jersey Aquaculture Innovation Center, and the New Jersey Aquaculture Association, have come out in support of the bill.

“The SEAS Act is an important first step to ensure seafood and aquaculture are treated fairly at the Department of Agriculture,” Baymen’s Protective Association President Keith Craffey said in a statement. “His bill will help USDA meet the growing demand for seafood and help us continue to provide affordable local seafood to people throughout state.”

Cosponsors on the bill include U.S. representatives Kat Cammack (R-Florida), Suzanne Bonamici (D-Oregon), and Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Delaware).

Source: The Seafood Source // Original Article

This newsletter is written and prepared by the CTSA Information Specialist Meredith Brooks.
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