CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

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Letter from the Director

Aloha,

Photo of hybrid tilapia, shared by Wayne Okamura

I hope this newsletter finds you well in this season of great transformation. As we prepare to Spring ahead, we at CTSA are gearing up to close out FY24 development and begin the FY25 cycle. I ask you now --our valued local aquaculture community-- to share your opinions on funding priorities to help us achieve our program mission. Click here and please take a few minutes to complete our FY25 survey. This year, we want to focus on working with species that have already been started in the region and just need additional support to either achieve full commercial potential or address problems of established industries. At the appropriate time, we will organize a stakeholder meeting to discuss our regional opportunities and challenges, and determine next steps forward. Especially considering the tightening of federal budgets, we must work together to efficiently leverage existing resources and make each new invested dollar go farther.

Last month we shared the news from Rabbobank that seafood will soon overtake poultry as the top contributor to the global animal protein market. That article has me pondering, what can we contribute to the global animal protein supply? I believe our region can be an important player in this expansion, and I know it is a shared goal of our stakeholders to see an increase in 'made in the U.S.A.' aquaculture products. It is time for us to determine the best ways we can support this shared goal. Particularly in the Pacific Islands --home to abundant marine resources-- we have the opportunity to produce more reliable sources of seafood, leading to increased food security and food safety. We have already made critical investments that can serve as foundations for future growth, and several potential commercial species have been studied under many CTSA projects. As a follow-up, we need to decide as an industry what our long-term goals, challenges, and opportunities are with these species.

On that note, we are asking our stakeholders to identify the top five priority species for development in Hawaii, and the top three for development in U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands (as described in detail in the article below). To prepare for the upcoming development cycle, we will hold an 'Aquaculture Researcher Workshop' from 2 to 4 pm (Hawaii time) on March 25 with CTSA's current and previous PIs, as well as any researchers who are interested in applying for a CTSA grant to address research needs of the aquaculture industry in our region. During the meeting, CTSA will share the expectations we have for our projects and PIs, and gather input on the support that researchers would like to receive from our administrative center. Please see the announcement below for additional information, and use the QR code or click here to complete the workshop registration form.

Something else I would like to call your attention to is tilapia farming in Hawaii. Tilapia --currently the 5th most popular fish for consumption in the U.S.-- has been farmed in Hawaii and was/is the subject of many projects funded by CTSA and other agencies. Our local government and industry have differing opinions regarding permitting for introduced species of tilapia. We agree that we should not introduce any exotic species to our remote region without a thorough environmental impact assessment. However, we are curious and want to know, what species of tilapia have already been found in Hawaii's waters? We have been working behind the scenes to collect all available information and will share our findings soon. With that information, we would like to hear industry input on the best way to utilize existing tilapia resources to achieve shared goals. If you are interested, please email us at ctsa@hawaii.edu and we will follow up accordingly.

We are navigating new waters, and as I always say, the best way to achieve progress is to work together. I look forward to our continued collaboration.

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

CTSA FY25 Priority Areas Survey

CTSA is gathering input on regional aquaculture development and would like to hear from you, our valued industry stakeholders!

Each Spring, CTSA releases a Request for PreProposals based on industry input from our 'Funding Priorities' survey. We request that you please click here to take our FY2025 survey.

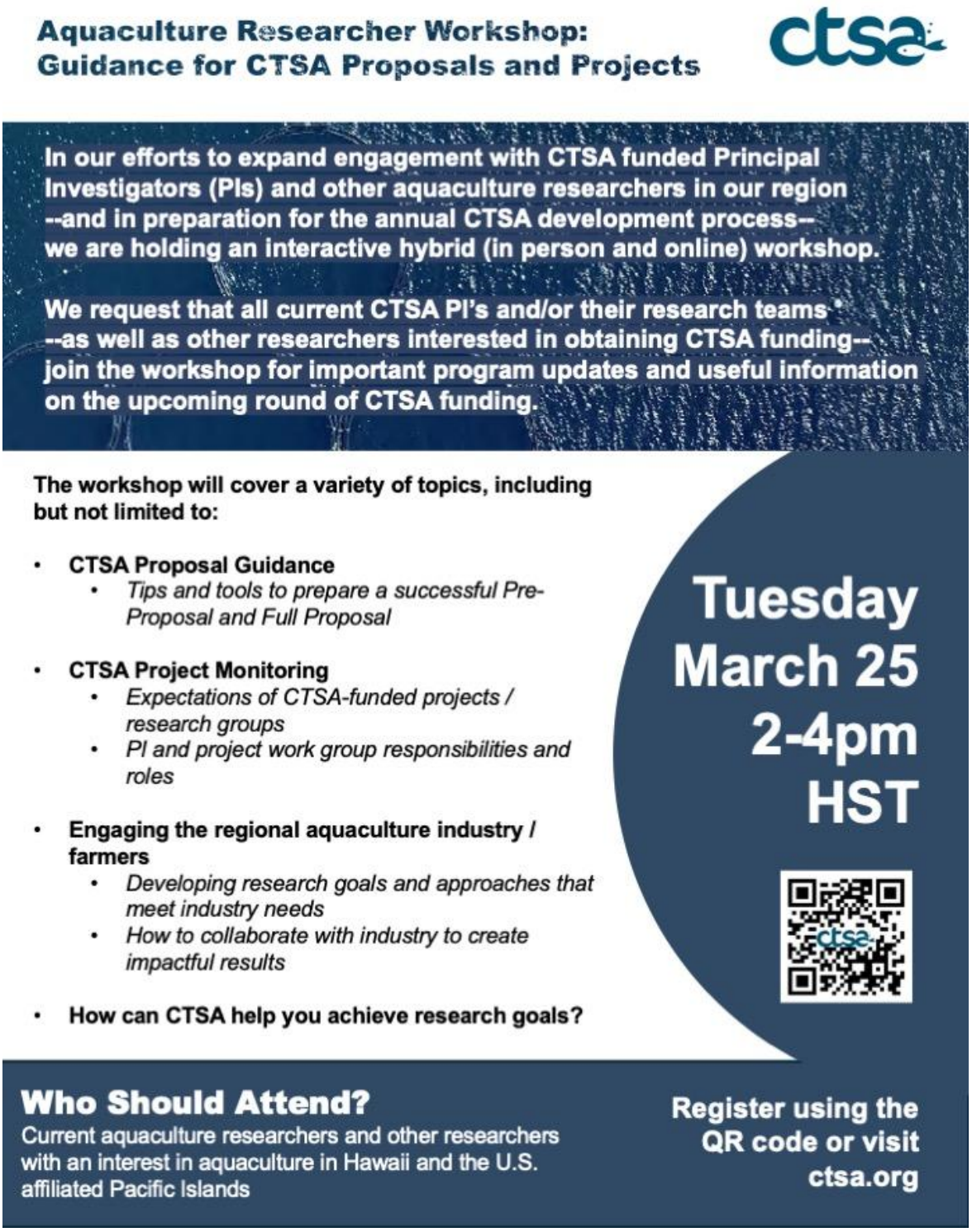
CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

FY25 Funding Priorities Survey

The survey has been redesigned this year to help us assess the top priority species for development in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. We want to focus on working with species that have already been started in the region and just need additional support to either achieve full commercial potential or address problems of established industries. Therefore, the first questions of the survey list out all of the species that CTSA has invested in developing since our program inception. Respondents are asked to select a **maximum of five** top priority species from the list for Hawaii and a **maximum of three** top priority species from the list for the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands, and then use the checkbox grid to indicate which areas of production need support. These maximum amounts represent 1/3 of the total amount of species listed for each location; this will help us assess the **top** priorities for our next round of funding.

This survey also lists the priority areas included in our FY24 'Request for Pre-Proposals,' released last year, and requests that participants indicate whether or not each area remains a priority for regional aquaculture development and funding support. There is an option to write in new priority areas that were not identified in FY24. Please complete the survey by April 15; it should only take a couple of minutes and will greatly assist our process. We will release the FY2025 Request for Pre-Proposals in the April issue of e-Notes, and are developing the priority areas with essential input from our Industry Advisory Council, Technical Committee, Board of Directors, and stakeholders like you!

If you have any questions or need assistance completing the form, please email ctsa@hawaii.edu.



AquaClip: 3 Pacific Island Nations Deploy Aquaculture and Agriculture Microgrids

Three island nations dotting the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and the Philippines have launched solar and energy storage microgrids.

The modular renewable energy microgrid systems, which include a total of 495 kW peak (kWp) of solar and 1,997 kWh of battery energy storage, were deployed on Palau, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands.

Palau is an archipelago of more than 500 islands, while Tuvalu is comprised of nine sparsely populated atolls and reef islands. The Marshall Islands, the most populated of the trio, includes five main islands and 29 coral atolls.

Islands are ideal candidates for microgrid solutions because they can be self-sufficient energy resources

that don't require a grid connection. Creating and maintaining a central power grid across multiple islands is both challenging and expensive.

Hawaii, for example, has one of the highest electricity rates in the U.S. and has actively developed microgrids in recent years to both reduce energy costs and improve reliability. Last year, the Polynesian island of Tonga commissioned an off-grid microgrid to provide island residents with reliable, clean and affordable power.

The Palau, Tuvalu and Marshall Island microgrids will provide more than 50% of the power needed for demonstration farms and aquaculture centers on each island. Aquaculture, or seafood farming, involves breeding, raising and harvesting fish, shellfish and aquatic plants in either fresh or saltwater.

In addition to reducing each nation's dependence on imported fossil fuels, the three clean energy microgrids are expected to lower energy costs and cut carbon emissions by 800 metric tons each year.

Source: Microgrid Knowledge // Read Full 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 U.S. established and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The regional aquaculture centers integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development.
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CTSA was established in 1986 and is administered by the University of Hawaii.

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