CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

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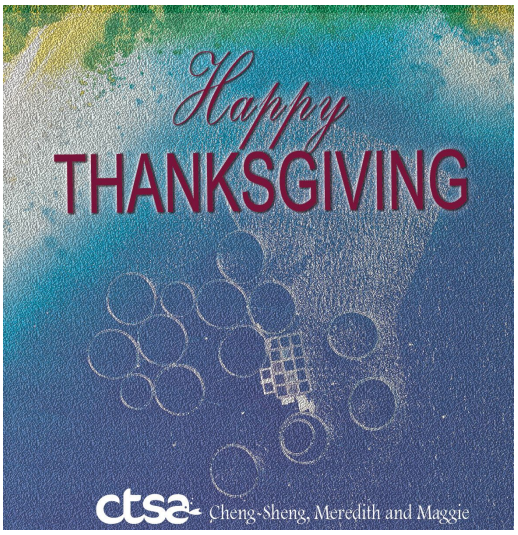
Letter from the Director



Aloha,

We here at CTSA hope you and your family are enjoying a warm and loving holiday weekend. I would like to start this Thanksgiving message by expressing my sincerest gratitude to you, our valued CTSA community, for your continued support of our program. This year has been filled with new and continuing industry engagement, and I am looking forward to more opportunities for collaboration to improve regional aquaculture.

One of the primary ways CTSA helps the industry is through our annual Plan of Work, which is nearing the last few development steps before it will be voted on by the Board of Directors. Earlier this week, we held an adhoc committee meeting to summarize external reviewer comments on the six full proposals we received and to develop revision requests to improve each proposal. We are also asking our Board to share any technical comments at this stage. I would like to say a special thank you to our adhoc members and all of the external peer reviewers who volunteered their time this year to improve the quality of our Plan of Work; it is very clear that many reviewers put a lot of time and effort into their written comments, and we greatly appreciate their input.

CTSA is fortunate to have valued aquaculture experts supporting our program, including those who serve on our Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee; their unified efforts keep our operation running smoothly. I am grateful for their dedication and contributions, which increase the success of all CTSA projects. In addition to helping steer CTSA and our regional industry through their respective roles, many of these members dedicate extra time to our program by serving on our adhoc committees and also as project liaisons. Earlier this month, we completed our semiannual project update conference calls with each project's PI(s) and liaison to touch base and expand on the information in the project's annual report. I am very pleased with the progress of all of the ongoing projects, several of which hold great promise to innovatively impact aquaculture within and beyond our region.

Indeed, together we are making great strides as an industry. The Hawaiian AgTech 24 event that took place in Honolulu earlier this month is a good example of how far our industry has come in recent years. This event featured three special sections for aquaculture, a marked increase from previous years. I would like to extend a special mahalo to our IAC member Jennica Hawkins, who has helped increase visibility of the contributions of Hawaii aquaculture to the overall landscape of agriculture at this and other events.

Another area that has brought attention to Hawaii aquaculture is feed production. It has been a topic of discussion for decades, with many saying it is too costly to produce local feeds. However, with an increased global focus on circular economies, our island resources stand out among other locations. We have a lot of commercial fishing waste that is currently underutilized; ongoing studies are finding that this waste can be diverted from landfills and instead recapture nutrients as an ingredient in fish feeds. CTSA is excited to be a part of the team that is looking into this opportunity. I just returned from a trip to learn about the Kansas State University and USDA ARS Bozeman Lab practices in feed production using various ingredients, and am excited to help our local team adopt their methods and work together to address this major issue impacting aquaculture and livestock. This collaborative effort can increase food security for our isolated islands and do so in harmony with nature.

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

Aquaculture Announcements

Registration Open for NAA Webinar: Opportunities for the Co-Location of Marine Energy and Aquaculture on Dec. 6

The energy needs of community scale aquaculture operations and the potential to power such operations with marine energy are not well understood. In collaboration with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, scientists from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) are investigating how marine energy may be able to provide sustainable power to Tribal community-scale aquaculture and examine the potential for additional co-location opportunities around the Salish Sea. Click here to learn more and register.

RAS workshop at Aquaculture 2025

The U.S. Aquaculture Society (USAS) is offering a Continuing Education Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) Workshop at the upcoming Aquaculture 2025 meeting in New Orleans, LA (meeting dates March 6 – 10, 2025). Recirculating Aquaculture Systems or "RAS" is the future of an exponentially growing aquaculture industry. RAS provides the ultimate control of your environmental parameters and can be modified to grow a multitude of species. RAS is a great way to grow aquatic animals in areas without a large water source. With technology improving by the day, there is potential to grow any aquatic species in any part of the world using RAS. This workshop will teach you the basics of RAS, such as how to design your system and how to maintain your system. It will also cover animal husbandry and rearing techniques to achieve optimum success with your product. Click here to learn more.

Western Regional Aquaculture Center (WRAC) Seeking New Executive Director

The School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS) at the University of Washington seeks to fill a tenured position at the Associate or Professor level with specialization in applied organismal biology and aquaculture, with an administrative appointment as Executive Director of Western Regional Aquaculture Center (WRAC). WRAC is one of five regional aquaculture centers in the U.S. supported by the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The College has hosted WRAC since the inception of the national Regional Aquaculture Center program in 1986

The successful applicant will devote 50% of their effort to serving as Executive Director of WRAC and 50% to duties as UW faculty. The primary duty of the Executive Director is to support WRAC's Board of Directors and committees in the processes associated with the selection and management of regional aquaculture research and outreach projects by investigators within the 12 western states (AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY). The successful candidate will be expected to administer programs, including staff supervision and partnering with a diverse community of stakeholders. The director will be expected to work effectively with USDA staff and interact with relevant state agencies through both oral and written communication.

The successful applicant is expected to establish a collaborative, externally funded and nationally recognized research program in applied organismal biology and other fields with applications to aquaculture that align with both WRAC and the School's priorities in research and teaching. Research areas that align with both WRAC and SAFS include: shellfish and fish diseases, impacts and mitigation of harmful algal blooms, applied aquatic animal physiology, applied genetics and genomics, climate resilience, invasive species and environmental sustainability of aquaculture practices. In addition, the successful applicant will contribute to the teaching mission of the school through innovative classroom teaching and effective mentorship of undergraduate/graduate students and postdocs.

AquaClip: NOAA Fisheries proposes aquaculture opportunity areas in Southern California and Gulf of Mexico

NOAA Fisheries has proposed 14 locations along the southern coast of California and in the Gulf of Mexico to establish aquaculture opportunity areas (AOAs), which are locations that have been evaluated as suitable sites for future aquaculture development.

"With climate change posing risks to America's food security, aquaculture offers a pathway to grow climate resilience," NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator Janet Coit said in a statement. "Identifying areas suitable for sustainable aquaculture is a forward-looking step toward strengthening climate-smart food systems."

NOAA Fisheries began work on evaluating potential AOAs in 2020, following an executive order from then-

U.S. President Donald Trump, who charged the agency with establishing 10 AOAs by 2025.

On 15 November, NOAA Fisheries released two draft programmatic environmental impact statements proposing 10 AOAs in Southern California – eight in the Santa Barbara Channel and two in Santa Monica Bay – three AOAs in Texas, and one AOA in Louisiana. Each site is between 500 acres and 2,000 acres.

NOAA Fisheries previously identified 19 potential AOAs in federal waters along the U.S. coasts in Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico.

The agency said it invested in “19 new scientific products on topics including biosecurity and disease, genetic risk, engineering, economics, social vulnerability, and the well-being of coastal communities” to support its efforts.

Source: Seafood Source // Read 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 2020-38500-32559 and 2022-38500-38099. 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.

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture
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