CENTER FOR
TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL
AQUACULTURE

Regional e-Notes ~ October 2022 ~ Volume 14, Issue 10

Letter from the Director

Aloha and Happy Halloween,

October is a month known for pumpkin patches, spooky decorations, and lots of seafood! As the United States' National Seafood Month, it has been a wonderful time to celebrate the bounty of the sea and all of the benefits that seafood brings to our food supply, economy, and communities. I personally continue to eat seafood several times a week in line with dietary guidelines. Fish and shellfish are great sources of lean protein, and are rich in essential nutrients that play a key role in brain and heart health, among other benefits. I hope you are also enjoying seafood on a regular basis.

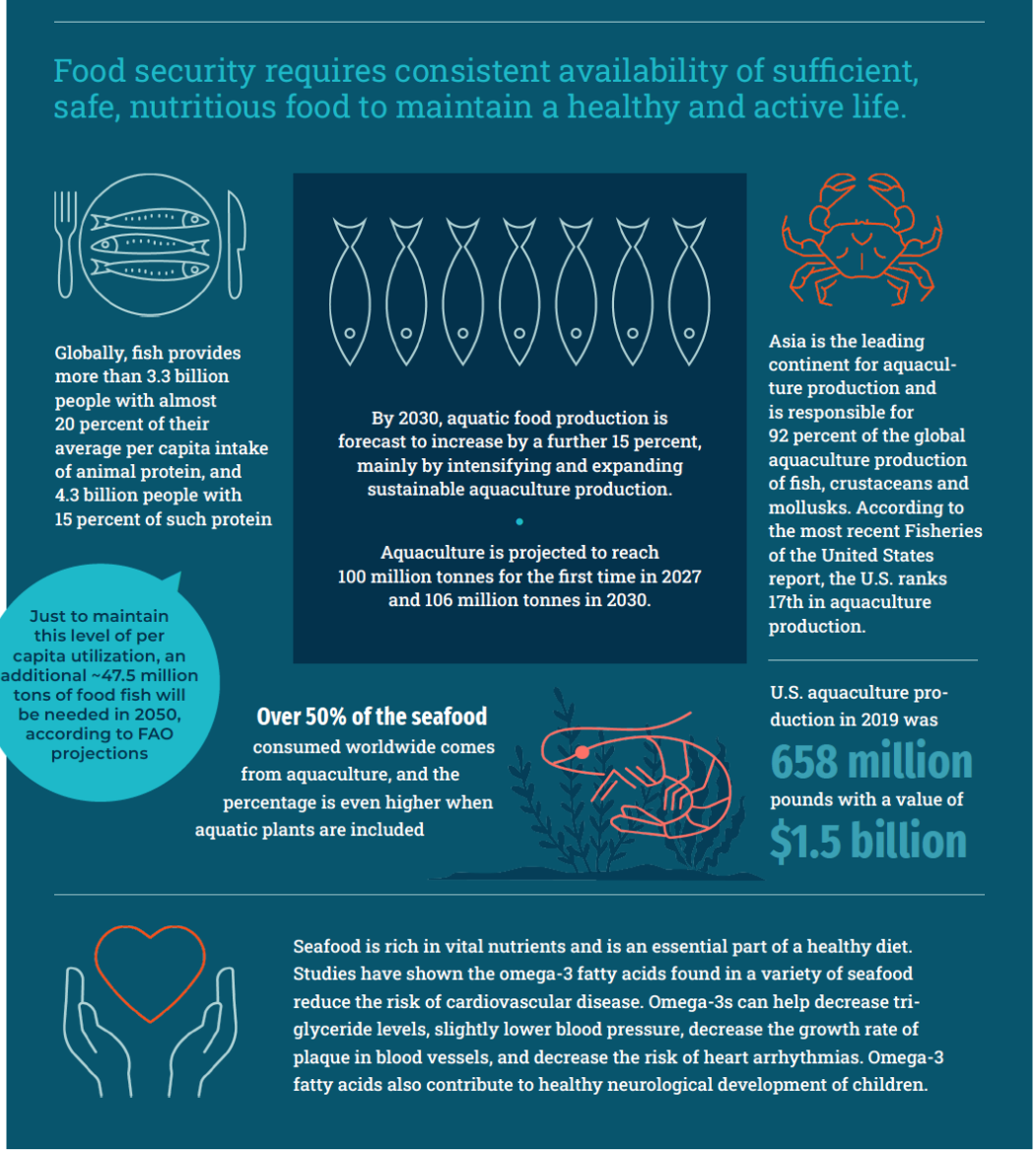
As you know, CTSA and the Regional Aquaculture Center program are focused on sustainably increasing the production and supply of seafood through aquaculture research and development. Our program success relies heavily on the dedicated industry professionals who graciously donate their time and knowledge, from the members who serve on our committees to the colleagues who review full proposals and provide written feedback. I would like to extend a big MAHALO to these experts for their critical input on our annual Plans of Work.

This time of year marks one of the more intense stages of the CTSA development cycle that requires serious commitment from several of our Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee members, who meet to have in-depth discussions on each full proposal and corresponding reviewer comments. Some members take days off of work and away from their farms in order to participate in these adhoc meetings. As we enter into the holiday season of gratitude, we cannot overstate the depth of our appreciation for their dedication to CTSA. We look forward to many more years of working closely together for the benefit of aquaculture in our region.

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

CTSA Publication Sneak Peak: The Impacts of Seafood

CTSA is finalizing our latest *Project Impacts* publication to highlight the accomplishments of the Center and our funded projects. The forthcoming publication (scheduled for release in November) will serve as an update to the *Project Impacts* publication released nearly a decade ago, and will focus on impacts since 2013. The introduction section of the publication includes stats and facts on aquaculture and seafood in the CTSA region and around the world; the following infographic is a 'sneak peek' from the introduction section:



Aquaculture Announcements

PSMFC and NOAA Funding Opportunity: Marine Aquaculture Pilot Projects

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), in cooperation with and funding from the NOAA Fisheries, will be issuing approximately $594,000 in grants to fund marine aquaculture pilot projects focusing on sustainable aquatic farming techniques and regional business practices to grow U.S. domestic seafood. **Proposals are due November 18, 2022**. Click here to learn more.

NOAA Publishes 5-Year Strategic Plan for Aquaculture

NOAA published its first-ever 5-Year Strategic Plan for Aquaculture to guide the agency's work from 2023-2028. The Strategic Plan --developed by the NOAA Aquaculture Program-- articulates a vision for an industry that supports jobs, expands access to nutritious domestic seafood, and reinforces healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems in a changing environment. This is supported by the Program's mission of providing science, services, and policies that create conditions for opportunity and growth of sustainable U.S. aquaculture. "Through this plan, NOAA will support a thriving, resilient, and inclusive U.S. aquaculture industry as part of a competitive domestic seafood sector," said NOAA Fisheries Assistant Administrator Janet Coit. "This plan will act as a framework to guide NOAA's Aquaculture Program, set priorities to achieve our mission, and support NOAA's vision of healthy and resilient ecosystems, communities, and economies." Click here to learn more.

Reminder: Sign Up For 2022 Census of Aquaculture

The 2022 Census of Agriculture is right around the corner and USDA NASS is making every effort to count

all aquaculture producers in the United States. If you produce any aquaculture products and want to make sure that you are counted in the 2022 Census of Agriculture and the 2023 Census of Aquaculture, please sign up your operation using this online form: https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/cgi-bin/counts/. Once you have signed up, you might receive a short survey in the next two years to further categorize your operation. Most likely, you will not receive a survey until the 2022 Census of Agriculture in January or February, 2023.

Celebrate Seafood by Mastering the Art of Cooking Fish

In honor of National Seafood Month, the Seafood Nutrition Partnership has published a series of articles highlighting the many delicious and healthy benefits of eating seafood. The following '6 Simple Techniques for the At-Home Cook' are from the article '4 Simple Cooking Tips to Help You Celebrate Seafood.'

AquaClip: U.S. Reps. Announce New Bipartisan Aquaculture Caucus

A Bipartisan Aquaculture Caucus has been created in the U.S. House of Representatives. Earlier this month, U.S. Reps. Ed Case (D-HI-01), Kat Cammack (R-FL-03), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20), and Steven Palazzo (R-MS-04) announced the establishment of the Aquaculture Caucus, for which the four representatives will serve as inaugural co-chairs.

The caucus will serve as a resource and forum to educate and share the potential for growing sustainable,

innovative domestic aquaculture. It will also provide policy updates and share initiatives in Congress that support U.S. aquaculture and work to make it more competitive at the global level.

"Aquaculture has always held great promise to help us achieve our broader goals of creating sustainable food systems and responsibly managing our marine resources," said Congressman Case. "Congress should focus more directly on how best to mold federal policy to realize the full potential of American aquaculture. Our new Aquaculture Caucus will provide that focus as we clarify often confusing and contradicting regulatory schemes while ensuring that we protect our marine environment."

"Aquaculture should be one of the United States' priorities as we grow our focus on food security. In Florida, we've seen the benefits of aquaculture firsthand, breeding, raising, and harvesting shellfish, fish, and aquatic plants in our waters. We've demonstrated that it's possible to provide healthy, fresh food that's produced sustainably at home to support our growing population," said Congresswoman Cammack. "The Aquaculture Caucus shares our enthusiasm for pushing these industries and their innovations forward while growing our infrastructure and market domestically."

"Since first introducing the Advancing the Quality and Understanding of American Aquaculture Act (AQUAA) in 2018, the conversation on expanding our nation's aquaculture industry has only grown," said Congressman Palazzo. "The fact of the matter is, the United States is missing out on an incredible economic and sustainable opportunity to grow aquaculture on our own shores, creating more American jobs. I'm proud to be a part of the new Aquaculture Caucus and look forward to the conversations and ideas this caucus moves forward."

"It is reported that we import well over three-quarters of the seafood that we consume in the United States. Aquaculture can play an important role in reducing our reliance on other countries for fish and increase our consumption as well as our domestic production of sustainable seafood," said Congressman Panetta. "The bipartisan Congressional Aquaculture Caucus will work to create policies to support not just a sustainable source of food that can create jobs, but also ensure that it's economically feasible and environmentally friendly."

"Stronger America Through Seafood (SATS) thanks Reps. Cammack, Case, Palazzo, and Panetta for establishing a congressional caucus for lawmakers to learn about the benefits that a robust aquaculture industry would provide communities nationwide," said Horace Dawson, III, General Counsel of Red Lobster and Member of SATS. "The growth of American aquaculture would create new jobs across the seafood supply chain while supplying our communities with local, sustainable seafood. For the U.S. to realize the full economic potential of aquaculture, federal legislation is needed."

Source: Congresswoman Cammack Press Release // 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 United States established and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) under active grants 2016-38500-25751, 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.

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture
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