CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

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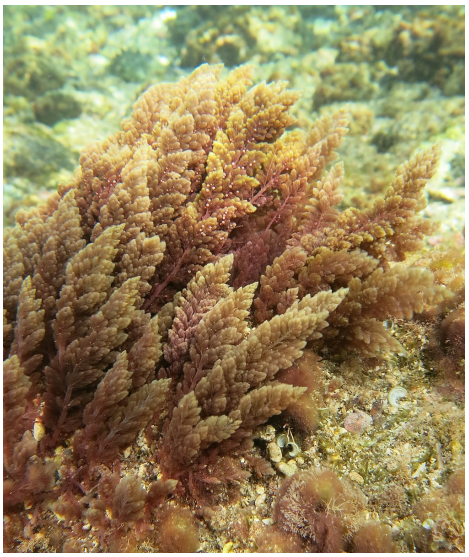
Letter from the Director



Aloha,

As summer fades into fall, we here at CTSA are ramping up our FY25 development cycle. In the next week, we will receive the full proposals that our IAC/TC requested in August. The next step will be to send the proposals out for peer review. We are excited to see how PI's have expanded on their pre-proposal concepts, and look forward to working with projects that are selected to move forward. Like the seasons, each new development cycle brings fresh hope for collaborations that will positively impact aquaculture in our region.

On the subject of positive impacts, I am happy to share some good news from across our region. First, it looks like Hawai'i is on track to significantly increase aquaculture extension capacity in the immediate future. It is our understanding that there are many applicants for the aquaculture position at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. With a large pool of candidates, it is very hopeful that UH will find the right fit to help our industry development. Meanwhile, recruitment for the HDOA aquaculture positions is ongoing; we are hopeful HDOA will have a similar experience to UH, with many candidates to choose from. The position and application can be found on the HDOA website. These new positions will be critical partners in carrying out our shared mission.

I am also pleased to learn that Symbrosia is expanding their land base for seaweed farming in Hawai'i; if they proceed according to plan, their farm may become the largest land-based seaweed farm in the world! This will have wide-ranging impacts on our local economy, from an increase in jobs and economic revenue to improved livelihoods.

In other good news, there is promising development for aquaponics in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Following a recent tech transfer visit to Majuro, Dr. Harry Ako has been volunteering his time to work with two farmers who are interested in implementing aquaponics in the small island nation. Thanks to Harry's dedication and continued communication with the farmers, we are hopeful that Majuro will soon demonstrate that aquaponics is a viable method to grow food in isolated island communities.

It is my great hope that with all of these exciting developments, we will overcome recent downhill trends in local aquaculture production that are in-part a result of the closure of Big Island Abalone. I am enthusiastic that existing businesses are growing and new businesses will step in to fill the gaps, increasing our local production to new heights. Thank you, our valued partners, for all that you are doing to help support these efforts!

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

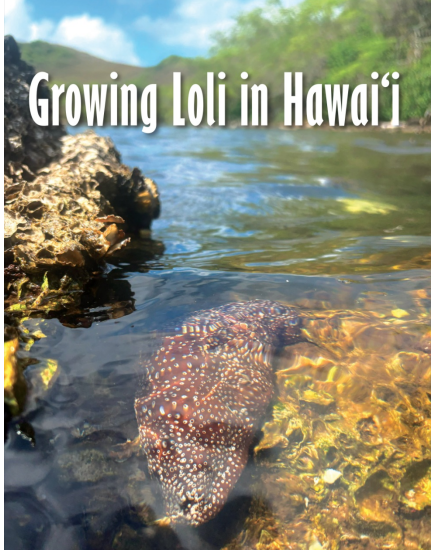
New Publication on Growing Sea Cucumber in Hawai'i

Kaua'i Sea Farm has prepared and released an informative guidebook on growing sea cucumbers (*Loli*, in Hawaiian). The publication "Growing Loli in Hawai'i" is the result of a collaborative project between Kaua'i Sea Farm, Pacific American Foundation and Hawaii Sea Grant, funded under a NOAA SK grant.

The guidebook starts with "Why Loli," a section that describes

the restorative services of growing sea cucumbers, cultural significance of loli in Hawai'i, human health benefits, markets, and more. The second section discusses production, including the best species for local growing, required permits, free range and artificial habitats, and contained production using cages and net pens. The third and final section covers processing including handling and preparing animals, as well as a favorite Namako Namasu local recipe.

Click here to read the guidebook, available for free online.



University of Hawai'i Study Demonstrates Mozambique Tilapia Grow Faster in Salt Water

A University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa study has demonstrated that Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) grows 15% faster in a system that recirculates artificial saltwater than in freshwater.

The study is published in the Israeli Journal of Aquaculture; the following is the abstract:

Recent increases in demand for sustainable aquaculture have been accompanied by a rising interest in its practice, including the continued development of inland recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS). The transfer of knowledge necessary to optimize learning outcomes for aquaculture students and practitioners relies on accessibility to versatile state-of-the art facilities. A new land-based aquaculture facility called the Tuahine Aquaculture Research and Education Center (TAREC) was built at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and designed to integrate research, education, and extension activities. With two RAS and a compact footprint, TAREC was designed to hold freshwater (FW), seawater (SW), or both FW and SW aquatic organisms simultaneously, including the option for modifications along a salinity gradient under experimental conditions. An account of the requirements and specifications for building the system is provided along with an initial trial comparing growth rates of the euryhaline Mozambique tilapia, Oreochromis mossambicus, reared in FW and artificial seawater (ASW) when stocked at ~0.6 kg/m3. Over three months, fish reared in ASW grew faster and had lower feed conversion ratios than those in FW. These findings not only validate salinity-dependent growth trials in RAS but also demonstrate TAREC’s capacity as a versatile experimental facility for conducting fundamental and applied research and training for the next generation of aquaculture researchers and practitioners.

Upcoming Webinar on the Hawai'i Sea Grant Aquaculture Internship Program - October 22 on Zoom

The Hawai‘i Sea Grant aquaculture workforce development project in Hawai‘i, Guam, and American Samoa is working with educators, loko i‘a (Hawaiian fishponds), and aquaculture business partners to provide on-the-job training via internships. The group is hosting a lunchtime webinar on Wednesday October 22 to share updates about the project. The Zoom meeting will start at 12 noon Hawaii time; click here to join the meeting.

AquaClip: Future of Fish Feed opens latest contest offering USD 200,000 in prizes for innovative marine ingredient-free feeds

The Future of Fish Feed, or F3, has launched its latest marine ingredient challenge designed around finding replacements for marine ingredients in fish feed.

The F3 challenge has been running since 2015, and challenges its participants to develop and test an aquaculture feed manufactured without marine ingredients. Past winners of the prize include Brazil-based BRF Ingredients, Veramaris, Star Milling Co., Empagran, and more.

“By incentivizing farms to innovate, the F3 Fish Farm Challenge reduces pressure on wild fish stocks while building a more resilient and sustainable farmed seafood system for the future,” F3 Judge and University of Arizona Professor Kevin Fitzsimmons said. “Amid growing supply chain uncertainties, this contest offers an opportunity to future-proof farm operations by developing strong, sustainable feed contingency plans.”

The challenge has varying goals depending on the edition, with the most-recent contest seeking a replacement for krill in aquaculture feeds. The recently-launched edition will hand out USD 200,000 (EUR 170,000) in prizes to four top-performing farms in two contest tracks: A two-year contest rewarding farms that produce and sell carnivorous finfish that were raised on feeds free of marine animal ingredients, and a four-year contest for farms using new feed and farming innovations on raising slower-growing finfish species.

Registration for the contest opened 16 September, and to qualify farmers must use marine animal free diets beginning no later than the fingerling stage.

Source: Seafood Source // 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 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, 2022-38500-38099, 2023-38500-40707, and 2024-38500-42306. The regional aquaculture centers integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development.
CTSA was established in 1986 and is administered by the University of Hawaii.

Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture
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