



CENTER FOR  
TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL  
AQUACULTURE

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## Letter from the Director

Aloha and Happy Halloween,

As revelers celebrate the spooky traditions of this holiday, my thoughts are on something much more frightening: wasted government spending!

Federal spending is intended to provide the 'raw materials' to build solutions to our societal problems; it is up to the 'builders' in charge of each program and project to create something meaningful. I am disheartened when I see hard-earned tax dollars spent on unnecessary resources and expensive high-tech equipment with little to no return on the investment. In contrast, I am thrilled when I see researchers, projects, and programs maximize minimal funding to create significant impacts through innovative and cost-effective problem solving.

Though we are constantly striving for improvement, CTSA prides itself on being mindful with the federal funds we administer. We employ diligent project monitoring and development processes to ensure that your tax dollars are maximized through program spending. To uphold this standard, we rely on our Industry Advisory and Technical Committees, as well as external reviewers, who provide thoughtful insights into each proposal submitted for funding consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm thank you to those colleagues who reviewed the CTSA proposals this year. Their comments will be an important... [Read More](#)



## Hawaii Judge Halts Aquarium Fishing Until Environmental Review

Last week, a Hawaii judge halted commercial fishing of reef fish for aquariums until the state reviews the industry's environmental impact. The Friday ruling by the Oahu Circuit Court follows the state Supreme Court's decision last month that issuance of permits allowing aquarium fish collection must comply with the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act. The high court gave authority to the lower court to determine if the fish collection may be exempt from the law.



Reef fish from Hawaii can be found in aquariums across the world. The number one collected species is yellow tang, which accounts for approximately 80% of the fish caught for aquarium

trade in West Hawaii. Supporters of the ban have called for detailed environmental impact assessments of how the yellow tang fishery and other aquarium fisheries have been affected by commercial fishing.

Currently, the state Department of Land and Natural Resources has permits issued to 231 active commercial collectors, and as part of the ruling it was ordered to not issue any new permits. Department officials say they respect the judge's ruling, but they continue "to believe that existing aquarium fishing practices are sustainable and environmentally sound."

CTSA took the opportunity to discuss the impacts of this decision with our Advisory Council member Richard Xie, who owns and operates Hawaiian Sealife. While it is primarily an aquarium fish export company, Hawaiian Sealife has diversified its business model and over the last decade has become an edu-tainment operation that has provided marine education tours for 200,000 local students and visitors to Oahu.

"Lots of scientists have already testified that reef fishing is not harmful if the government provides the proper management and guidelines," explained Xie.

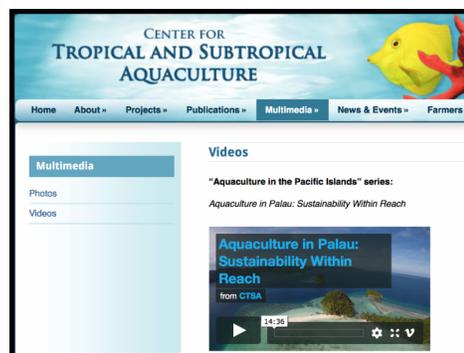
"The decision to halt commercial fishing of reef fish for aquariums has only invalidated the aquarium fish permits; commercial fishing licenses are still legal," he continued. "Fishermen can still use a 2.25" eye fish net to catch fish legally. In other words, the fisherman will now have to catch more fish broodstock in order to feed their families. It might damage the environment more."...[Read More](#)

## CTSA Video Library: Have You Been Watching?

In 2011, CTSA began creating short videos to highlight aquaculture farmers and farming activities in Hawaii and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. To date, we have created 15 videos that can be found on our website and Vimeo and YouTube channels.

Our videos cover a wide range of topics. Some are intended to showcase CTSA project activities and industry stakeholders, and others are training videos intended to transfer technology. Our training videos, which may be of use to farmers and researchers both within and outside the CTSA region, include *Marine Finfish Hatchery Training*, *On-Farm Food Safety Guidelines for Aquaponics Producers*, and *Managing FNO Outbreaks in Tilapia*.

Stop by our video library to watch these short videos and more... [CTSA Video Library](#)



## AquaClip: Kampachi Farms Receives Funding to Develop Seaweed as a Clean Energy Source

Two Hawai'i businesses will receive \$1.5 million in U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funding to develop offshore seaweed as a potential clean energy source.

Under the grant, Kampachi Farms in Kailua-Kona received \$500,000 to develop an offshore seaweed production farm and test harvesting techniques for future use in renewable energy production.

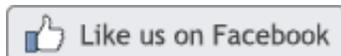
"Marine agronomy - the culture of limu (seaweed) in oceanic conditions - offers potential for increased production of food, feeds and fuel," said Neil Sims, co-founder and chief scientific

officer of Kampachi Farms. "Using the power of the ocean's primary production, we can increase availability of healthful food for people, feeds for fish and other animals, and biofuels for a carbon neutral planet, with minimal use of land, freshwater or artificial fertilizers. Offshore culture of limu connects innovative aquaculture with Hawaiian culinary traditions. It also offers - in our estimation - the only possible means of harnessing entrepreneurial resources to create incentives for countering ocean acidification."

The funding was awarded through DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) program.

Source: Big Island Now / [Read Article](#)

[www.ctsa.org](http://www.ctsa.org)



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 grants 2012-38500-19566, 2014-38500-22241, and 2016-38500-25751. 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 Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University and the University of Hawaii.

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