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Letter from the Director

Aloha,

We here at CTSA wish you a joyous holiday season. As we reflect on the activities and accomplishments of the past year, I just want to once again express my gratitude to all CTSA stakeholders for your valuable contributions to our program.

2019 was the first full year at our new office on the University of Hawaii Manoa campus, and it has been a productive and exciting year! We are so grateful for all of the valuable resources on campus, including expertise from a wide variety of disciplines. Now CTSA is truly working closely together with both of its host institutions --OI and UH-- and I am glad to see this opportunity for our program.

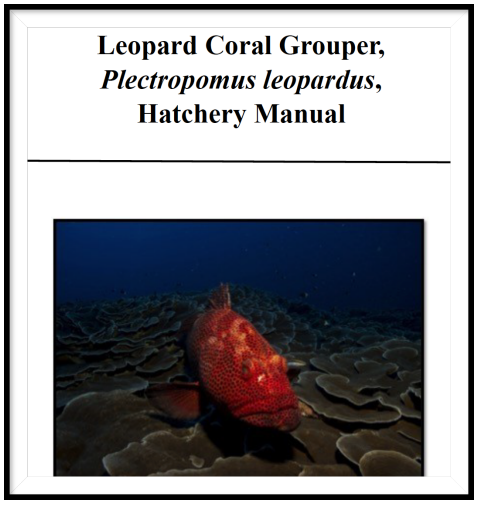
Looking forward to 2020, CTSA will continue its mission to help solve industry issues and develop sustainable aquaculture in Hawaii and the U.S affiliated Pacific Islands. Our regional industry may be small, but with plentiful and largely untapped natural resources, it is our goal to make the best use of what is available. If we work together, we can realize the full potential of our regional industry.

As always, we welcome your input on ways to improve our program and the services we provide to our valued stakeholders. Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our program. On a personal note, I hope that you are able to put work aside at this time of year to enjoy cherished time with your loved ones. This is, afterall, what this season is all about!

Mahalo,

Cheng-Sheng Lee, Ph.D.
Executive Director

CTSA 2019 Publications:
'Producing Pacific Oysters' Manual
'Coral Grouper Hatchery' Manual



CTSA is pleased to share two new publications produced in 2019 in conjunction with working groups from CTSA-funded projects focused on the cultivation of Leopard Coral Groupers and Pacific Oysters.

The publication "Leopard Coral Grouper, *Plectropomus leopardus*, Hatchery Manual" provides a range of information on this popular species of fish, including broodstock maintenance, larval rearing, feeding, and more. Click here to view or download PDF.

The publication "Producing Polyploid Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas* Thunberg)" tells the story of a private-public partnership to improve Pacific Oyster seed quality and availability, and describes the conditions required to produce the popular oysters. "Producing polyploid oysters is not a trivial task and the chances of success are influenced by many factors including time, costs and technical expertise. This publication offers considerations to better inform anyone planning to develop a polyploid oyster program." Click here to view or download PDF.

Both manuals area available for free download on CTSA.org

AquaClip: Aquaculture industry moves to tackle plastic pollution in oceans

Editor's Note: A forthcoming issue of CTSA Regional e-Notes will discuss the Aquaculture Stewardship Council white paper and the topic of ocean plastic pollution in depth.

The contribution of plastic debris from global aquaculture is not at the same magnitude as that from capture fisheries, but more needs to be done to stop plastic waste from mariculture farms ending up in the ocean, states a new white paper.

Released, as representatives of the worlds' governments meet in Spain at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25), the white paper by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), for the first time classified the different causes of plastic waste from aquaculture and assessed the risks to different farming systems.

While most of the attention surrounding plastic pollution in the seas has revolved around abandoned, lost, and discarded or ghost fishing gear, there is not enough understanding on the plastics issue as it relates to aquaculture, states the ASC white paper - "Marine Litter and Aquaculture Gear." It has determined that extreme weather is currently one of the major causes of plastic 'ghost gear' from fish farms entering oceans and rivers, and warns that the increasing "frequency and severity" of tropical storms due to climate change could exacerbate the problem.

"The issue of ghost gear from fisheries is well known, but there has been much less analysis of the impact of fish farms," said Marcelo Hidalgo, Standards Coordinator for ASC.

"ASC plans to be the first aquaculture certification scheme to include specific plastics requirements, and as a science-based organisation it was important for us to make sure they are evidence-based."

The white paper finds that while lost plastics from aquaculture and capture fisheries are often considered together, this is a not a helpful approach as the causes are often quite different. The study which looked at more than 60 ASC-certified farms found that the most likely causes of plastic loss from aquaculture sites were extreme weather, poor waste management, and installation wear, and failure resulting from poor siting or lack of maintenance.

The new white paper recommends what it calls the five R's for aquaculture producers looking to reduce plastic waste: Reduce; Re-use; Recycle; Recover; Refuse.

Source: SeaWestNews.com / **Read Article**

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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 2014-38500-22241, 2016-38500-25751, and 2018-38500-28886. 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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