CENTER FOR TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AQUACULTURE

Regional e-Notes ~ Volume 12, Issue 2 ~ February 2020

Letter from the Director

Aloha,

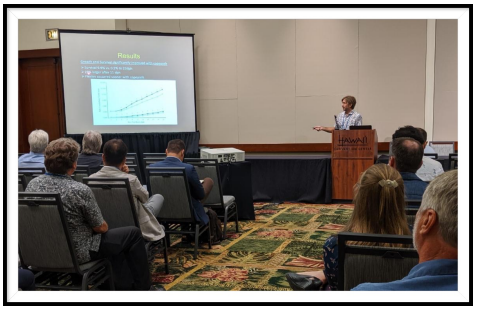
Like many of you, I attended the Aquaculture America 2020 conference in Honolulu. I enjoyed conversations with old and new friends at this year's conference, and was encouraged by those who gave me feedback on our monthly e-Notes. It is our goal to provide interesting, worthwhile content for our readers, and we always welcome your feedback.

This conference presented unique opportunities to strengthen our network of local, national and international institutions. This has been particularly valuable for ramping up our CTSA education activities, with our Sea Grant education project now in swing. It also gave us a chance to meet and thank many of the reviewers of our annual proposals. Expert reviewers play a very important role in the CTSA development process, and many live across the country, with some across the world; it's always nice to express our gratitude for their contributions in person.

AA2020 also provided an opportunity for me and my staff to meet Dr. Amrit Bart, the new USDA NIFA National Program Leader for Aquaculture, and the supervisor of our RAC program. His visit to our office marks the first time a National Program Leader has come to visit the CTSA office at UH. During our meeting, I explained to Amrit that CTSA shares the same mission of the other RAC's, but each RAC addresses the opportunities and challenges that are specific to its own region. The CTSA region has a unique set of challenges and opportunities, and our program is willing to address them head on with the utmost reverence for the environment. Our regional priorities are focused on food security, conservation, and education, and it was my pleasure to show Amrit how CTSA has been addressing these priorities and how we plan to....**Read More**

Aquaculture America 2020: Conference Wrap-up

by Meredith Brooks, CTSA



The Aquaculture America 2020 conference took place in Honolulu from February 9-12. The event included a tradeshow and a packed program featuring a wide variety of sessions over the course of three full days; with captivating and informational presentations spanning the entire fresh and marine aquaculture industry, it was often difficult to choose which session to attend.

CTSA participated in a tradeshow booth managed by the Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) in conjunction with our program's host institution, the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). The booth provided

opportunities to mingle and network with researchers, farmers, business operators, and more stakeholders from Hawai'i, the Western Pacific Islands, and around the world. CTSA is grateful to our partners for offering us this opportunity to participate in the booth and distribute materials about the RAC program, including CTSA publications and other information.

This year's conference paid special homage to the host city, and honored the history of aquaculture in Hawai'i through several dedicated sessions. Our partners at Kua Aina Auamo (KUA) did a fantastic job leading many sessions and related activities before, during and after the conference, including a fishpond workshop (detailed in this month's Aqua Clip). We congratulate them for leaving an impressive mark on the international aquaculture industry.

Several researchers presented results from CTSA-funded projects during the conference. During the Hatchery Production and Technology session on Day 1, Dr. Chatham Callan (pictured) led presentations about his ongoing groundbreaking work with Yellow Tang, which is seeking building upon prior successes to address production challenges and significantly improve the yield of Yellow Tang production,and his recently completed project on Coral Grouper. The study sought to build on past developments in grouper culture and recent advancements in copepod culture technology by observing how growth and survival were influenced by the addition of intensively cultured copepods to the early diet of P. leopardus larvae. CTSA Principal Investigator Miguel de los Santos from Palau also presented on his project to improve the survival rate of mangrove crabs by establishing a better combination of algal diets. During the Tilapia session on Day 3, RuthEllen Klinger-Bowen presented the results of the recent CTSA study that sampled tilapia from feral populations of the main Hawaiian Islands to evaluate species composition and the geographic distribution of Fno.Full results from these projects are presented in the 2019 Annual Accomplishment Report.

It was also a pleasure to support members of our Industry Advisory Council and Technical Committee during their presentations, including David Cohen's presentation on sea urchin production in Hawai'i and Vernon Sato's presentations on microalgae and mullet in Hawaiian fishponds.

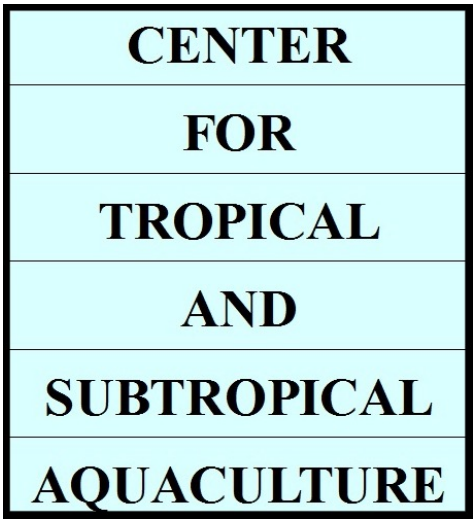
Of particular interest to our program during this year's conference were the sessions on Education, Extension, and Public Perceptions and Social License. With our new Sea Grant project to assess the impacts that education has on public perception of aquaculture, these sessions were particularly informative and presented opportunities to increase our education network. Presentations and panel discussions featuring experts including our friends at Sea Grant and the Long Beach Aquarium demonstrated both the importance and value of incorporating aquaculture into education programs. We are excited to build our education program over the coming months and years, and look forward to sharing... **Read More**

CTSA FY2020 Development

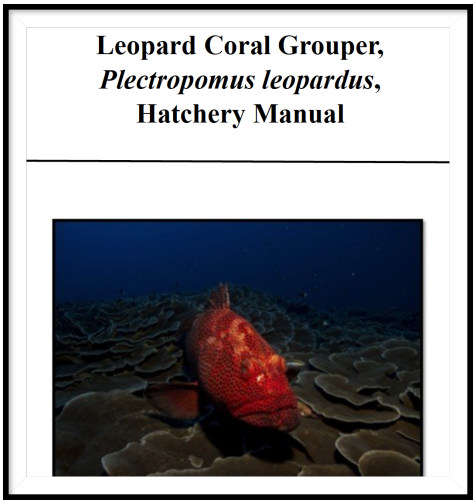
In an effort to get the most complete picture of the needs and priorities of our regional aquaculture industry, we are calling for your assistance and input!

Please take a few moments and click here to take our FY2020 Priority Species and Areas survey to help us determine the priority species and areas of focus for the FY2020 development cycle. Please email Meredith Brooks at mbrooks@ctsa.org with any questions or other suggestions.

We will release the FY2020 Request for Pre-Proposals in May 2020, and will be developing the priority areas until that time with input from our Industry Advisory Council, Technical Committee, Board of Directors, and stakeholders like you!



In Case You Missed It! New CTSA Publications on Coral Grouper and Pacific Oysters



Last year, CTSA in conjunction with project working groups released two new publications 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: Native Hawaiian aquaculture taught at international gathering

More than 170 guests, including representatives from 10 Pacific Northwest tribes and many more from across the globe, gathered in He‘eia, O‘ahu, hosted by local stewardship organizations Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi and Paepae o He‘eia, to learn about Native Hawaiian aquaculture practices in February. The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program has been a long-time partner and supporter of the Hui Mālama Loko I‘a and Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, the backbone organization that coordinates and facilitates the Hui.

This event was part of an annual gathering of fishpond practitioners from across the Hawaiian Islands through the Hui Mālama Loko I‘a, a collective of kia‘i loko (fishpond practitioners) who seek to leverage their shared skills, knowledge and resources to address common goals.

The 2020 Gathering included a full day of restoring the rock wall and learning about the history and function of He‘eiaFishpond, as well as a visit to the upper forested lands of the He‘eia ahupua‘a, the source of the vital freshwater that feeds He‘eia wetlands, taro patches and the fishpond.

The final day was spent visiting and engaging in collaborative restoration work at several other fishponds around O‘ahuincluding Waikalua Loko, Loko Ea, Pa‘aiau, Kapapapuhi and Pāhonu. Throughout the gathering, participants shared stories and made first-time connections.

As a result of the gathering, cross-Pacific partnerships grew in exponential ways, with new ideas

and discoveries shared between students, fisheries managers, biologists and elders from Alaska, Hawai‘i, Oregon, Washington, Canada, New Zealand and beyond.

Source: University of Hawai'i News / **Read Full Article**

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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 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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