

# NASAC RAMBLINGS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2009

### Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Message from the V. Pres.
- 3 NASAC Annual Meeting
- 4 Aquaculture News
- 6 2008/2009 Board Members
- 6 NASAC Dues
- 7 Membership Form

LYNNE CANTER, Editor  
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

NASAC has kept me well occupied the last few weeks and it is good to have a chance to bring you all up to speed on several issues.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that President Obama signed February 17 may not have stimulated the economy yet but it has done a good job putting the rest of us to work since Aquaculture America. The combination of lots of money and little time had a magical affect. Section 102(d) of the bill titled *2008 Aquaculture Assistance* allows for payments to all aquaculture producers who experienced an increase in feed cost during the 2008 calendar year and created additional work for all of you.

Thanks to all of you who responded so quickly to the requests from me and NASDA as we have been working with FSA to determine the specifics for this section. I wish my next paragraph was full of insider details but I don't know much more than most of you on this issue. FSA has not been willing to release any details until they were finalized. March 10, information was posted at <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45908> and would be worth a look if you haven't seen it. However, you'll see it doesn't really have any details either. To know what will be required of us and our farmers, we're just going to have to keep an eye on our mailboxes. Letters will be sent soon to the states either via the governor's office or department of agriculture. I'll try to let you know when that happens so you'll know to expect it. It seems like a lot of "hurry up and wait" and I appreciate your help in this process.

Karl Roscher has served as the secretary/treasurer of NASAC since 2000 but has recently passed the baton. I've really appreciated his help with the NASAC finances and specifically with the details of last year's meeting here in Missouri. He has tracked our finances for a long time and done a good job at it. He has definitely earned a break and I appreciate Joe Myers offer to get more involved in the organization.

The NASAC annual meeting has come along nicely but the planning continues. We will be in Denver, Colorado July 22-24 thanks to the efforts of Scott Leach. I think we have a good agenda and am really looking forward to the meeting and tours. You'll find the tentative agenda, travel details, and registration form on the NASAC web site at [http://nasac.biz/Annual\\_Meeting.html](http://nasac.biz/Annual_Meeting.html). Please help us make the final preparations by getting the official (as in signed paperwork) yes or no from your supervisors. (My boss has told me I should be able to go but I don't have anything in writing myself.) Please let Scott know by **May 1** so we can proceed with confidence or pull the plug before lots of people buy plane tickets. Thanks for indulging my paranoia. We have a good crowd tentatively planning to come but I really don't want to give Scott a big surprise in June.

The NASAC website has kept us busy with technical troubles but is OK again. I'm sorry if you have had trouble getting information from the site. It started acting funny a couple weeks ago and then simply disappeared. None of the support people we called seemed to know what went wrong and where our site was. Today's changes though solved the problem and we are online again. It is a day of celebration. I really appreciate the effort Scott has put into maintaining the NASAC website and now solving this problem.

We look forward to hearing your travel plans and hope to see you at the NASAC meeting.

Bart  
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## VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

**Debra Sloan**  
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From the mountains of WNC ...

Nonnative species is a contentious topic for aquaculture and perspectives vary widely. Proposed Bill, HR 669, The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act, was introduced by Del. Madeleine Bordallo of Guam. This Bill, if passed, would completely change the way in which nonnative species are regulated under the Lacey Act.

Bart, Paul Z, and I have been following this since the Bill's initial introduction. I encourage you to read this Bill and make a determination for yourself. Follows is a summary of the Bill HR 669 taken from the Library of Congress – Thomas.

### H.R.669

**Title:** To prevent the introduction and establishment of nonnative wildlife species that negatively impact the economy, environment, or other animal species' or human health, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** [Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z.](#) [GU] (introduced 1/26/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (21)

**Latest Major Action:** 2/4/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans & Wildlife.

### SUMMARY AS OF:

1/26/2009--Introduced.

Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act - Requires the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations establishing a process for assessing the risk of all nonnative wildlife species proposed for importation into the United States, other than those included in a list of approved species issued under this Act. Sets forth factors that must be considered, including the identity of the organism to the species level, the native range of the species, whether the species has caused harm to the economy, the environment, or other animal species or human health in similar ecosystems, and the likelihood of establishment or spread of the species in the United States.

Provides procedures for issuance and expansion of a list of nonnative wildlife species approved for importation and a list of nonnative wildlife species that are prohibited.

Establishes prohibitions on: (1) importation or transportation between states of nonnative species that are not included in the list of approved species; (2) permit violations; and (3) possession, purchase, sale, barter, release, or breeding of such species.

Exempts from such prohibitions actions by law enforcement personnel to enforce this Act or by federal or state officials to prevent the introduction or establishment of nonnative wildlife species. Declares that nothing in this Act restricts the importation or transportation between states of such species by a federal agency for its own use if the species remains in its possession. Authorizes the Secretary to issue permits authorizing otherwise prohibited importation for scientific research, for medical, accredited zoological or aquarium display purposes, or for educational purposes that are specifically reviewed, approved, and verified by the Secretary if the Secretary finds that there has been a proper showing by the permittee of responsibility for the specimen and continued protection of the public interest and health.

Allows the imposition of fees on persons who submit a proposal to include a species in either of the lists to recover the costs of assessing risks of nonnative wildlife species. Establishes a Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Fund into which such fees and fines for violations will be deposited.

Redesignates the Invasive Species Council established by Executive Order 13112 as the National Invasive Species Council.

Members of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife will hold a hearing on H.R. 669 [April 23<sup>rd</sup>](#)

***Become informed, be proactive, and educate others about this Bill. Remember, taking action is a conscious choice, so is doing nothing.***



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NASAC will hold its 2009 Annual Meeting in beautiful Denver, Colorado July 21st-24th. We will be staying at the DTC Doubletree Hotel at a \$99/per night rate (single or double occupancy). For reservations either call 1-800-327-2242 or log on to [www.denvertech.doubletree.com](http://www.denvertech.doubletree.com) ([http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en\\_US/dt/hotel/DENEWDT/index.do](http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/DENEWDT/index.do)) - for both use the code "AQU". There is no hotel shuttle from Denver International Airport (DIA), but you can either rent a car at the airport or take the [Big Sky Airport Shuttle](http://bigskyshuttle.hudsonltd.net/res) (<http://bigskyshuttle.hudsonltd.net/res>) (group code "CDA") or the [Super Shuttle](http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=567T2) (<http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=567T2>) (discount code "567T2") - prices vary per person. The hotel also has car rental opportunities that may prove cheaper than at DIA. 2 blocks from the hotel is our [Lightrail system](http://www.rtd-denver.com/) (<http://www.rtd-denver.com/>) that can take you downtown for a small amount.

### 2009 NASAC Meeting Agenda July 21-24



#### **Tuesday July 21**

4 pm-6 pm NASAC Board Meeting  
 6:30 pm Hospitality Room opens  
 Dinner on your own

#### **Wednesday July 22**

8:00 am Welcome – Bart Hawcroft  
 8:15 am Jill Rolland, USDA – *NAAHP update; VHS update*  
 9:45 am Break  
 10:00 am Elizabeth Brown, CDOW – *Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan*  
 11:00 am Besty Hart, NAA – *NAA activities and Federal update*  
 11:30 am Depart for Canon City (box lunch on bus)  
 2:00 pm Tour Colorado Correctional Industries – Tilapia fish hatchery; goat barn; wild horses program; etc (must be 18 to enter into CCI; accommodations will be made for those under 18. Will need Full name, Drivers license number/state, date of birth prior to tour – approx. 2 weeks before)  
 5:00 pm Leave CCI for Flying W Ranch  
 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Flying W Ranch: Tour Western Village; Dinner; Flying W Westerners show

#### **Thursday July 23**

8:00 am Business meeting  
 9:30 am Welcome by Commissioner Stulp  
 9:45 am State Coordinator reports  
 11:00 am-1:00 pm Lunch on your own  
 1:00 pm until done State Coordinator reports  
 Optional tour of Cline Trout Farm, Boulder, CO

#### **Friday July 24**

8:00 am Palma Jordan, Schering-Plough – *Aquaflor and other items*  
 8:30 am Ken Cline, Industry – *New Zealand Mudsail; Colorado Aquaculture Board; Other items*  
 9:15 am Greg Brunjak, Industry – *Colorado Fish Health Board*  
 9:45 am Break  
 10:00 am Jeremy Liley, Industry – *Colorado Aquaculture Association*  
 10:30 am Joe Myers – *Import/Export Trade Analysis*  
 11:30 am Depart for Fort Collins (box lunch in vans)  
 1:00 pm Tour Colorado Division of Wildlife Research Center  
 3:00 pm Tour Black Footed Ferret Recovery Program  
 4:30 pm Optional dinner in Ft. Collins (on own)

## AQUACULTURE NEWS

**Thomas A. Bell, PhD**  
**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership**  
**406-994-9911 Fax 406-582-0242**  
[thomas\\_a\\_bell@fws.gov](mailto:thomas_a_bell@fws.gov)  
<http://fisheries.fws.gov/aadap>

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[www.floridaaquaculture.com](http://www.floridaaquaculture.com)

### **Aquaculture Drug Update: DATE: 26 March 2009**

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Announces First Drug to be Placed in the Index of Legally Marketed Unapproved New Animal Drugs for Minor Species

Although the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2004 provides FDA with the authority to place unapproved animal drugs for minor uses or minor species (MUMS) on an Index of legally marketable drugs, it has taken over four years for associated regulations to be written and for a new drug to work its way through the system. But, we are delighted to say the system DOES work, and the very first drug was recently (19 March 2006) added to the MUMS Index list. Congratulations to Western Chemical, Inc. (Ferndale, Washington) and CVM's Office of Minor Use Minor Species.

Western Chemical, Inc. received word that their spawning hormone, **OVAPRIM®** (salmon gonadotropin releasing hormone analog plus domperidone), may now be legally marketed as a spawning aid for use with ornamental fish broodstock. Refer to CVM's Index webpage (<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/MUMSIndexList.htm>) and the most recent "CVM Update" (<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/NewAnimalDrugIndex.htm>) for additional information on Ovaprim® or Western's website (<http://www.wchemical.com/OVAPRIM-P66C20.aspx>).

Animal drugs that are on the Index carry with them specific conditions for use: (1) they may only be used on non-food fish, (2) they may only be used for the condition(s) identified in the Index, (3) the drug may only be obtained from the manufacturer identified on the Index, and (4) the drug may not be extra-label prescribed by a veterinarian.

### FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact: USFWS-Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership, phone 406-994-9911  
 Website: <http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap/home.htm>

### **Keeping Up with Invasive Species**

National and international alarm continues to grow concerning exotic species and the fraction of exotic species that negatively affect the environment, human health and economic activities (i.e., invasive species). Keeping up with federal legislation, invasive species media stories, and exotic species sightings can be a challenge, but with a variety of free internet services this problem has been solved. Aquaculture coordinators should frequently visit a USDA-sponsored webpage that tracks invasive species legislation introduced during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/laws/bills111.shtml>. The bill to watch is H.R. 669, Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act, which proposes national approved and prohibited lists for all animals (fish, mammals, reptiles, molluscs and insects).

The USDA, National Agricultural Library, hosts a free subscription from the National Invasive Species Information Center. Subscribers receive daily summaries of invasive species media articles from newspapers across the nation. Visit <http://weblogs.nal.usda.gov/invasivespecies/> to sign up.

The U.S. Geological Survey provides an Aquatic Nuisance Species Alert System, <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/about.asp>, where you can sign up to receive email notices about species or regions of interest to you. The alerts include embedded links to species fact sheets (including range maps) and collection records.



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### Farmers sink teeth into raising piranha

*Dear Otus,  
 My family and I were driving back from Memphis last week when we noticed a new billboard on Interstate 40 at Exit 193 at Hazen. It advertised the Hurley House on the Pond Cafe in DeValls Bluff featuring "pan-fried piranha." Are they kidding?*

*- Ida Claire, Maumelle*

Dear Ida,

- The billboard is deadly serious. And it may not be the last if all this works out.
- Not only are pond-raised piranha the new catfish, but the crappie-size delicacies have arrived just in time to save a failing industry.
- According to the January newsletter of the Piranha Farmers of Arkansas, the main problems with catfish farming are the rising cost of the grain used to feed them, the importation of faux catfish from Vietnam and the predation of fingerlings by birds.
- Birds are the main bane of the catfish farmer. They frequently gobble down 80 percent of the fingerlings before they can mature to market size.
- Chief among the predators are cormorants, egrets, herons and, during warmer months, kingfishers and anhingas.
- Aquafarmers have to go to extensive and expensive methods to discourage the predator birds. Methods include gunfire, fireworks, noise cannons, flashing lights, electronic bird distress calls, water fountains and those funny plastic owl scarecrows you can get at Wal-Mart.
- The rotating-head owls are best, but they cost more.
- With piranha, there are no such predator problems. Let a cormorant plop down on a piranha pond and it's bones and gristle in 45 seconds.
- Watching the piranha defend themselves has become quite the tourist attraction at the Lago Sangrante Fish Farm on Arkansas 70 E. near DeValls Bluff.
- "It's like something on the National Geographic Channel," said 13-year-old Joe Harper after a recent visit. "It was cool. I can't wait to go again and bring my own chicken."
- In the off-season, visitors may purchase (at cost) a package of Tyson Any'tizers Buffalo Style Chicken Wings to feed to the piranha. The fish seem to especially enjoy the glaze.
- Feeding hours are from noon to 2 p.m. daily. Tour groups are welcome and receive a special discount rate. For more information, check the farm's Web site at [www.piranha.com](http://www.piranha.com). Visitors are urged to keep pets on a leash and small children behind the railing.
- The Web site also contains the Hurley House sous-chef's top 10 favorite recipes for pan-fried piranha. Famed Cajun Chef Je Vais Pecher, winner of the 2007 Justin Wilson Garontee Medal of Merit, perfected his dishes at the famed Bubba's Place at the Maison Dupuy Hotel in New Orleans.

### Midwest Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) Workshop And Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (NADF) Aquaculture Field Day and Vendor Fair June 10-12, 2009

The University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (UWSP NADF) is sponsoring a Midwest Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) Workshop along with the Annual Aquaculture Field Day and Vendor Fair June 10-12, 2009 in Bayfield and Red Cliff, Wisconsin. The Midwest RAS workshop will be two days – Wednesday/Thursday which will include the Vendor Fair followed on Friday by the Annual Field Day with aquaculture industry meetings and fish fry.

The workshop will provide hands on systems demonstration and practical operating knowledge to enable aquaculturists to better understand RAS capabilities. RAS aquaculture reuses up to 95% of the water with fish raised in indoor tanks, utilizing both mechanical and biological filters. Speakers from Europe and the United States will provide information on specific systems and species applicability. There will be sessions on overview/history, systems, economics, fish health and RAS along with individual presentations on coldwater, coolwater and warm water species, and aquaponics. The agenda includes a panel discussion including all speakers, and hands on instruction utilizing three RAS at NADF and a water quality lab. Participants will be able to talk directly with engineers, successful RAS farmers, and researchers about RAS practices. A vendor fair in conjunction with the workshop, consisting of companies specializing in RAS aquaculture is scheduled.

The workshop will incorporate time for networking and has planned an optional evening boat trip on Lake Superior through the Apostle Islands. On Friday the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association (WAA) and Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council (WAIAC) have morning meetings then at noon there will be the annual WAA fish fry and tour of NADF.

**Cost:** The registration for the two day Midwest RAS Workshop is \$75/person WAA member, \$100/person non WAA member; Optional – Thursday evening Lake Superior Cruise \$35/adult, \$25/spouse, \$15/child – under 18 years. Friday's picnic only for non WAA members is \$9/person.

**Location:** Bayfield Pavilion in Bayfield, Wisconsin and the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility, at Red Cliff, Wisconsin. Lodging is available in Bayfield, check the WAA web site for specials [www.wisconsinaquaculture.com](http://www.wisconsinaquaculture.com) and the Bayfield Chamber web site at [www.bayfield.org](http://www.bayfield.org) for available. When booking, mention you are attending the Aquaculture Workshop.

**Contacts:** To register or for a brochure with lodging information contact Cindy Johnson, Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, 715-373-2990 or email



## !!!! IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR NASAC DUES !!!!

Don't forget to pay your NASAC dues for the upcoming fiscal year. Membership in NASAC is important. The stronger our association is the louder our voice will be heard when testifying or commenting on aquaculture issues. Dues are good from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. A form for membership is included with this newsletter. If you have questions concerning dues contact Joseph Myers, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Fish and Seafood Development, PO Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625, (609) 984-2502, (609) 633-7229 FAX or email [joseph.myers@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:joseph.myers@ag.state.nj.us)

**THE NEWSLETTER IS A GREAT AVENUE FOR NETWORKING. LET'S HEAR FROM YOUR STATE ON ISSUES, MEETINGS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.**

## DIRECTORY OF STATE AQUACULTURE COORDINATORS

As changes occur (**retirement, resignation, etc**) please send the new information to Lynne Canter, [nasac@nasac.net](mailto:nasac@nasac.net)

It is very important to keep your state's information current. Without the correct email or address your State will not receive the quarterly newsletter or important information disseminated concerning aquaculture issues. You can get an up to date copy of the Directory of State Aquaculture Coordinators from the NASAC website: [www.nasac.net](http://www.nasac.net)



**NASAC WEBSITE  
WWW.NASAC.NET**

**NEXT ISSUE OF RAMBLINGS WILL BE IN JULY**

### 2008-2009 NASAC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT:** Bart Hawcroft, MO  
**VICE PRES:** Debra Sloan, NC  
**SEC/TREAS:** Joe Myers, NJ

**NORTHEAST BOARD MEMBERS**  
 Charlie Conklin, PA

**SOUTHERN BOARD MEMBERS**  
 Robins Buck, VA  
 Ted McNulty, AR

**MIDWEST BOARD MEMBERS**  
 Angela Caporelli, KY  
 Ron Johnson, WI

**WESTERN BOARD MEMBERS**  
 Todd Low, HI  
 Sen. Dan Swecker, WA

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Jimmy Carlisle, AL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE AQUACULTURE COORDINATORS  
(NASAC)  
[www.nasac.net](http://www.nasac.net)

**INVOICE/MEMBERSHIP FORM  
DUES 2008/2009**

(Please print or type)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone \_\_\_\_\_

FAX number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership (check one)	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Member \$100 (State, Province, Territory Coordinators)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member \$ 50 (Industry, Federal agencies, others)	_____

**NASAC's Federal Employer Identification Number: 54-1589538**

Please remit annual membership dues for **fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009**.  
Please remit payment by the end of the first quarter, September 30, 2008. **MAKE CHECKS**  
payable to NASAC and remit to:

Joseph Myers  
New Jersey Department of Agriculture  
Fish and Seafood Development  
PO Box 330  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
(609) 984-2502 (609) 633-7229 FAX  
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