

RAMBLINGS NASAC NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2009

Coordinators,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President Message
- 2 Vice President Message
- 3 Aquaculture News
- 4 Annual Meeting Pictures
- 5 Annual Meeting Resolution
- 6 2009/2010 Board Members
- 6 NASAC Dues
- 7 Membership Form

The NASAC annual meeting in Denver, Colorado July 21-24 was great. We owe a huge thank you to Scott Leach and the Colorado Department of Agriculture for hosting us and Schering-Plough Animal Health for sponsoring the meeting. Thank you also to the coordinators who managed to get to the meeting in spite of shrinking budgets and travel restrictions. We had several new faces as well as a couple established ones that have been unable to make it for some time. It was good to hear other coordinators say NASAC is THE priority meeting for them. I know I consider it the most helpful and most enjoyable meeting I attend and am grateful I was able to be there.

Formal presentations during the meeting included lots of good coordinator reports as well as some great guest speakers. Dr. Jill Rolland with the USDA APHIS discussed the status of VHS and possible options for future regulations regarding the disease. She also shared about progress that has been made on the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and the benefits it holds. The 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program was covered by Amy Mitchell who is administering it for the USDA Farm Service Agency. Betsy Hart with NAA discussed some actions the NAA is taking that will benefit both producers and consumers of US aquacultured products. Greg Brunjak and Ken Cline gave a producer perspective on issues within the Colorado industry while Elizabeth Brown with the Colorado Department of Wildlife shared steps the state is taking to control the spread of zebra and quagga mussels.

A highlight of the NASAC meetings is always the tours. They are an education in themselves. A great deal of planning obviously went into the tours this year. The first stop was the Colorado Correction Industries in Canon City. The inmates at this facility have been raising and processing tilapia for several years now. They are now in the process of expanding their production capability with the addition of several greenhouses. What they were doing with aquaculture was impressive but even more impressive was that it was just one of 55 different projects that they have. The next day, the group toured Cline Trout Farm in Boulder. Ken Cline is well known in the industry and is a NAA Board Member. He and his wife Becky were great hosts as they showed us around the farm and then downtown Boulder. The last day, tour stops included some wildlife research facilities where the group learned of efforts underway to conserve some of Colorado's native species.

We had lots of fun in between the formal events thanks to our host, Scott. After touring Colorado Correction Industries, we had a little time to see the Garden of the Gods. It was really a beautiful place. Another highlight of the trip was dinner that evening which was at the Flying W Ranch (www.flyingw.com) where we had a good chuck wagon supper and great entertainment. While there, Sean Bowen did our group proud by being the first person from his state to visit the Flying W this year. In between formal tours, we were able to see portions of Denver, Colorado Springs, Boulder, and Fort Collins. After being out and about each day, we made good use of the hospitality suite each evening to catch up on personal news as well as work on issues relating to aquaculture.

The meeting this year was very good and I'm glad to be able to say I had little to do with planning it. Scott did a great job making all the necessary arrangements. I'm thankful travel restrictions didn't stop more people but do wish more coordinators could have joined us. There is no doubt the annual meeting is our big event but NASAC is also working on issues concerning aquaculture throughout the year. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything we can do to help.

LYNNE CANTER, Editor
nasac@nasac.net

Sincerely,

Bart Hawcroft



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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From the mountains of WNC

The Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 was introduced to the House of Representatives, HR 2749, and passed. Now it will be taken up in the Senate, S 510. This is legislation that NASAC should follow closely especially into the Rule Making process. To me, the legislation is a response to two issues – consumer concerns about food safety and the ability to trace a food product from the farm to the end user.

Small farmers from across all sectors of agriculture are concerned that this legislation will give FDA broad sweeping powers to require farmers to pay an annual registration fee, establish HACCP-like protocols for traceability, and move FDA into a position to have direct control of the food products from the farm to the table while the proposed actions will basically deal with small farms the same as large corporate farms. Scalability for fees needs to be addressed to differentiate between large corporations versus small farms. This is one of the main issues for the small farmers.

As the Bill is being considered in the Senate I encourage you to look at the proposed legislation and continue to follow it because it has the potential to impact all aquaculture farmers who produce food fish.

This is a link for your review: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2749>

6/8/2009—Introduced in House

**Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009 –
Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
To set forth provisions governing food safety**

Requires each food facility to:

- (1) Conduct a hazard analysis
- (2) Implement preventive controls
- (3) Implement a food safety plan

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to:

- (1) Issue science-based performance standards to minimize the hazards from foodborne contaminants
- (2) Establish science-based standards for raw agricultural commodities
- (3) Inspect facilities at a frequency determined pursuant to a risk-based schedule
- (4) Establish a food tracing system
- (5) Assess fees relating to food facility reinspection and food recall
- (6) Establish a program for accreditation of laboratories that perform analytical testing of food for import or export.

Authorizes the Secretary to:

- (1) Order an immediate cessation of distribution, or a recall, of food
- (2) Establish an importer verification program
- (3) Quarantine food in any geographic area within the United States.

- Defines the term "color additive" to include carbon monoxide that may affect the color of fresh meat, poultry products, or seafood
- Requires country of origin labeling on food and annual registration of importers.
- Provides for unique identifiers for food facilities and food importers
- Deems a food to be adulterated if an inspection is delayed or refused
- Requires the Secretary to establish a corps of inspectors dedicated to inspections of foreign food facilities
- Sets forth provisions governing the reorganization of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) field laboratories and district offices.
- Gives the Commissioner of Food and Drugs subpoena authority with respect to a food proceeding
- Establishes whistleblower protections

AQUACULTURE NEWS

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AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES SUMMARY

H.R. 669 Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:h669>;)

The bill was introduced Jan 26th with the purposes of requiring the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations to: 1) establish 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, 2) create 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, and 3) establish prohibitions on: a) importation or transportation between states of nonnative species that are not included in the list of approved species; b) permit violations; and c) possession, purchase, sale, barter, release, or breeding of such species.

NASAC participated in a broad coalition of affected stakeholders coordinated by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (<http://www.pijac.org/>) to provide constructive criticism to the bill sponsors as well as a comment letter directed to the lead legislator and chair for the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife. A video and witness testimonies from the April 23rd subcommittee hearing can be seen or downloaded here:

http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=27&extmode=view&extid=246.

Senate Hearing: Invasive Species

Two subcommittees (Oversight and Water and Wildlife) of the Committee on the Environment and Public Works held a joint hearing entitled "Threats to Native Wildlife Species" on July 8th to receive testimony on wildlife diseases and invasive species. A video and witness testimony can be seen or downloaded here:

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=38009204-802a-23ad-4d13-f2bfb089682. Relative to invasive species, Senator Cardin (Maryland), the chair of Water and Wildlife, focused on two issues: 1) USFWS ability to list Injurious Species on an emergency basis, and 2) Whether the current authority by USFWS is sufficient. In addition, the Senator expressed support for public education efforts and to empower regional cooperation.

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/default.php>)

NASAC members, Robins Buck and Scott Leach, attended the fall 2008 meeting in Arlington and spring 2009 meeting in Denver, respectively. As an ex officio member organization to the Task Force, NASAC provided comments on three state aquatic nuisance species plans (Georgia, Alabama, and Utah), two regional plans (Long Island Sound and Lake Tahoe), and a revised research protocol. For each of the state and regional management plans, NASAC members from the effected states or regions were contacted for comment and/or guidance. Legislation authorizing the Task Force provides funding (approx. \$34,000), through the USFWS, to each state that has an approved plan (<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/stateplans.php>). The Task Force has created six regional panels to increase cross state border cooperation and increased coordination between the USFWS ANS regional coordinators (<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/panels.php>). NASAC members are encouraged to participate in the regional panels and to encourage industry participation as well. The ANSTF is maintaining their twice a year meeting schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for early November at NOAA's Silver Spring Maryland offices.

Great Lakes Commission, Live Organisms in Trade Project

The Commission (<http://www.glc.org/>) sponsored two workshops concerning the history, practice, regulations, and risks associated with: Aquaculture, Live Bait, Aquarium and Ornamental Pets, and Aquatic Plants in the Great Lakes Region. White papers were drafted for each topic with recommendations for follow-up projects. Several NASAC members contributed to the project and Ron Johnson, Wisconsin Aquaculture Coordinator, hosted a GLC staff member visit to educate them about aquaculture in their state. A final report will be released in July. Please note the Commission is also the administrative host for the Great Lakes Regional Panel (<http://glc.org/ans/panel.html#glpmeet>).

Triploid Grass Carp Certification Program Review

The Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel (<http://www.waux.cerc.cr.usgs.gov/MICRA/MRB%20Panel%20on%20ANS.htm>) triggered an effort to complete an action item within the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass and Silver Carps in the United States* (http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/Carps_Management_Plan.pdf) that calls for a review of the USFWS triploid grass carp certification program (<http://www.fws.gov/warmsprings/FishHealth/frgrscrp.html>). The USFWS serves as an objective third party to certify that shipments of triploid grass carp are triploids and this service may or may not be required by states as a requirement when triploid grass carp are purchased from out-of-state suppliers. Triploid grass carp producers pay fees that fully fund this voluntary service. A USFWS representative is managing the review and several NASAC members are participating. Currently the review team is gathering information. Problematical to this review is an interest by members of the Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel to use the triploid certification service provided by USFWS as a means to force or enforce a triploid-only stocking policy throughout the United States.

Quagga-Zebra Mussel Management Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters

Senator Diane Feinstein requested that the ANSTF develop a dreissenid mussel management plan. The responsibility was assigned to the Western Regional Panel (<http://www.fws.gov/answest/>). The Panel has provided a draft to the ANSTF for review. NASAC provided extensive comments and suggested that a major rewrite is required to satisfy the Senator's explicit request for an action oriented plan developed with the input of impacted stakeholders (i.e., hydropower, boaters, anglers, etc.). Western states are not waiting for a federal action plan and are working to prevent further spread of the mussels with recreational equipment inspections. See an excellent video by the Idaho Department of Agriculture: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4EVAy8adMk>.

CHECK THIS OUT!!!!



An honor for a former NASAC member, JOHN VOLK

http://www.connecticutplus.com/cplus/information/news/News_1/Bill-renames-state-shellfish-research-vessel-in-honor-of-John-H-Volk53665366.shtml

Pictures from the Annual Meeting



***THE ANNUAL MEETING WOULD NOT BE COMPLETE WITHOUT THE
TRADITIONAL RESOLUTION***

A **RESOLUTION** IN
Appreciation and Gratitude of the
Colorado Department of Agriculture
and NASAC - 2009

Whereas our host "aqua-hair" Scott Leach, in between concert gigs, invited us to Colorado and the Denver area for NASAC'09, opening the meeting with a virtual concert tour and a glimpse of his other life, and

Whereas we arrived at the Double Tree Hotel Denver Tech, excited about great accommodations, valuable networking, appetizing food and refreshing drink - we were not disappointed, and

Whereas on Scott's and Laura's behalf, the Colorado Department of Agriculture hosted a wonderfully planned, educational and entertaining NASAC'09, and

Whereas the NASAC Board held a timely, meaningful Board Meeting on Tuesday, including Debra Sloan, Angela Caporelli, and Charlie Conklin participating via conference call, to discuss ways to improve, promote and build NASAC, and

Whereas the NASAC old timers are excited about the new members, such as Massachusetts and South Dakota, attending NASAC'09 and its positive effect for the future, and

Whereas some of the group had dinner at "Sauce" enjoying wonderful thin crust pizzas, and

Whereas Colorado's own "Correctional Industries", Ken Cline's Trout Farm, Division of Wildlife Research Center, and even the Black Footed Ferret (Lynne thought they were so cute) Recovery Program provided wonderful tour stops, while providing useful and interesting information and topped-off, for an insight into tourism, with a special visit to the Flying W Ranch for dinner, featuring whistle berries, and entertainment, and

Whereas during our tour to the Colorado Correctional Industries on Wednesday, we were held to a strict dress code of NO SHORTS however, capris were allowed, but Robins didn't have any, and

Whereas two of our Van drivers, Devin Bartley showed his daring by pulling-out in front of a Policeman and Bart Hawcroft demonstrated his defensive driving skills by averting a close-call, and

Whereas the NASAC'09 attendees gave a heartfelt and sincere "thank you" to our conference sponsors, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Wines, and Schering-Plough, and

Whereas conference attendees received excellent presentations, including a warm welcome from Commissioner Stulp and information about Colorado Agriculture and Aquaculture, now therefore be it

Resolved that all NASAC Members, Guests and Conference Speakers offer their THANKS to the Colorado Department of Agriculture for inviting NASAC'09 to Colorado, and be it

Further resolved that we deeply appreciate and thank "aqua-hair" Scott and "charming wife" Laura for their Hard work, meeting planning and true Mountain hospitality, including the company of their "sweet" Danielle ("Good-night Sweetie").

Submitted by: T. Robins Buck and Lynne Canter.



**NASAC WEBSITE
WWW.NASAC.NET**



!!!! 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, 2009 through June 30, 2010. 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, email 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

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



!! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER !!

2009-2010 NASAC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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

NORTHEAST BOARD MEMBERS
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SOUTHERN BOARD MEMBERS
Robins Buck, VA
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE AQUACULTURE COORDINATORS
(NASAC)

www.nasac.net

**INVOICE/MEMBERSHIP FORM
DUES 2009/2010**

(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, 2009 through June 30, 2010**. Please remit payment by the end of the first quarter, September 30, 2009. MAKE CHECKS payable to NASAC and remit to:

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Fish and Seafood Development
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(609) 984-2502 (609) 633-7229 FAX
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