

RAMBLINGS NASAC NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It rained, no poured, yesterday morning as we drove to church. I kind of enjoyed it - at least until I drove through a puddle I didn't see as I was avoiding an object in the road and the serpentine belt slipped off our van. Fortunately, it all worked out thanks to the mechanical abilities and tools of a friend. Some of life's puddles are easy to see and plan for while others are not. I'd like to share briefly about two events NASAC has been focused on recently and thank some very capable friends who have been a big help with each.

First, a puddle we didn't see coming was Congressional legislation HR3534 entitled the *Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources* (CLEAR) bill. It is mostly an energy bill but has a section entitled *Offshore Aquaculture Clarification* that will prohibit NOAA and others from approving a fishery management plan that authorizes aquaculture activities. It also would invalidate any aquaculture-related permits that have been issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Several groups got together quickly and rallied against it. Unfortunately, it passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources on Friday, July 16. We'll see what comes next but I want to thank the National Aquaculture Association, the American Soybean Association, the Illinois Soybean Association, and some of NASAC's own for the roles they continue to play in this critical effort.

The second puddle we are focused on is the annual meeting. It is going to be a combined event with the US Trout Farmers Association September 8-11 in Branson, Missouri. Everything you need to know about the agenda and travel to the Lodge of the Ozarks is on the USTFA website at <http://www.ustfa.org/industry/events/events.html>. We have recently made a few changes to the agenda to accommodate speakers but I think they resulted in an even better agenda. Debra Sloan with NASAC and Kelly Goodwin with USTFA have done an excellent job in planning this event. I sure hope you can make it. Don't forget the deadline for the early registration price is August 1.

I took some family members to the St. Louis airport this past Saturday and used the chance to go to the zoo with my daughter. I really could have used the time to work on this article or any number of other projects but we sure had a good time. It is something she really wanted to do and is an outing I'll remember for awhile. Among the daily demands, I hope this note finds you able to take time to splash in a few enjoyable puddles this summer.

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Bart
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LYNNE CANTER, Editor
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EDITOR'S NOTE

LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT
RAMBLINGS IN OCTOBER

HAVE A FUN AND SAFE SUMMER

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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From the mountains of WNC ...

I previewed Bart's article and had to chuckle, I wanted to share my rector's homily message with all of you... it is indeed a small planet.

All of us are busy and summer always seems more consuming than other seasons. Our lives have become busy, full of many distractions, and some distractions lead us to being busy but not really accomplishing anything. For my rector is started as a simple email requesting email address and info confirmation. Now all of you are saying, "No, don't be duped!" but being tired at that late hour, too busy, and overloaded from the day the reply was sent. The distractions of the day, the phone calls, the multiple emails, and too many tasks to accomplish in one day ended with a late night mistake of hitting "reply". Long story short – that reply resulted in the corruption of the church's email account, endless calls, and even queries if money needed to be sent since that was one of the requests made from the malicious email. One action led to a host of unnecessary work to undo the mistake.

Don't be too busy to read between the lines ... ask for help when needed and remember that there are folks to turn to so you are not on this journey alone.

I am hoping that many of you can attend the USTFA/NASAC meeting in Branson in September. I have worked with USTFA for several decades and I can say with much enthusiasm that these folks are a great group and ones you will enjoy getting to know. Don't let the busy pace of your work keep you from slowing down enough to shift gears and attend the meeting! Hope to see you in Branson!

Debra

AQUACULTURE NEWS

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DOE Invest \$24M in Algae Biofuel Development

The U.S. Department of Energy announced on June 28th the award of \$24 million in funding to three research groups to tackle the commercialization of algae as a biofuel source. The three groups are:

Sustainable Algal Biofuels Consortium (Mesa, AZ) - Led by Arizona State University, this consortium will focus on testing the acceptability of algal biofuels as replacements for petroleum-based fuels. Tasks include investigating biochemical conversion of algae to fuels and products, and analyzing physical chemistry properties of algal fuels and fuel intermediates. (DOE share: up to \$6 million).

Consortium for Algal Biofuels Commercialization (San Diego, CA) - Led by the University of California, San Diego, this consortium will concentrate on developing algae as a robust biofuels feedstock. Tasks include investigating new approaches for algal crop protection, algal nutrient utilization and recycling, and developing genetic tools. (DOE funding: up to \$9 million).

Cellana, LLC Consortium (Kailua-Kona, HI) - Led by Cellana, LLC, this consortium will examine large-scale production of fuels and feed from microalgae grown in seawater. Tasks include integrating new algal harvesting technologies with pilot-scale cultivation test beds, and developing marine microalgae as animal feed for the aquaculture industry. (DOE funding: up to \$9 million).

In addition, DOE released a final report entitled *The National Algal Biofuels Technology Roadmap Workshop*. The workshop was held in December 2009 and attracted 200 algae researchers and businesses with the express goal of identifying technical and commercial hurdles to guide research and development activities. The report also summarizes current progress in the effort to utilize mass algae culture as a source of usable fuel. It can be downloaded from: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdfs/algal_biofuels_roadmap.pdf. DOE's biomass energy website can be accessed here: <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/>.

Arkansas Safe Bait Website Created

(Nathan Stone at UAPB contributed to writing this article.)

The Safe Bait website (<http://www.safebaitfish.org/>) serves as an excellent source of information describing the innovative and proactive Arkansas certified bait program. During 2007, bait and ornamental fish farmers supported legislation that created a State of Arkansas Department of Agriculture program that tests and certifies Arkansas bait and ornamental fish (fathead minnows, goldfish, and golden shiners) and bait fish farms as being free of a variety of diseases and hitchhikers to assure local, regional, and national buyers that they are receiving safe bait. The program is supported by a per acre fee. Visit this website for information about this unique farmer-driven program and Arkansas aquaculture.

New electronic invasive species news summaries available

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering frequent electronic updates focused on aquatic invasive species news including information about new species, new species sightings, and the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! and Habitattitude campaigns. If you would like to subscribe, then click on the following URL:

<http://groups.google.com/group/ans-news/sub?s=tNEMJgwAAACZ2TluJ3ZgTZn3eIzzFrbi&hl=en>

EPA's Proposed Pesticides General Permit and Aquaculture

(Please review to make sure it is clear to you and other readers that this is a rule in-progress.)

A 2009 court challenge successfully upheld the Environmental Protection Agency's rule that pesticides legally registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) for application to or near aquatic environments, and legally applied to control pests at those sites, are not subject to National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The Sixth Circuit ruled that Clean Water Act permits are required for all biological pesticide applications and chemical pesticide applications that leave a residue in water when such applications are made in or over, including near, waters of the United States.

Since the ruling, EPA has been working with stakeholders nationwide to propose a NPDES permit that they have named, Pesticide General Permit (PGP), to regulate discharges to U.S. waters from the application of (1) biological pesticides, and (2) chemical pesticides that leave a residue. The following pesticide use patterns are covered under the PGP: mosquito and other flying insect pest control, aquatic weed and algae control, aquatic nuisance animal control, and forest canopy pest control. The PGP does not authorize coverage for (1) discharges of pesticides or their degradates to waters already impaired by these specific pesticides or degradates or (2) discharges to outstanding national resource waters (also known as Tier 3 waters). These discharges will require coverage under individual NPDES permits rather than the PGP. Also outside the scope of this permit are terrestrial applications to control pests on agricultural crops or forest floors. See page 38 of the proposed Pesticide General Permit (PGP) for a definition of U.S. waters.

For aquacultural operations that possess an NPDES permit, their permit should already include provisions relative to pesticide use and an aquaculturist should not have to apply for a PGP. However, if a farmer applies pesticides such that the effluent from the operation enters U.S. waters and that effluent contains pesticides or their residues, a PGP will be required. This may be an issue for aquaculturists where U.S. waters (e.g., stream or river) pass through a farm or near a farm.

The proposed PGP does include an exemption for an "annual treatment area" such as a U.S. water less than 20 acres in size or for waters that are not connected to U.S. waters or land and water combined less than 640 acres (see page 3 of the proposed PGP). Please note that if pesticides are applied to U.S. waters of 10 acres in size multiple times in a year, then the threshold may be exceeded (e.g., three applications to a ten acre pond that is a U.S. water means 30 acres were treated which would exceed the 20 acre threshold). Finally, farms are not responsible if non-point runoff that carries pesticides or their residues onto their property and onto U.S. waters from surrounding lands and whether a farmer possesses a PGP or not all current federal or state laws regarding pesticides still apply (e.g., applicator's license and following label directions).

Aquaculture Coordinators may wish to comment or encourage others to comment on the permit relative to the U.S. water size threshold or any other particular issues that they see relevant to farms within their state. To read the draft permit, FAQs, and where to comment on the draft PGP, visit http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=410.

Following the close of the public comment period on July 19, 2010, EPA will review those comments with the intention of issuing a final general permit by December 2010. Once finalized, the PGP will be implemented in six states and the territories, Indian Country lands and federal facilities where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. In the other 44 states, the state NPDES authorities will issue the permits. EPA has been working closely with these states to concurrently develop their permits.

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NASAC is Now on LinkedIn.

NASAC has made its foray into social media with a group page on LinkedIn. LinkedIn is the preferred professional social networking site. We have about seven members so far. If you already have a LinkedIn profile, request to join NASAC. Creating an account takes a little time, but is a great way to stay in touch.

http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3128950&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr

The goal of this group page is to expand word to new audiences about the good work we do together, and individually in our roles as State Aquaculture Coordinators. Send any comments or suggestions to Joe Myers (joseph.myers@ag.state.nj.us).

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Chesapeake oysters gain disease resistance

Credit: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay are becoming more resistant to diseases that have caused their numbers to decline in recent years.

By ALEX DOMINGUEZ | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: July 06, 2010

Chesapeake Bay oysters appear to be becoming more resistant to diseases that have caused their numbers to decline in recent years, and states should expand sanctuaries that allow resilient oyster populations to expand, according to a report being released today by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

In Virginia's York River, for example, currently fewer than 5 percent of oysters are dying from the disease MSX, down from more than half a decade ago. And in Maryland, the report says, recently released state data show average annual MSX mortality fell to 17 percent between 2005 and 2009, from 29 percent between 1985 and 2004.

Many disease-resistant oysters are being harvested, but resistance will increase if they are allowed to repopulate on reefs placed off-limits to harvesting, the report says.

"Nature seems to be doing its part, and scientists and state policymakers can help by restoring and protecting more historical oyster reefs," foundation President Will Baker said.

He added that oysters can make the same comeback that has been seen with blue crabs, whose dwindling numbers have rebounded in the wake of severe harvest restrictions.

The report, which also calls for increasing oyster sanctuaries, reef building and anti-poaching efforts, is based on a review of recent research, state data from Maryland and Virginia, and interviews with oyster experts.

The report calls for placing 40 percent of historical oyster grounds off-limits. Maryland's oyster restoration plan released in May calls for declaring 25 percent of oyster reefs as sanctuaries, a proposal that has prompted complaints from watermen that it will drive them out of business.

In addition to sanctuaries, the authors also support the increased emphasis in Maryland and Virginia on oyster aquaculture. The report says Virginia is ahead of Maryland in promoting oyster aquaculture, noting that the number of farmed oysters has increased tenfold in three years in Virginia to nearly 10 million with a market value of \$2.8 million.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2010/jul/06/oyst06-ar-264921/>

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So much of the news we receive is fighting another battle – I want to share some good news from Wisconsin as July 17th we celebrate Aquaculture Day – This is the third year that the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association has sponsored member farms open house but this year it's an official State Day!

The **Wisconsin Legislature** has declared by joint resolution that the 3rd Saturday in July each year as **Aquaculture Day** in the state. We believe this is the first of its kind state aquaculture day in the nation. This resolution acknowledges aquaculture as an important agriculture industry in WI and having a sound environmental history using sustainable best management practices and contributing over \$21 million to the state's economy. The Wisconsin Aquaculture Association along with member fish farms, is celebrating this day by having 12 member farms open to the public for tours, demonstrations, cooking demonstrations with recipes, and various talks (see list for locations & events) on **Saturday July 17th**.

Help celebrate Wisconsin's Aquaculture Day by passing along the press release and farm location list – join in the fun at one of the fish farms on July 17th, eat Wisconsin farm raised fish – **Locally Grown and Always Fresh** and buy Wisconsin farm raised bait for your next fishing trip. Alice in Dairyland is also helping to celebrate this event by making an appearance at Rushing Waters Fisheries, Palmyra, giving a presentation on Aquaculture in Wisconsin.

For Immediate Release:

Wisconsin Aquaculture Association
Celebrates the Announcement of
Aquaculture Day in Wisconsin
with the Third Annual State Wide Open House
Saturday, July 17, 2010

On April 26, 2010, the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly passed a joint resolution declaring the 3rd Saturday in July as Aquaculture Day. This resolution acknowledges aquaculture (fish farming) as an important agricultural industry in Wisconsin and having a sound environmental history using sustainable best management practices. Wisconsin currently has 2,314 registered fish farms, comprising 1,984 private farms with ponds, 125 business farms, 213 public fee fishing farms, 6 wholesale fish processing farms, and 95 farms processing fish for human consumption. Wisconsin's fish farmers contribute \$21 million to Wisconsin's economy through live bait, fee fishing, stocking and food fish production. Wisconsin is the largest seller/producer of aquaculture products in the Midwest with their products not only supplying gamefish and bait for recreational use, but their high quality food fish are offered in some of the top restaurants and stores in the Upper Midwest.

The Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, along with member fish farms, is celebrating this day with their Third Annual State Wide Open House on Saturday, July 17, 2010. With the increase in public awareness of their food sources, the fish farmers of Wisconsin are opening their farms to the public, promoting Wisconsin aquaculture and explaining the importance of locally grown, fresh, safe fish. The fish farmers of Wisconsin are working together to encourage people to visit a local fish farm and learn firsthand about aquaculture, become more aware of the role commercial aquaculture plays in the state's economy, local communities, recreational opportunities and in providing a safe healthy food.

Throughout the state, 12 fish farms will be open and include fee fishing and stocking operations, a research facility, aquaponics and others. Individual fish farms will offer free events such as farm tours, demonstrations, cooking demonstrations with recipes, and various talks. Some farms will also have fish products (fresh, smoked, and spreads) for sampling and sale or offer fee fishing - a fun time for the family and a great opportunity to buy fresh Wisconsin produced food from a local farmer. Alice in Dairyland is also helping to celebrate this event by making an appearance at Rushing Waters Fisheries and giving a presentation on Aquaculture in Wisconsin. Learn about raising fish, various culture techniques, pond management and fish health programs or just have fun fishing!

Aquaculture, or fish farming, is defined as the raising of aquatic organisms in controlled settings, and Wisconsin's private aquaculture dates back to 1856. Wisconsin fish farming is very diverse - raising trout, yellow perch, and bluegills for food; walleye, northern pike, muskie and bass for stocking, and minnows for bait. Wisconsin fish farmers take pride in providing fish that are veterinarian certified healthy and Wisconsin fish farms are Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus (VHS) free.

Americans consume almost 17 pounds of fish or seafood each year but over 80% of that is imported. Wisconsin fish farmers are raising safe, high quality, fresh fish on a farm near you. And based on tests conducted to date, there are no suggested restrictions on the consumption of Wisconsin farm-raised fish.

Who should attend: Everyone who loves to fish or eat fish, wants to know more about fish farming, and wants to see first hand what aquaculture is all about and anyone who wants to know where to buy Wisconsin raised fish.

Cost: There is no cost to visit the fish farm or for demonstrations or talks, individual fish farms will charge for fishing or purchase of their products.

Location: See listing for Wisconsin fish farms open for tours at www.WisconsinAquaculture.com, look under "Events" and download the list.

Contact: Cindy Johnson, Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, 715-373-2990 or email Cindy@WisconsinAquaculture.com for additional information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
REGISTER FOR THE NASAC ANNUAL MEETING
September 8-11 in Branson, Missouri

The meeting is going to be a combined event with the US Trout Farmers Association

REMEMBER EARLY REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 1!!!!

!!!! 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 and a fillable form is available at http://www.nasac.net/Member_Application.pdf. 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.

**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

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE AQUACULTURE COORDINATORS
(NASAC)

www.nasac.net

INVOICE/MEMBERSHIP FORM
DUES 2010/2011

(Please print or type)

NAME _____

TITLE _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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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

This application is also available as a fillable form at http://www.nasac.net/Member_Application.pdf.

Please remit annual membership dues for **fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011**. Please remit payment by the end of the first quarter, September 30, 2010. MAKE CHECKS payable to NASAC and remit to:

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Fish and Seafood Development
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