

STATE AQUACULTURE COORDINATORS STUDY

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Project Description

This study is an extension of the Aquaculture Partnerships Project (APP), which investigates 15 marine aquaculture partnerships located across the coastal United States. Aquaculture partnerships are formal or informal networks of stakeholders, including (at a minimum) participants from government agencies (local, state, federal, and/or tribal) and non-governmental entities (industry, academia, and/or environmental groups).

Project Objectives

The overall purpose of this study is to put the 15 aquaculture partnerships from the APP into a national context. The research team is collaborating with the National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators (NASAC) in designing the data collection instruments for this study. The UC Denver and NASAC teams are interested in the following research questions:

- (i) What are the respective states' aquaculture characteristics?
- (ii) What are the types of regulations that are present within the different states and what is the level of compliance in relation to these regulations?
- (iii) How are regulations within each state monitored and enforced?
- (iv) What is the role of the NASAC in providing resources and information to State Coordinators to help the industry achieve administrative and political goals?
- (v) How do various groups within the aquaculture community network with another to share information and resources?
- (vi) What are the formal and informal rules that guide the activities of aquaculturists in each state?
- (vi) What are the challenges and successes regarding aquaculture development in each state and how have states effectively addressed some of the challenges?

Use and Distribution of Results

Findings will be used in conjunction with those found in the APP to better understand best management practices in collaborative governance. Results will be presented to the NASAC

group at their 2010 meeting. In addition, findings from this study will support the dissertation research of graduate student, Saba Siddiki.

Related Websites

To find out more about the Aquaculture Partnerships Project (APP), please visit the following website:

<http://www.cudenver.edu/Academics/Colleges/SPA/FacultyStaff/Faculty/Pages/AquaculturePartnershipsProject.aspx>

To find out more about the National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators (NASAC), please visit the following website:

<http://www.nasac.net/>