

# NASAC RAMBLINGS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

APRIL 2008

### *NASAC ANNUAL MEETING*

NASAC folks,

I'm really looking forward to seeing you all in about a month. It is hard for me to believe the time is upon us. We've been planning since before last year's meeting in Alabama though so I guess I shouldn't be surprised. The meeting has really developed well. The agenda covers some very serious issues and yet is balanced by some very enjoyable tours and free time.

I always look forward to attending the annual NASAC meeting. The presentations, tours, and networking have proven to be a tremendous help to me. We're hoping this year will be even better since we've added a day to the meeting. Thank you to those who suggested this modification last year. I don't know how we could have fit this year's activities into two days. Just take a look at the agenda:

#### **Tuesday, April 29**

2:00 - 4:00 NASAC Board meeting  
4:00 - 7:00 Registration in hospitality suite  
Dinner (on your own)

#### **Wednesday, April 30**

8:00 - 8:45 Dr. Jill Rolland - USDA Update on VHS  
8:45 - 9:30 Dr. Jill Rolland - National Aquatic Animal Health Plan  
9:30 - 9:45 Hugh Warren - Catfish Environmental Standards and GAA  
9:45-10:15 Break  
10:15 - 10:45 Larry Cleveland - Customer Driven Biosecurity  
10:45-12:00 State Reports  
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch  
1:00 - Tour of Bass Pro quarantine facility  
Dinner (on your own)

#### **Thursday, May 1**

8:00 - 9:30 Dr. Ken Semmens and Dr. Fonda Holehouse - Fishing for Solutions: State Regulatory Controls of Aquaculture and Their Impact on the Development of the Aquaculture Industry  
9:30 - 10:00 Marvin Emerson - A Producer's Perspective on the Cost of Regulations  
10:00 - 10:30 Break  
10:30 - 11:00 Dr. Gary Jensen - Is the US Ready for National Organic Standards for Aquaculture Products?  
11:00 - 11:30 Kasha Cox - Aquaflor and VFDs  
11:30 - 12:00 State Reports  
12:00 - 3:00 Travel to Ava (boxed lunch) and tour Crystal Lake Fisheries  
3:00 - 5:00 Travel to Rockbridge and tour Rainbow Trout Ranch  
5:00 - 6:30 Dinner at Rainbow Trout Ranch  
6:30 - 8:00 Travel to Springfield

#### **Friday, May 2**

8:00 - 10:00 State Reports  
10:00 - 12:00 NASAC business meeting  
12:00 - 3:00 Travel to Stoutland (boxed lunch) and tour Ozark Fisheries  
3:00 - 4:30 Travel to Osage Beach or Lebanon and tour Osage Catfisheries or Bennett Spring state fish hatchery  
4:30 - 6:00 Travel to Springfield  
Dinner on your own

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LYNNE CANTER, Editor  
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As the plans have been made, I have kept a careful eye on the cost. Registration for the meeting is the usual \$175. Even though we have added a day to the schedule this year, the overall cost to attendees is still very reasonable because of the \$74 room rate. Please note the cutoff date for the hotel is **April 8**. Thanks to the efforts of Scott Leach, all the details on the meeting have been posted to the NASAC website at <http://www.nasac.net/AnnualMeeting.html>. We hope this addition will make registration very easy for everyone.

The plans have all been made, now all we need is you. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Springfield next month. Please let me know if I can do anything to help you make it to the meeting.

Bart  
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## AQUACULTURE NEWS

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### CHALLENGES TO US AQUACULTURE

The greatest challenges that face US aquaculture are the multi-faceted areas of natural resource management; whether it is public or private aquaculture operations, each facility is constantly confronted with managing water quality standards, from national and state regulations, water usage, non-native or invasive aquatic species, both animal and plant, as well as aquatic animal health. The one element that is fundamental in this management is our public resource on which all of aquaculture depends, water.

Water quality standards requirements vary as widely as the farms and the topography of their locations. All of us know about the US EPA Aquaculture Effluent Limitations Guidelines Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Rule from which the federal standards were established for the base water quality regulations. Most states have the authority to levee more strict regulations to manage the water quality by that state's standard. Aquaculture operations will be under greater scrutiny from the state regulators and the citizens of the state as our populations grow and farms become less rural.

Water usage, our colleagues in the western states know too well about using water and water rights. As the demand for water increases with population growth, scrutiny will also increase, and those of us in the Midwest and East most likely will cope with the same challenges as the West. Farmers will be faced with using less water, changing farm management strategies that will increase cost of production, while being held to a greater accountability of water usage. One can argue that aquaculture is not a consumptive water user compared to other agricultural enterprises or industry and that is true, yet faced with greater demands on the water supplies aquaculture will most likely be confronted with public pressure about water usage.

Wild fisheries management has been met with non-native or invasive aquatic species being introduced into public waters and this issue has been ongoing for decades. Being able to manage the fisheries resources well is increasingly more demanding for the federal and state wildlife professionals. This was played out with new regulations from the US Fish and Wildlife Service prohibiting black carp, even triploids, yet many wondered about the efficacy of this decision given the populations of black carp already present in many watersheds. The wild fisheries are confronted with many complex problems and seemingly the end is not in sight.

Aquatic animal health management has always been an important component of husbandry for private and public hatcheries. Over the last decade US aquaculture has had to cope with two OIE reportable aquatic animal diseases, SVC and VHS. These pathogens have caused private and public operations to step up their disease management programs and some have even changed to a whole farm health management strategy. To some private farmers this has served as a sales advantage and increased their capacity for interstate transport of live aquatic animals. With the creation and implementation of USDA APHIS' Aquatic Animal Health Plan, states will need to develop programs that complement the national plan and proactively safeguard their natural resources. Aquatic animal pathogens are easily transferred by two primary vectors, water and avian, neither of which recognize state borders, thus the challenge continues.

Over the next decade these hurdles will become increasingly important to the aquaculture industry and the public, especially the NGOs. Naturally the cost of production will rise and the question remains, will US food fish producers be able to compete in a global marketplace. In the sport fish arena the producers, both public and private, have the advantage of locally produced aquatic animals, yet again, natural resource management will play a significant role in how the water resources are controlled. Aquatic animal health is an issue that is paramount for protecting the wild fisheries and the domestic production of these animals, and USDA APHIS and the states are struggling to create a strong framework for the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP). The lack of consistency of regulations from state to state greatly challenges those private enterprises and public resource managers who depend on interstate commerce of fish thus this further increases costs and necessary paperwork, yet all of this is needed for transport of live aquatic animals across state borders. Another problem is that there is a dearth of labs for aquatic animal health testing and again, the turnaround time of diagnostics and the costs force escalation of production costs that may or may not be passed on to the end user. Aquatic animal health is an extremely vital component in resource management.

Good management and communication are the keys to being able to successfully execute sound practices that safeguard the natural resources on all fronts. The major question still remains whether private industry, public hatcheries, and the regulatory environment can create strong enough working relationships to truly protect our precious natural resource, water.

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**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**  
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**Phone: 850-488-4033 Fax: 850-410-0893**

## **ORGANISMS IN TRADE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION**

The Great Lakes Commission (<http://www.glc.org/>) is managing a project to provide an opportunity for public and private sectors to work together to address fundamental questions and identify information resources regarding high-risk live aquatic species pathways (species and business practices), consumer behavior, and management approaches (e.g., regulatory, voluntary and outreach). Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are a well-documented threat to the integrity of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Of growing concern in the Great Lakes region are the invasion risks posed by the organisms in trade vector and associated pathways such as aquarium and pet trade, nursery and water garden outlets, aquaculture, and live bait.

To achieve the goals of this project, the Commission will be producing background papers and conducting three workshops focused on Vector Assessment, Information Integration, and Policy and Management. The first workshops are tentatively scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Detroit. The first day will focus on the commercial aquaculture, aquarium, live bait, and aquatic plant “vectors.” Although, the scope may expand to include public agency stocking and the live food fish trade. There is some debate occurring within the Commission staff as to whether to include these activities. The second day will focus on information technology. Essentially, the databases, information sources, and ecological modeling resources available and how they might be used to reduce the potential for nonnative aquatic species to be introduced to the region.

Aquaculture Coordinators from the Great Lakes region and those states that sell live aquatic species to this region are encouraged to become involved in this project. Please contact Kathe Glassner-Schwayder, Senior Project Manager, Great Lakes Commission, 2805 South Industrial Hwy Suite #100, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-6791, Phone: 734-971-9135, [shwayder@glc.org](mailto:shwayder@glc.org)

## **ASIAN CARP NATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETED**

After several years of collaborative effort lead by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that included aquaculturists, state agencies, NASAC members, and NGOs, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force accepted and will begin to implement “Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States.”

Aquaculture Coordinators are encouraged to review this plan for the wealth of information and prevention, management, control, and educational activities that it contains. The USFWS has indicated they will be the lead implementing agency, but no details or operational plan has been suggested to-date.

This plan and other exotic species management plans adopted by the Task Force can be downloaded from <http://www.anstaskforce.gov/control.php>. Coordinators can contact Paul Zajicek, NASAC representative to the Task Force, at 850-488-4033 or [zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:zajicep@doacs.state.fl.us) for additional information.

## CHINESE MITTEN CRAB IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

The occurrence of the Chinese mitten crab, *Eriocheir sinensis*, in the US has been limited to a well established population in the San Francisco Bay and tributaries, but over the last few years 13 individuals have been reported in a mid-Atlantic region from the Chesapeake Bay to the Hudson River. The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Marine Invasions Research Lab, in Maryland is monitoring the crab and asking citizens to report finds: [http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine\\_invasions/](http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine_invasions/).

This crab, especially females in berry, is a highly-prized Asian delicacy, and it is cultured in Asia. Its movement or appearance in the US has not been linked to commercial aquaculture, but the trade in live seafood products has been mentioned as a potential conduit. Much of the focus on potential movement has been on ballast water discharge. The species is included on the Lacey Act, Injurious Species List.

In a nutshell, the biology and ecology of the mitten crab is that it produces dense populations, is an omnivorous feeder, active burrower, and mass migrates from freshwater to saltwater to spawn (catadromous). As you can surmise by the Lacey Act listing it is a high-profile invasive species. A national management plan was produced in 2003:

<http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Species%20plans/national%20mgmt%20plan%20for%20mitten%20crab.pdf>. A recent paper (2007) estimates a potential Atlantic Coast range from Boston to Jacksonville (maritime ports with medium-low invasion risk).

Aquaculture Coordinators from Atlantic Coast states may wish to alert shellfish farmers and extension agents about this species and suggest that they report finds to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Given the high-profile nature of this species, some consideration might be given by shellfish producers and dealers to whether unintentional transportation could occur in shellfish farming equipment or products. Transport, intentional or accidental, across state lines is a federal violation.

## GREAT NEWS FOR NASAC

The American Fisheries Society, Fish Culture Section has offered to include the NASAC website and specific news and information that we would like to have more widely distributed to culture folks, into their newsletter.

This is exciting for NASAC, it is a great opportunity to get our information out to a larger audience. Please visit the following website to find out more information on this group: <http://www.fishculturesection.org>

**DON'T FORGET!!! THE NASAC ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 29 – May 2, 2008 in Springfield, Missouri.** If you need more information visit the NASAC website at <http://www.nasac.net/AnnualMeeting.html> or contact Bart Hawcroft, phone 573-526-6666, email [bart.hawcroft@mda.mo.gov](mailto:bart.hawcroft@mda.mo.gov)

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN MISSOURI!!!!

## 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, 2007 through June 30, 2008. A form for membership is included with this newsletter. If you have questions concerning dues contact Karl Roscher, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-841-5724, or email [roschekr@mda.state.md.us](mailto:roschekr@mda.state.md.us)

## 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)

### 2007-2008 NASAC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT:** Bart Hawcroft, MO  
**VICE PRES:** Debra Sloan, NC  
**SEC./TREAS.:** Karl Roscher, MD

#### NORTHEAST BOARD MEMBERS

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**!!!! NASAC'S WEBSITE!!!!**

[www.nasac.net](http://www.nasac.net)

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

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

**INVOICE/MEMBERSHIP FORM  
DUES 2007/2008**

(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, 2007 through June 30, 2008**.  
Please remit payment by the end of the first quarter, September 30, 2007. **MAKE CHECKS**  
payable to NASAC and remit to:

Karl Roscher  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
50 Harry S Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-5724  
(410) 841-5970 FAX  
[roschekr@mda.state.md.us](mailto:roschekr@mda.state.md.us)