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The NCRAC Newsletter

from the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC)

From the Director's Office

In mid-February members of the Board of Directors, Industry Advisory Council, and Technical Committee of the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) met in St. Louis, Missouri. At this 1½ day meeting, the Industry Advisory Council, with input from the Technical Committee, developed a prioritized list of selected topics based on the Center's white papers that was presented to the Board for their consideration. In turn, the Board approved development of four new projects and set the funding level and duration for each. The four projects, duration, and funding as established by the Board are as follows: (1) Aquaculture Extension Facilitator, 2 years, \$100,000, (2) Survey for a Regional Aquaculture Co-op and Marketing in the North Central Region, 1 year, \$50,000, (3) Aquaculture Best Management Practices, 1 year, \$50,000, and (4) Baitfish, 2 years, \$200,000. Each of these projects will be developed through Calls for Statements of Interest and participants selected by a 6-member Project Review Committee consisting of three industry people and three technical people (see story on Page 3). The participant, or participants, for each project will develop the project proposal which will then be peer-reviewed by well-qualified persons both from within the 12-state North Central Region as well as from outside of the region. Using peer-review scores and comments, the Project Review Committee will then make a recommendation concerning the project to the NCRAC Board of Directors. They, in turn, will make their decision concerning the project which, if approved, will then be re-written as needed and sent to USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service for their approval.



Harry Westers presenting at NCRAC Annual Meeting

The Board also agreed to keep up to \$7,000 for support of activities that would lead to the possible approval of the use of methyltestosterone for percid. These activities would be spear-headed and overseen by Roz Schnick, National Coordinator for Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications (see her Web site for information about her role as the National Coordinator at <http://ag.ansc.purdue.edu/aquanic/jsa/aquadrugs/index.htm>).

As always, please feel free to contact either myself or Joe Morris, the Associate Director at Iowa State University, if you need assistance, wish to make comments, or voice your concerns. You can find our phone and fax numbers as well as our e-mail addresses on the inside back cover of this newsletter.

Continued on page 2

This publication is a result of work sponsored by the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center Program under grant number 00-38500-8984 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Continued from page 1

I'd also like to encourage you to visit our Web site at <http://ag.ansc.purdue/aquanic/ncrac/> for additional information about the Center and on-line access to almost all of our publications including annual progress reports, fact sheets, technical bulletins, newsletters, and white papers.

Sincerely,

Ted Batterson, Director

Facts About Aquaculture in the North Central Region

- Home to about 25% of the U.S. population
- Abundant surface and ground water
- Large, well-established agricultural community
- Eat almost 1 billion pounds/year but produce <2%
- Great diversity of species being cultured
- Over 1,000 producers; but just a few per state accounting for most of the production

Regional News

Hybrid Striped Bass Workshop

A day-long workshop was hosted by Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and NCRAC on Friday, February 15, 2002, in St. Louis, Missouri. The NCRAC annual meeting followed afterwards. The 90+ attendees heard presentations from a variety of speakers including individuals from academic institutions as well as the private sector. Topics included, in part, hatching the fish, fingerling culture, food fish production, fish nutrition, and fish processing.



Chris Kohler presenting at the Hybrid Striped Bass Workshop

Extension Activities in Ohio



Cage Culture Workshop, Hocking Technical College - Albany, Ohio, April 2001.



Yellow Perch Workshop, Mineral City, Ohio, July 2001.



Ohio Aquaculture Association Meeting, Wooster, Ohio, November 2001.

Calls for Statements of Interest

Anyone planning on submitting statements of interest **must** contact the Director's office to obtain information about the process to be followed for submission of statements of interest. This can be done in writing, by telephone, or by fax. The mailing address is NCRAC, Office of the Director, Michigan State University, 13 Natural Resources Building, East Lansing, Michigan, 48824-1222. The telephone number is (517) 353-1962; fax: (517) 353-7181. Individuals who have an interest in the subject of this project as well as a demonstrated record of expertise and access to facilities are invited to submit statements of interest to the NCRAC Director's office by no later than **Friday, April 26, 2002**. The following are the Calls for Statements of Interest that were broadly distributed earlier by surface mail throughout the North Central Region and posted on the Center's Web site at <http://ag.ansc.purdue.edu/aquanic/ncrac/>.

AQUACULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

NCRAC's Board of Directors has authorized up to \$50,000 for a 1-year project on aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMPs). NCRAC seeks statements of interest from qualified individuals to carry out the work. A Project Review Committee (PRC) will select the participant, or participants, based on their demonstrated record of expertise, access to facilities required for the project, and what they propose to do in addressing the objectives of the project. The PRC will consist of three technical and three industry representatives. Whomever the PRC selects will develop a project outline (proposal) which will be peer-reviewed and evaluated by the PRC. The PRC, based on the peer-review and their assessment of the project outline, will then make a recommendation to the NCRAC Board of Directors for their action.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

To continue to develop a sustainable and profitable aquaculture industry in the North Central Region (NCR), the need for a regional approach to develop science-based Best Management Practices (BMPs) is recognized!

OBJECTIVES

1. Investigate and evaluate the status of aquaculture BMPs in the North Central Region (NCR).
2. Review and evaluate all pertinent aquaculture or targeted-for-aquaculture BMPs, quality assurance programs (QAPs), and other relevant documents that are applicable to the NCR.
3. Identify specific needs for aquaculture BMPs in the NCR.

BAITFISH

NCRAC's Board of Directors has authorized up to \$200,000 for a 2-year project on baitfish. NCRAC seeks statements of interest from qualified individuals to carry out the work. A team of participants, known as a work group, will be selected by a Project Review Committee (PRC) based on their demonstrated record of expertise, access to facilities required for the project, and what they propose to do in addressing the objectives of the project. The PRC will consist of three technical and three industry representatives. The work group that the PRC selects will develop a project outline (proposal) which will be peer-reviewed and evaluated by the PRC. The PRC, based on the peer-review and their assessment of the project outline, will then make a recommendation to the NCRAC Board of Directors for their action.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The baitfish industry in the North Central Region (NCR) is significantly tied to wild harvest and imports of cultured fish from outside the region. Some states within the NCR have or may soon have regulations prohibiting interstate transport of baitfish. A need has been identified by the Industry Advisory Council of the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center to identify proper husbandry and environmental conditions for holding, transporting, and producing selected baitfish in the NCR. In particular, profitability of baitfish producers and/or distributors is constrained by high mortality of fish during transport and holding.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify proper husbandry practices (e.g., feeding strategies; densities; health issues, including preliminary information for drug efficacy) and environmental conditions (e.g., water quality) for holding golden shiners, emerald shiners, fathead minnows, and white suckers in controlled indoor systems.
2. Identify optimal transport conditions for golden shiners, emerald shiners, fathead minnows, and white suckers, including development of "hauling charts."

SURVEY FOR A REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CO-OP AND MARKETING IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

NCRAC's Board of Directors has authorized up to \$50,000 for a 1-year project on a survey for a regional aquaculture co-op and marketing in the North Central Region. NCRAC seeks statements of interest from qualified individuals to carry out the work. A Project Review Committee (PRC) will select the participant, or participants, based on their demonstrated record of expertise, access to facilities required for the project, and what they propose to do in addressing the objectives of the project. The PRC will consist of three technical and three industry representatives. Whomever the PRC selects will develop a project outline (proposal) which will be peer-reviewed and evaluated by the PRC. The PRC, based on the peer-review and their assessment of the project outline, will then make a recommendation to the NCRAC Board of Directors for their action.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

To investigate the market for and feasibility of a grower-owned and controlled aquaculture organization to provide: (a) market information, (b) marketing and market development, and (c) market information and marketing and market development processing through contracted and/or owned facilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Survey aquaculture growers and existing co-ops in the North Central Region to assess interest and willingness to commit and invest in a grower-owned marketing organization.
2. Investigate the pros/cons of alternative forms and scopes of the marketing organization, i.e., species; market information, marketing, or market development; processing; supply inputs.

AQUACULTURE REGIONAL EXTENSION FACILITATOR

NCRAC's Board of Directors has authorized up to \$100,000 for a 2-year project for an aquaculture regional extension facilitator. NCRAC seeks statements of interest from qualified individuals to carry out the work. A Project Review Committee (PRC) will select the participant, or participants, based on their demonstrated record of expertise, access to facilities required for the project, and what they propose to do in addressing the objectives of the project. The PRC will consist of three technical and three industry representatives. Whomever the PRC selects will develop a project outline (proposal) which will be peer-reviewed and evaluated by the PRC. The PRC, based on the peer-review and their assessment of the project outline, will then make a recommendation to the NCRAC Board of Directors for their action.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

There are a limited number of extension full time equivalents (FTEs) in the region to address the needs of the aquaculture industry. To reduce this problem, a regional aquaculture extension facilitator is needed. Goals: (1) relationship building with established commercial aquaculturists and state aquaculture extension agents, (2) maintain the continuity of regional coordination, and (3) network with other regional research and extension efforts.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop communication strategies for the region, i.e., hotline, list server.
 2. Support state aquaculture associations.
 3. Develop a resource matrix.
 4. Organize regional conferences—proceedings/publications.
 5. Information needs assessment of producers.
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Editor's Corner

After reading this newsletter, you probably notice some major changes in the format and content, mainly the overall length. The goal is to simplify the process of producing newsletters while at the same time producing a greater number of individual issues in a given year. Please contact my office if there is anything that you would like to see covered, or if you have any stories or pictures that you would like to share with the NCRAC community. As Ted indicated in his letter (see story on Page 1), please do not hesitate to contact him or me.

In the next months, the following publications will be coming out of the NCRAC publications office. Announcement of their availability will be noted in succeeding NCRAC Newsletters.

- Sunfish Culture Guide (culture series)
- Hybrid Striped Bass Culture: Current Knowledge in the Industry (culture series)
- Feeding Tilapia in Intensive Aquaculture Systems (fact sheet)

Talk to Us

NCRAC wants to hear from you. Tell us who you are and what you would like to see in the NCRAC Newsletter. If you are a new reader and want to be added to our mailing list, complete the form below and mail to:

NCRAC Newsletter
Attn: Joseph E. Morris, Department of Animal Ecology
Iowa State University, 124 Science II
Ames, Iowa 50011-3221

Or forward information via email: bartels@msu.edu
or fax: (517) 353-7181

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