
NATIONAL AQUACULTURE EXTENSION CONFERENCE¹

Project Termination Report for the Period
November 1, 2002 to October 31, 2003

NCRAC FUNDING LEVEL: \$4,500 (November 1, 2002 to October 31, 2003)

PARTICIPANTS:

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REASON FOR TERMINATION

Objectives of the project were completed.

(2) Demonstrate and conduct hands-on experience with state-of-the-art computer applications for improving delivery of extension programs.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

(1) Learn successful approaches to problem-solving through case studies that can be replicated in other states.

(3) Identify national extension priorities and critical issues with development of corresponding action plans for implementation.

¹NCRAC has provided funding along with the four other Regional Aquaculture Centers for three national aquaculture extension meetings; the first was called a National Aquaculture Extension Workshop whereas the second and third were called National Aquaculture Extension Conferences. This termination report is for the third meeting which was held April 7-11, 2003 in Tucson, Arizona.

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- (4) Identify potential interregional extension projects, such as curriculum development or national decision-support databases.
- (5) Share educational materials and programs in addition to expertise.
- (6) Strengthen regional and national communication networks to improve services to clientele.
- (7) Develop international linkages with extension professional in Mexico and Canada.
- (8) Examine successful extension components and outcomes to research projects and develop approaches to improve integration nationwide.
- (9) Develop a collective strategy to define extension's role in measuring impacts of RAC projects and collaboration with others in academia and private sector.
- (10) Improve business management skills related to aquaculture and enhance knowledge concerning marketing of aquatic products.
- (11) Develop a method to evaluate the impact and accomplishments associated with conference after six months.

PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Third National Aquaculture Extension Conference was organized by a National Steering Committee comprised of representatives from each of the Regional Aquaculture Centers and the National Office of Sea Grant. In April of 2003 a four-day conference was held in Tucson, Arizona,

hosted by the Western Regional Aquaculture Center and the University of Arizona.

A Web site was developed that was used to organize the conference and now hosts copies of each of the presentations. Despite the terrible economic conditions facing many of our universities and extension offices, over one hundred aquaculture extension professional attended the conference. Individual presentations addressed many of the project objectives listed above during the first two days. The third day was devoted to several hands-on workshops and presentations on aquaculture pathology, computer applications, advances in pond culture, recirculating systems, and aquaculture in the classroom. Discussion sections and social events contributed to furthering the objectives. The conference was followed by three separate field trips to aquaculture locations across Arizona. One tour looked at marine shrimp farms and reuse of effluents. One tour visited freshwater farms at the University of Arizona's demonstration farm and the Gila River Community Reservation and examined their integrated aquaculture/agriculture projects. The third tour visited the Sonora Desert Museum including their aquatic displays of native fishes and ecosystems and the Biosphere 2 project to see the recirculating marine systems and the fish culture used in the project.

A CD-ROM product developed from the PowerPoint presentations was also distributed at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting in July 2003. The conference Web site also continues to receive hits and downloads of presentations.

IMPACTS

NATIONAL AQUACULTURE EXTENSION CONFERENCE

The Third National Aquaculture Extension Conference provided:

- A national forum for aquaculture extension professionals to meet and
- Up-to-date information regarding new regulations impacting the industry.
- A forum for discussion of environmental issues that extension agents and specialists must deal with as they bring stakeholders together to solve conflicts.
- Training and experience with new technologies to improve communication and presentation skills.
- A forum for Land Grant and Sea Grant supported personnel to discuss similarities and differences in their respective programs and the issues they confront.
- Exposure to programs using aquaculture in the classroom to provide basic information on aquaculture and resource management.
- Opportunities to develop networks of contacts across the country in various aspects of aquaculture.
- Presentations and discussions regarding the role, opportunities, and issues involved with international extension.
- Training in subject matter that agents and specialists need to better manage the projects and problems they face with their clientele.
- On-site visits to farms and research projects that could provide valuable information and insights into issues they may face in their own fields.
- Personalized instruction in pathology, computer applications, recirculating systems, aquaculture education programs, and pond culture techniques.
- An electronic compilation of extension documents in Spanish that the agents and

discuss the issues affecting the aquaculture industry as it continues to grow.

specialists could take home and customize if needed.

- An electronic compilation of all of the abstracts and PowerPoint presentations.
- A series of poster presentations that provided additional background materials. Many of these posters were also included on the CD-ROM of conference materials.
- The end-of-conference survey determined that the conference received high marks for the presentations, social events, and tours. The workshops received generally high marks, with the exception of the recirculation workshops, which the participants felt did not present much in the way of new information or equipment.

RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

A post-conference evaluation survey will be mailed to the participants in October 2003 to determine how the conference has impacted their actions and their activities with clientele. The participants reported in an end-of-conference survey that they felt the conference was very worthwhile and should be held again in the future. A five-year window was the most commonly selected time frame.

PUBLICATIONS, MANUSCRIPTS, AND PAPERS PRESENTED

See the Appendix for a cumulative output for all NCRAC-funded National Aquaculture Extension Workshop/Conferences.

SUPPORT

YEAR	NCRAC-U	OTHER SUPPORT	TOTAL
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NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL AQUACULTURE CENTER

		UNIVER-S ITY	INDUSTRY	OTHER FEDERAL	OTHER^a	TOTAL	
2002-03	\$4,500	\$6,218	\$4,500	\$20,000	\$13,500	\$44,218	\$48,718
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^aEach of the four other Regional Aquaculture Centers contributed to the conference