



Newsletter

January 5, 2005

President's Message

Happy New Year to all!

The late breaking news for MAA is the upcoming **2005 Annual Conference and Meeting** to be held February 10th -11th at the Clarion Hotel in Lansing. The meeting committee has put together a great program, and we hope to draw in an enthusiastic crowd. This will be an excellent opportunity to meet old and new friends, bring both producers and potential customers together, and update the industry with business and legislative issues. The North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) will be holding their annual business meeting on Friday through Sunday (11th-13th) in Lansing as well. I have been told that the NCRAC meeting is open to the industry, but comments addressed to the forum should be directed from our representative (Russ Allen). Anyone interested in observing NCRAC research funding procedures should attend.

I sincerely hope 2004 has been a productive year. While each year passing seems to have its ups and downs, the Michigan Aquaculture Industry has persevered. I can honestly say that the individuals who are members of MAA are sincerely great folks living a great livelihood. Unfortunately the industry has lost a long time friend in Don Lance. I believe that Bob Baldwin expressed it best: "We will greatly miss this Gentleman of the North".

Now here we are in 2005. What it holds for us, who can say. Whatever it is though, I know we will meet with eyes wide open! I'm looking forward to meeting all again and hope everyone can attend the meeting next month. Feel free to pass the agenda along, the more people who can attend, the better!

See you next month,

Chris Weeks

Aquaculture Advisory Committee

MEETING SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 8, 2004

Present: Ted Batterson, Nancy Frank, Don Garling, Jerry Kahn, Dan Vogler, Chris Weeks, Harry Westers, Gary Whelan

Update on December Testing: Jerry Kahn reported about 7 facilities to test. He will coordinate with MDA's Dr. Peggy Roth.

Ohio Importation Regulations: Dan Vogler reviewed the situation with Ohio's importation regulations. In April 2004, Ohio was considering new requirements. In July 2004, the requirements were implemented. There was no lead time for other states to comply with the new regulations. Ohio requires testing for ceratomyxosis, infectious hematopoietic necrosis, infectious pancreatic necrosis, infectious salmon anemia (when originating from state or zone where reported), viral hemorrhagic septicemia, and whirling disease. They define lot for testing as fish from any single source, age class, or water source and each lot must be tested. Dan Vogler explained that the requirements add substantial cost to producers wanting to ship fish to Ohio. These regulations do not apply to Ohio producers shipping within Ohio at this time.

There was discussion about inconsistency of importation requirements from state to state. The Great Lakes Commission has a model protocol. The committee agreed that consistency would be valuable to the aquaculture industry. The committee will investigate activities of other organizations also interested in better standardizing interstate movement requirements. Gary Whelan will talk with the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee in February. Chris Weeks will contact Myron Kebus in Wisconsin. Ted Batterson will contact Dave Smith and others. Nancy Frank will contact USAHA and AVMA. The group will report back in mid-

December.

Water Use Update: Bob Pigg from the MDA Environmental Stewardship Division visited the committee to give a presentation on new water use reporting requirements. There was discussion about the definition of “withdrawal”. The definition is removal or transfer of ground or surface water to another location. It was not clear to the committee if aquaculture facilities using a flow-through system would be considered as withdrawing water. The flow-through system is really more of a water diversion activity. Bob Pigg indicated he could follow up to get a determination from MDA. He suggested that the aquaculture industry contact the Great Lakes Conservation Advisory Council for further discussion.

Michigan Importation Regulations: Gary Whelan indicated that MDNR is considering disease testing regulations for coolwater fish species. MDNR Fisheries began to routinely test Michigan coolwater species for various diseases in 2004. Diseases of potential concern include largemouth bass virus (LMBV), heterosporis, muskie pox (*Piscirickettsia* sp.), channel catfish virus, and sturgeon virus. It is likely that by 2006, there will be some regulations in place.

There was discussion about fish coming into Michigan – what are the rules and how many fish come in? Finding out about imports is sometimes difficult. Don Garling will ask extension staff about sales in their areas in spring and early summer. Nancy Frank will look at recent importation certificates. Gary Whelan and Nancy Frank have initiated discussion about potential joint MDA-MDNR importation regulations. There was discussion about registering companies that ship fish to Michigan.

Michigan Reportable Disease List: Chris Weeks raised an issue from Mohamed Faisal, namely, as more testing of fish occurs, more diseases are being found. This could have implications for reportable diseases in Michigan. Dan Vogler stressed that there should be a plan of response for any disease on the reportable disease list or at least a good reason to

collect the information. Nancy Frank will follow up with Mohamed Faisal.

Other:

There was discussion about new EPA effluent requirements. Dan Vogler and the six MDNR hatcheries may be the only fish rearing facilities in the state that need a permit. Gary Whelan reviewed MDNR strategies for compliance.

There was discussion about aquaculture GAMPS. Don Garling worked on the current GAMPS. He indicated that they were intended to be minimal guidelines focusing on animal care. He suggested aquaculture facility waste guidelines should be under the manure management GAMPS. Chris Weeks will look at putting together an industry group for discussion.

Mohamed Faisal (per Chris Weeks) offered training to MDA staff. He is willing to set up a PhD training program for an MDA veterinarian or otherwise train MDA staff.

A question was raised about guidelines for raising fish organically. Nancy Frank will refer to Chris Lietzau in MDAs Agriculture Development Division.

Animal identification as it relates to fish was discussed. This will be a topic for the next meeting.

Biosecurity at aquaculture facilities was discussed. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

The list of aquaculture facilities on the MDA website was discussed. The list is not current. There are potential concerns about updating the list because registration information contains names, addresses and phone numbers that aquaculture facility owners may not want posted as public information. There was a suggestion to create a check box on the registration application form so facility owners could chose whether or not to be included on the MDA website list.

Nancy Frank 12-20-2004

Silent Auction

A Silent Auction will again be held during our annual meeting so be sure to place your bid on several items. (See www.michiganaquaculture.com for description of items)

2005 Elections

The following positions are up for election.

Running for office are:

Vice-President (Bob Baldwin)
Secretary-Treasurer (Steve Ouwinga)
Director (Russ Allen)

Note: Any Active Member may also run for office as a write-in candidate.

Elections will be held on February 10, 2005 during the Annual Business Meeting.

Current Officers

President: Chris Weeks 517/353-5453
Vice President: Jerry Kahn 989/724-5241
Sec/Treas: Steve Ouwinga 231/834-7720
Director: Russ Allen 517/347-5537
Director: Rick Weidenhammer 231/548-5323

Aquaculture Interest Column

In every newsletter we would like to add at least one article written by a member of MAA. This could be something about your farm, experiences, concerns you may have, a study you might have done, or just about anything you feel would be worth passing on (aquaculture related please). If you have something you would like to contribute, send a copy to either Bob Baldwin or Chris Weeks.

Join the MAA email discussion listing

Anyone with internet capabilities is encouraged to join the MAA mailing group through yahoo. **Michaqua** has proven to be an effective way to exchange current and important information pertinent to the aquaculture industry. To join Michaqua visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michaqua/>

Local fish farm faces legal battle

By David Munson (camden.villagesoup.com)

WASHINGTON (Dec 28, 2004):

Washington entrepreneur John Stewart has been forced to put his fish farming operation on hold, as his attorney and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife sort out the facts regarding a school of tiny fish Stewart had in a tank in his garage.

"He has been charged with cultivating fish without a permit and possessing commercially grown or imported fish without a permit," said DIFW spokesman Mark Latti. "It's a class E crime with a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000."

According to John Stewart's wife and business partner Cynthia Stewart, the fish in question are sunfish the couple was using as test subjects for their new tank and filtration system.



John Stewart adjusts the nozzles on the filter and circulation unit at Aquaculture Engineering USA.

Things began to get complicated when the DIFW identified the fish as bluegills, a nonnative sunfish species considered to be an invasive.

"They are saying that we illegally imported them, but we trapped the fish from our own pond," said Cynthia Stewart. "We are innocent here. We didn't do what we are accused of doing."

DIFW inspectors seized the fish after a visit to the Stewarts' home, and Latti said Tuesday that the fish have been positively identified as bluegills "beyond a shadow of a doubt."

Stewart maintains that several of the fish were positively identified as native sunfish called pumpkinseeds, and the other fish were too young to be positively identified.

The Stewarts are in the midst of starting a new fish farming business that would provide fresh trout and aquaculture equipment to customers across the state.

Now the fish farm is on hold, the remaining sunfish are hunkered down under the ice in the Stewarts' pond and John Stewart is at the mercy of the courts.

"We had a handful of fish in our own barn that we got from our own pond," said Cynthia Stewart. "I just don't get it."

Latte said the district attorney and Maine attorney general are currently working to resolve the issue.

Update Notices

FINAL CONCENTRATED AQUATIC ANIMAL PRODUCTION EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES

On **Sunday February 13, 2005** from 1 PM to 3 PM (following the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center meeting), there will be a workshop to provide the aquaculture community with a summary of the final Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production facilities. The EPA-sponsored workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the final EPA regulation and the draft compliance guidance, including practical examples for implementing the regulation, such as sample BMP plans, reports, and documentation sheets. All interested parties, including aquaculture facility owners/operators and hatchery managers/staff, and are invited to attend the meeting. The meeting will be held at the East Lansing Marriott at University Place. Contact Marta Jordan (USEPA) at 202-566-1049 or John Hochheimer (Tetra Tech, Inc.) 703-385-6000 for more information.

COMPOSTING FISH WASTES

The Great Lakes Fish Waste Compost Project that Ron Kinnunen was involved with is now published. It can be found at:

<http://web2.msue.msu.edu/compost/17.pdf>

Contact Ron for more info 906/226-3687.

PROFILE OF AQUACULTURE

Jeff Hinshaw, Gary Fornshell, and Ron Kinnunen recently completed a "A Profile of the Aquaculture of Trout in the United States." You can check out the report at:

http://www.agecon.msstate.edu/Aquaculture/pubs/Trout_Profile.pdf

REVISED GUIDE TO DRUG, VACCINE, AND PESTICIDE USE IN AQUACULTURE

NOW AVAILABLE: After several years of work and an extensive interagency clearance process, the revised edition of the popular publication, *Guide to Drug, Vaccine, and Pesticide Use in Aquaculture*, is now available as a web document. The original version was published in 1994 by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and was prepared by the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture's Working Group on Quality Assurance in Aquaculture Production. This working group, first formed in 1990, provides a national forum to support drug approvals for aquatic species, industry quality assurance programs, and educational initiatives associated with aquaculture product safety. Recent efforts have focused on forming a National Aquaculture Drug Research Forum and licensing vaccines. Activities are guided by a Strategic Plan.

To access the revised publication visit:

<http://aquanic.org/jsa/wgqaap/drugguide/drugguide.htm>

Michigan Aquaculture Web Site

www.michiganaquaculture.com

Visit for late breaking news and information resources.

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Advertising Info: Contact Steve Ouwinga at (231) 834-7720. Rates: \$15/ad, up to 40 words - additional words @ 35 cents per word. Newsletter dates are Jan 5, April 15, July 15 and October 15, please submit your ad no later than 5 days prior to these publishing dates.