



Newsletter

January 5, 2006

President's Message

I wish you all a happy New Year, and hope that 2006 will fulfill all your hopes and expectations.

For starters, I sincerely hope that all of you have set aside time to attend the upcoming Michigan Aquaculture 2006, "Sustainable Aquaculture in Michigan". The dates are February 9th and 10th (NEXT MONTH) and the location is again at the Clarion in Lansing. Bob has provided the conference agenda with this news letter. As you will see, there are some great presentations ranging from years of intensive Lake Michigan yellow perch production in recirculation systems (U of Wisconsin research), clarification of DNR regulations, aquaculture BMP's, MSU Ag extension programs, and trophy fish niche markets from Cecil, our beloved Ohio representative. In addition, we will hear all about our State's bait fish program, and problems and directions of this industry. I have no doubt this will be a great conference! I hope to see everyone there and look forward to many great discussions!

Last year at this time part of my message to you included the following: "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!" Well indeed we have. Not only industry related issues but life and family values as well. I would like to tell everyone that I feel that I have been really blessed over the past few months, and wish the same to all of you. If there is any way in which any or all of us, of the Michigan Aquaculture Association, can provide insight or aid, simply make a call or send an email.

Best regards, and see you soon,

Chris Weeks

**February 9th & 10th, 2006
MAA Conference & Annual Meeting
Clarion Hotel - Lansing Michigan**

Seafood HACCP Course Scheduled for January in Northern Wisconsin

The Seafood HACCP regulation which became mandatory on December 18, 1997, requires that certain enumerated HACCP functions be performed by an individual who has

been trained in HACCP.

The enumerated functions are:

- Developing/adopting the HACCP plan to fit the specific needs of a processor. The HACCP plan can be of a generic-type.
- Reassessing/modifying the HACCP plan as a result of verification activities and any corrective actions that occur.
- Reviewing the HACCP records for adequacy.

The HACCP training is achieved through **course materials or job experience** that provide knowledge equivalent to a standard curriculum course recognized as adequate by FDA. The processors may either obtain training for one or more of their own employees or they may hire trained independent contractors to perform the above functions.

To aid you in the implementation of the mandatory HACCP regulation, Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension in collaboration with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission are sponsoring a 3-day AFDO/Seafood Alliance HACCP training course on January 17-19, 2006 at Red Cliff Reservation near Bayfield, Wisconsin.

The course cost is \$90 per person. The training will be given to individuals that can influence seafood and/or aquacultured product safety. It includes a standardized course, training materials, and trained instructors. Persons that complete the AFDO/Seafood Alliance basic course will receive a Certificate of HACCP Course Completion from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). This certificate denotes completion of the standard HACCP training program for fish and fishery products as required in the regulation.

Those wanting more information on the course should contact:

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State Capital News

The Water Bills (tied bar with SB850) reported in the last newsletter are now with the House. The bills passed out of the Senate without opposition and are now before the House "Natural Resources, Great Lakes, Land Use, and Environment" committee.

NCRAC

The North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) will be holding its 2006 Annual Program Planning Meeting in East Lansing on February 3-5. At that meeting, the NCRAC Board, based on input from the Industry Advisory Council (IAC) working with the Technical Committee, will select those activities they would like to see addressed in projects that will be developed for the next funding cycle. Chris Weeks has been named as a new member to the IAC, representing the Michigan Aquaculture Association. His 4-year membership began January 1, 2006 and will continue through December 31, 2009. Please discuss with Chris any issues facing our industry that you would like to see NCRAC address.

NCRAC Background

NCRAC is an administrative unit that relies on leaders in the aquaculture industry through an Industry Advisory Council for direction in its programs. A Technical Committee works with the Industry Advisory Council to formulate programs on priorities. Regional programs are meshed with activities of other centers to avoid duplication. Teams of aquaculture specialists from midwest universities, public agencies, and the private sector develop and implement projects to solve priority problems. A Board of Directors oversees administration and management of NCRAC's programs.

The North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) was formed in February 1988. It is one of five regional aquaculture centers administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service. Programs of NCRAC are jointly administered by Michigan State University and Iowa State University. The Office of the Director is located at Michigan State while the Associate Director's Office is at Iowa State.

The mission of the Regional Aquaculture Centers is to support aquaculture research, development, demonstration, and extension education to enhance viable and profitable U.S. aquaculture which will benefit consumers, producers, service industries, and the American economy.

Election of MAA Officers

Both the office of President and at large Director are open. If you would like to run for either of these posts, please contact any of the current board members to submit your name.

For late breaking info, check our website:

www.michiganaquaculture.com

Wisconsin Aquaculture Association

Annual Meeting will be held at the Holi-Dome Conference Center in Fond-du-lac - March 17th & 18th, 2006. Additional information can be found at:

www.wisconsinaquaculture.com

Join the MAA email discussion listing

If you're hooked up to the internet and not a part of the MAA discussion group your missing out on great discussions and important legislative update information. To register, go to the following site:

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

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.

Current Officers

President: Chris Weeks 517/353-5453

Vice President: Bob Baldwin 231/796-2284

Sec/Treas: Steve Ouwinga 231/834-7720

Director: Russ Allen 517/347-5537

Director: Rick Weidenhammer 231/548-5323

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Visit our Web Site

www.michiganaquaculture.com