



Newsletter

November 15, 2004

President's Message

Greetings to all Michigan Aquaculture Association active, associate, and prospective members! Another summer season has come and gone, and I hope everyone has had a successful year so far.

We are currently brainstorming on what type of industry issues to present at our upcoming 2005 annual conference. My thoughts are to develop a round of discussions that would be highly beneficial to: a) our customer base, b) potential future aquaculturists, and c) of course MAA. One suggestion is a round of discussions on ponds: construction, maintenance, stocking, related aquaculture activities, etc. The goal of this segment would be to provide direct interaction between MAA members, potential customers, and the general public. Another suggestion includes a discussion (baitfish, fee fishing, stocking, and food fish) on "How to Get Started in Aquaculture". Other topics under consideration include mainline issues such as water rights and fish health.

In order to make this event a huge success, we need some help from you. **Input;** we have approximately 30 MAA members; the more input we have, the more successful we will be. **Marketing;** how do we reach our target audience? **Active participation;** many of the experts qualified to lead these discussions are industry members of MAA! If you have any ideas, comments, and/or suggestions please contact me at 517/ 353-5453, or email weekschr@msu.edu.

As I reflect on my perception of the current status of the Michigan aquaculture industry, two main points stand out. First of all, I am sure that a majority consensus would be that the present legislative atmosphere appears to be overtly unfriendly towards aquaculture. Over the past several years we have witnessed an increasing number of obstacles placed in our path. Whether intentionally targeting the industry or not, quite a few new (and developing) laws are making it more and more difficult to commercially raise and sell fish in the state of Michigan. Secondly, because our daily routines require so much time and effort, we might

find it extremely difficult to find time to confront these challenges head on. While both of these points may be true, conditional acceptance of these obstructions will lead us down the road of complacency. I cannot stress enough, that in order to make this industry better, all of us must get involved. There are several people within MAA, and a few outside of the association, that have given great effort to the benefit of industry. To you, I tip my MAA hat (which, by the way is getting a bit worn now). Your time and actions should be highly commended!

Some of you are pioneers in commercial freshwater aquaculture. Some of you have dedicated yourselves to improving aquaculture in this state. All of us have chosen a worthy and fulfilling profession and livelihood. Where we go from here as an industry, and how we get there, depends on commitment from each and every one of us. Whether a pioneer, researcher, family business, or hobbyist, can we do better? Together - I say heck yes.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2005 conference, and will pass on specific details for the conference in the near future.

Best Regards to All!

Chris Weeks

News from MDA

MDA has hired a replacement for Joan Arnoldi as State Veterinarian. Her replacement is Dr. Steve Halstead. Dr. Nancy Frank, who has been filling this position on an interim basis, remains as the aquaculture contact person within MDA. Dr. Frank indicated that MDA may be adding one position to their roster within the next year, and perhaps another in the following year. Dr. Frank was hopeful that there would be a permanent aquaculture contact designated 1-2 years down the road. The contact number for all aquaculture questions for MDA (including emergency fish health concerns) is 517/ 373-1077.

Legislative Update

Natural River Zoning (Rules 2004-009 and 2004-10) for the Pine and Upper Manistee Rivers.

We have received a written notification from Steven Sutton, MDEQ, that the language in these rules will allow for new aquaculture facilities or expansion of existing facilities provided a land use variance is granted from MDEQ. Prior to this agreement, these activities were not allowed at all.

Water Usage Reporting (2003 PA 148)

Most of you probably received a memo concerning water use reporting requirements which has been initiated into effect. The deadline for registration of October 1 has come and past. If you feel you might need to report (usage over 70gpm flow), and haven't yet, it is suggested that you contact either Chris Weeks, Bob Baldwin, or MDA. MDA has stated that they do not expect problems with a slight delay. As to MAA's stance on this issue, this should make for a good collective discussion. One thing seems clear, however. The intent (from the legislators) appears to have been usurped by DEQ and MDA during the developmental process of PA 148. MAA is awaiting clarification as to how and why this occurred.

Michigan Aquaculture Advisory Committee (MAAC)

Topics at the August 2004 MAAC meeting, included:

1) A review and update of Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) as they pertain to aquaculture. The committee suggested that this would be a good way to take a proactive role towards ensuring the rights of the industry.

2) Concerns by the industry of potential uncertified aquaculture imports coming into the state. Gary Whelan, MDNR, stated that they have been working with main importers to ensure they have proper health certification. Dr. Frank has not been aware of any certification inspection reports reviewed by MDA for imports to registered aquaculture facilities.

The industry has a large stake in this. If diseases are introduced to the state through aquaculture, the finger will ultimately be pointed at the aquaculture industry. Registration and enforcement of fish importation are both part of the spectrum of issues that need to be worked out in SOP's to be established between MDA and MDNR. It was noted that other regional states require fish importation permits.

3) More fish health – MDNR is currently looking at potential health certification requirements to include testing for catfish viruses. Also, there is a potential that LMB virus testing may be required in the future (imports and public stocking).

4) Gary Whelan mentioned that the MDNR may be looking at genetics as a basis for approval of public water stocking permits (3-5 years down the road). MDNR's concern appears to be related to maintaining genetic integrity of established populations of steelhead in various river systems. Apparently, MDNR feels that Trout Lodge Kamloops are not compatible with this plan. Gary expressed the view that MDNR would like to work with the industry in developing a Michigan strain that would be available to suppliers for stocking public waters. At present, MAA's stance is contrary to that of MDNR's. This is a rather hot topic and is expected to be addressed to a much greater extent in the future.

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/>

From the Editor's Notepad

Sorry for the delay in getting the October newsletter out, but several issues were in the works and extra time was needed.

In Passing

We have lost another good friend in the aquaculture industry. Don Lance died late October and was known by many in the State for his wit and trout production of the Flowing Well Trout Farm. We will greatly miss this Gentleman of the North.

(Reprinted from Traverse City Record Eagle)

Donald Dewey Lance

Died October 24, 2004

KALKASKA -- Donald Dewey Lance, 66, of Kalkaska, passed away on Oct. 24, 2004, at his home.

Born on April 25, 1938, in Buckley, he was the son of Dewey and Lillian (Storck) Lance. He lived in Kalkaska since 1965, moving from Buckley.

Donald was a veteran serving our country in the U.S. Army. He was the manager of Flowing Well Trout & Game Farm of Kalkaska for 40 years.

Donald was a member of the American Legion in Fife Lake, Ducks Unlimited and Whitetails Unlimited. Don was an avid hunter and enjoyed the great outdoors.

Surviving Don are his children, Andrea K. (Paul) McLean-Hill of Kalkaska, Donald D. (Jody) Lance II of South Boardman and Phillip B. Lance of Mancelona; his grandchildren, Lindsay McLean, Zachary Hill, Joshua Hill and Spencer Lance; his dear friend, Norma L. Lance of Kalkaska; his sisters, Alberta (Don) Lynch of Traverse City, Leota (Stanley) Kiszlowski of Redford, Mary Frances Brown of Grand Rapids and Josie Cogan of Grandville.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Albert Lance, Fred Lance, Dolores Jewell, Jennie Hansen and Patricia Lance.

Visitation will be held this evening, Oct. 26, from 1 until 4 p.m. and 6 until 8 p.m. at Wolfe Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Kalkaska Church of Christ.

Inturnment will be in Cornell's Cemetery in Buckley.

Memorials may be made on behalf of Donald to Munson Hospice, 1105 Sixth St., Traverse City, MI 49684; or to the American Cancer Society, 525 W 14th St., Ste. 5, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Arrangements were made by Wolfe Funeral Home.

Annual Trout Health Inspections

The week of December 6 - 10th in cooperation with MDA and Dr. Faisal's Lab (MSU), MDA field staff will be collecting samples for testing. For further information please contact Jerry Kahn at 989/724-5241.

MAA Annual Meeting

Date: February 10 -11th, 2005

Location: University Quality Inn - East Lansing, Michigan

More information will be available in the January Newsletter and on the website.

Elections

The following positions are up for election.

Vice-President

Secretary-Treasurer

Director

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact either Steve Ouwinga or Chris Weeks of your intentions by January 4th, 2005.

Jerry Kahn has announced that after 18 years of service he will not be running for Vice-President. Our many thanks from the members to you Jerry!

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

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Visit MichiganAquaculture.Com for late breaking news and information resources.

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAP)

The inaugural issue of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership's (AADAP's) quarterly Newsletter is now available on-line at the AADAP website.

<http://fisheries.fws.gov/aadap/>

The AADAP Program intends for the Newsletter to be a "short and sweet" summary of what's happening in the aquatic animal drug approval arena. The AADAP Program promises to try to limit its length to no more than three sheets of paper. They hope that the Newsletter and their Website will be complementary and invaluable sources of information.

Classified Ads

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.

Stoney Creek Fisheries - Live fish for stocking - also complete line of aeration equipment, fountains, pumps and much more. Free Catalog 1-800-448-3873

THE NEED FOR A ZERO WITHDRAWAL FISH ANESTHETIC

Many agencies, organizations, and companies have identified the need for an anesthetic that allows for immediate release of treated fish (i.e., a zero withdrawal time anesthetic). Such an anesthetic would benefit numerous management, cultural, and research activities including rested harvest, spawning of wild populations, marking captured and cultured fish, and population assessments. This fact sheet provides information on what is and is not allowed regarding certain aquaculture anesthetics, and what can be done to help gain the approval for a zero withdrawal time anesthetic.

WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

- Use clove oil under any circumstance. See Guidance Document # 150 for details (<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/guidance/guide150.pdf>). Contact Fran Pell at the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) for direct information (phone: 301-827-0188; E-mail: frances.pell@FDA.hhs.gov).
- Use MS-222 for immediate slaughter of market-sized fish or release of treated fish that can be legally harvested for food. MS-222 is approved as a fish anesthetic (tricaine methanesulfonate=Finquel® or Tricaine-S®) but use of MS-222 requires a 21-day withdrawal period before fish can be slaughtered for food or harvestable fish can be released or stocked.
- Use AQUI-S® **without** an Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) exemption for use in any management, aquaculture, or research activity. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAPP) holds an INAD for AQUI-S® that has a temporary 21-day withdrawal period. Contact David Erdahl for participation details (phone: 406-587-9265, extension 125; E-mail: Dave_Erdahl@fws.gov).

WHAT YOU CAN DO

2004. Use MS-222 on fish that are held for 21 days or for immediate release of treated fish that are of sublegal size (i.e., sizes of fish that are not utilized for food). Fish treated with MS-222 cannot be available for human consumption for 21 days after treatment. See Table 1 below for examples from the MS-222 product insert.

Table 1. MS-222 Product Insert: Sublegal sizes of fish species not used as food immediately after anesthesia

Species	Size (in.)	Species	Size (in.)
Pink salmon	6	Splake trout	6
Chum salmon	6	Grayling	6
Coho salmon	6	Northern pike	12
Sockeye salmon	6	Muskellunge	12
Chinook salmon	6	Channel catfish	6
Cutthroat trout	6	Flathead catfish	6
Steelhead trout	6	Bluegill	3
Rainbow trout	6	Redear sunfish	3
Atlantic salmon	10	Smallmouth bass	5
Brown trout	6	Largemouth bass	5
Brook trout	6	Walleye	6
Lake trout	5		

States and other agencies can also establish certain fishing regulations that classify specific species or sizes of fish as "Not Legally Catchable" (i.e., harvestable). An example of this kind of regulation would be largemouth bass ≤ 16 inches are not catchable but those >16 inches are catchable and can be kept for food. Check with the agency with fishing regulation authority for details. Obviously, fry and certain life-stage fingerlings of food fish, threatened or endangered species, or certain broodfish would fall in the category of as "Not Legally Catchable". See Program Policy and Procedures Manual # 1240.4260 for details on the classification of food and nonfood fish species (http://www.fda.gov/cvm/index/policy_proced/4260.pdf).

2006. Use AQUI-S® under an INAD on fish that are held for 21 days or for immediate release of treated fish that are of sublegal size (see Table 1 above for examples from the MS-222 product insert). The same regulations as stated above for MS-222 apply to AQUI-S®.

(Source: Gary Jensen)