

North Carolina Aquaculture Association



"Farming Fresh Alternatives"

April 6, 2009

<http://www.ncaquacultureassociation.com>

Volume 2, Issue 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Special points of interest:

- Letter from the President
- 3rd Party Certification
- Economic Stimulus
- Ellis and Hodson Honored
- Prawn Processing Facility Ground Breaking

Hello Everyone,

It was great to see such a high turn out of our members at the 2009 NC Aquaculture Development Conference back in January. We even managed to recruit a few new members. I would also like to thank everyone that contributed to and participated in our first silent auction. We raised over \$1300 for the association. Not a bad first try in my opinion. I think we will be able to do even better next year.

I would also like to thank Paul Sherman from NC Farm Bureau for giving us an overview of water regulations in our state during our annual meeting. As we all know from the drought over the last couple of years, water use and discharge will continue to be an important issue for aquaculturists in our state.

Speaking of annual meetings, everyone should keep in mind that we will hold elections at our 2010 annual meeting for officers and board members. If you are interested in what is involved with a leadership role in our organization feel free to contact myself or any other officer or board member. I'm sure they will be willing to share their experiences with you. One of my responsibilities as president is to sit on the Planning Committee for the NC Aquaculture Development Conference. If you have any suggestions for the 2010 conference, which will be held Jan 22 & 23, 2010, please send them along.

In February I attended Aquaculture America in Seattle Washington. As always this was a very informative meeting with a little fun thrown in. One topic I found interesting was 3rd party certification of aquaculture operations. I asked Matt Parker to give us a brief overview of a meeting we attended on the subject. This overview is included on page 2 of this newsletter. In addition to learning about 3rd party certification, I also learned the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan is rolling along. There should be some new developments by the end of 2009 so keep your eyes open as this will affect all of the species in our industry. I also learned Matt will do a few things I didn't expect as he helped out with the National Aquaculture Association Live Auction. Ask me about it next time for a good chuckle.

I know everyone is beginning to get busy now that spring is here, but I would like to remind you to continue to try and recruit new members. The more members we have the stronger our voice will be. We are on the right track with our association and need to keep going. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas for improvement of the NCAA, do not hesitate to make them known to me

Thanks again,

Nancy Suga

3rd Party Certification, What's the Deal?

If you haven't heard about 3rd party certification for aquaculture, there's a good chance you'll hear about it soon. So what is 3rd party certification? Over the last several years, in response to a growing concern for environmentalism and sustainability in aquaculture, many groups have sprung up across the globe to "certify" that a farm's products are produced in an environmentally and sustainable way. Basically, you would pay these organizations to come and evaluate your farm. If you meet the organizations criteria you would be certified by that organization.

I recently attended a session at Aquaculture America 2009 on 3rd party certifica-

tion. There I learned this process is being driven, not by consumers, but institutional retail buyers. Their concerns lie with traceability, liability, food safety, and sustainability. I also learned the majority of farms which have undergone 3rd party certification are located outside of the US. US producers are concerned this is creating an "unfair playing field." Their argument is US producers are already required to meet the same requirements of 3rd party certification organization by current state and federal regulations. In their opinion this "cheapens" the image of US aquaculture products in the marketplace in an already tough seafood

industry.

Currently the US Food and Drug Administration has started a voluntary 3rd party Certification pilot program for imported aquacultured shrimp. This program is part of the FDA's Food Protection Plan. This plan states "qualified and legitimate third party certification as a way to help verify the safety of products from both foreign and domestic food companies." The FDA has published eleven attributes that would define a credible 3rd party certification body, and currently has six organizations participating in this program. According to a FDA press release from Dec 2,

2008, "Phase II, which will run through June 2009, will help the FDA develop the process for evaluating third-party certification programs. The pilot will allow the FDA to identify and address technical and operational issues in assessing certification programs and processing certifications. This information will assist the agency in moving towards broader recognition of voluntary third-party certification programs."

Silent Auction Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and bought items from our first silent auction fundraiser. We raised over \$1300 for the NC Aquaculture Association. WAY TO GO!!

Economic Stimulus Includes Aquaculture

As we all know, times are tight and the economy is in a slump. However there is some good news for aquaculture in the US. On Tuesday Feb. 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This act contained appropriations of \$50 million for the US

Aquaculture Industry. The NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services has submitted data on aquaculture feed usage in NC during 2007. This data will be used to determine the portion of the \$50 million the NC Aquaculture Industry will receive. To qualify you must have been a farm in 2008 and show feed

costs in 2008 increased dramatically over the previous 5 year average. You should also check with your local branch of the Farm Service Agency to make sure you have forms AD-1026 and CCC-526 on file. Be watching your mailbox for an application form for this grant.



Don't forget to order your NCAA license plate. \$10 for members and \$15 for non members.



NC Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler stops by the NCAA booth at the 2009 NC Aquaculture Development Conference.

Photo courtesy of Tom Ellis

American Prawn Cooperative Breaks Ground on Prawn Processing Facility

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APC members and supporters from county and state agencies at the ground breaking for APC's new processing facility. Photo courtesy of Charlene Jacobs

Despite the overcast skies and threat of rain, about 30 people showed up in an empty field in Walstonburg NC on Friday March 27, 2009 for the groundbreaking of the American Prawn Cooperative's new processing facility. "The processing facility represents just how far this group of independent farmers have come in the last 12 months," according to Mike Frinsko with the NC Cooperative Extension Service. In just about a year's time the group of

farmers has joined together, formed and formally incorporated their cooperative, and have received grant funds to help them get started processing and marketing their own products. APC treasurer Natalie Relyea says construction should start in mid April and be finished by September in time for the 2009 harvest season. The APC currently has 6 members with several other potential members in the wings. You can find out more about the cooperative on their website: www.americanprawncoop.com.

Membership Form

Categories	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Membership	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Industry	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/University	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$ 25

Ellis and Hodson Honored at 2009 NCADC

Tom Ellis and Ron Hodson were both honored during the lunch program of the 2009 NC Aquaculture Development conference with Lifetime Honorary Memberships to the NC Aquaculture Association. To date, these are the only lifetime memberships NCAA has ever awarded. According to our bylaws, membership in this category is reserved for individuals who have provided outstanding service to the industries of aquaculture in North Carolina. This designation is established by majority vote of the Board of Directors. It should be limited primarily to retired individuals or those individuals who are no longer directly involved in the production of aquatic animals or whose duties have changed signifi-

cantly relative to their previous responsibilities. It may also be offered to individuals in related fields who have provided outstanding service to aquaculture in North Carolina.

Both Tom and Ron were awarded this distinction by a unanimous vote of NCAA board members. If you've been associated with NC Aquaculture for any amount of time you surely have heard of the service Tom and Ron have provided our industry for the last 30 years and have continued to provide since their respective retirements. Congratulations to Tom and Ron and thank you for all your hard work.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make Checks Payable and return to:
North Carolina Aquaculture Association

c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Services
P.O. Box 2066

<http://www.ncaquacultureassociation.com>

Elizabeth City, NC 27909

P.O. Box 2066

Consumer Services

c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and



Announcements

Announcements:
If you have any personal announcements, you would like to send out please send them to Matt Parker for the next newsletter. These could include births, deaths, or special events at your farms.

NC Shellfish Growers Association Shellfish Expo. Morehead City April 6

NC Crawfish Growers Association Promotional Boil. Raleigh Farmer's Market June 6

NC Crawfish Growers Association Promotional Boil Piedmont-Triad Farmers Market June 20

2010 NC Aquaculture Development Conference Jan 22-23. Atlantic Beach NC