

North Carolina Aquaculture Association



"Farming Fresh Alternatives"

Feb. 8, 2010

<http://www.ncaquacultureassociation.com>

Volume 3, Issue 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Special points of interest:

- Letter from the President
- Thank you from NCSU Aquaculture Faculty
- Crawfish Culture

Another year has flown by. It was wonderful to see all my fellow NCAA members and friends at the NC Aquaculture Development Conference in Atlantic Beach. We are very fortunate in this state to have the support of NC State, Cooperative Extension and the NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services. I hope everyone who attended was able to learn something. The majority of the program focused on seafood safety. Seafood safety is something we should all be aware of, even if our farms don't sell directly to the final consumer of our products. By continuing to implement good seafood safety practices on our farms, we'll continue to offer bolster consumer confidence in our farm raised products. This should translate into stronger demand and sales for our farms. I'm sure no one in our association would be against an increase in sales as our economy continues to recover from the recession. I would also like to thank Dr. David Green for our presentation on the NCSU Seafood Lab and how they can help the aquaculturists in our state. It's another wonderful resource we are blessed with in our state.

I am very proud of the progress the NCAA has made. Hopefully we can continue to grow. We did agree to increase our dues to be able to join the National Aquaculture Association. This is an important step for us. It shows the US Aquaculture Industry, NC wants to be proactive and around for the "long haul." It will also help strengthen our voice on national issues. The NAA has been particularly helpful in dealing with the VHS outbreak the last few years. Additionally they have helped with Country Of Origin Labeling and aquaculture effluent issues. I have been lucky enough to attend meetings of the World Aquaculture Society the last few years. NAA and the rest of the US Aquaculture industry has taken note of what's being going on in NC and has begun asking for our input on other issues around the country.

Last but not least, new officers and board members were elected at our annual meeting. Congratulations, or maybe condolences, to all. I look forward to working with you all more the next few years. I also urge all members to contribute any ideas or issues they would like addressed to me or any other officer or board member. Thanks all and good luck and prosperity in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nancy Suga'.

President

Open Board

Meeting

Feb. 24, 2010

1pm

Pitt County Cooperative Extension Center

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Biology
Campus Box 7617
Raleigh, NC 27695-7167
919-515-2741 voice; 919-515-5327 Fax

Members
North Carolina Aquaculture Association

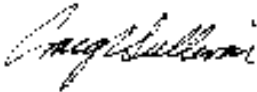
24 January 2010

Dear NCAA Members,

I am writing to thank all of you who contacted NC Senators, Congressmen and State legislators to express support for the NCSU earmark for Aquaculture Research in the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. As a result of your actions, NC Senators Burr and Hagan co-signed a letter supporting our earmark that was sent to the Conference Committee of the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Committee. The earmark was included in the final Bill signed by President Obama, making \$211,262 available for research on aquaculture across the State in FY 2010. Perhaps more important, you sent a clear message to our legislators that the work we do at NCSU in support of aquaculture is important to the NCAA members. Your actions also supported passage of other important earmarks for NCSU research on crop pathogens and forest biotechnology.

On behalf of the NCSU faculty whose research is funded, in part, by this Aquaculture Research earmark (Drs. Borski, Daniels, Hinshaw, Losordo, and Sullivan) I express our sincere gratitude for your support and our pledge to work hard to overcome obstacles to further development of aquaculture in North Carolina.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Craig V. Sullivan, Ph.D.
William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor
Department of Biology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-7617
919-515-7186 voice and Fax
Email: craig_sullivan@ncsu.edu
<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~sull0263/>

Crawfish production is often overlooked as an aquaculture production choice. It is not glamorous to produce or particularly pretty to look at, but it can be quite profitable. Crawfish is the least expensive species to begin producing and if you don't like raising them, it is the least expensive species to stop producing.

The first thing you need to successfully produce crawfish is the right land. Low, moist, flat land with a plenty of clay, at least 15 percent, which describes some of the worst farmland, makes for some of the best crawfish production land. To build the pond, you must decide where you want the dike around the pond to be located. You then excavate a borrow ditch around the outside of the pond, using the spoil to construct the 24 inch high dike. The "borrow ditch" will then fill with water since you have created a sump into the unconfined aquifer also known as the water table. This becomes your water supply.

After you have built the pond in the spring, you need to flood it with water to about 12 inches deep so you can stock your brood crawfish. You will need about 75 pounds per acre of live adult crawfish, which you can purchase from an existing producer. These crawfish should be evenly stocked throughout the pond. The pond is then slowly drained to allow the crawfish to burrow to the water table, where they will remain during the summer while you plant a forage crop of rice, milo, or sorghum-sudan grass in the bottom of the pond.

You then need to flood the pond in the late fall, forcing the crawfish out of their borrows, at which time the young crawfish will be released by the female crawfish. The crawfish will begin to feed off of the dead and decaying forage crop and will grow rapidly. By spring, the young crawfish will be market size of about four inches long.

Harvesting begins around the first of April, where baited traps are run several times per week, and lasts until July. Har-

vested crawfish are held live in purge containers for about two days to eliminate the need to devein them when it is time to cook them. The crawfish are retailed live to the markets, with the current price being about \$3.50 per pound.

At the end of the season, around the first of July, the ponds are drained slowly and the whole process starts over except for the stocking, since the crawfish are now already present. There is another production method of producing crawfish that is very similar to prawn production, but that will be saved for another day. If you have any interest in crawfish production, or any other aquaculture production, feel free to contact me, Steve Gabel, at 252-482-6585.

Membership Form

Categories	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Membership	\$ 65
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Industry	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/University	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$ 25

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
 Elizabeth City, NC 27909



NCAA Vice President Sterling Davenport and member Ricky Smith talk crawfish next to the NCAA display at the 2010 NC Aquaculture Development Conference. Photo by Natalie Relyea.

New Officers

Pres: Nancy Sugg Castle Hayne Fisheries
 VP: Sterling Davenport, Millpond Crawfish
 Sec: Matt Parker NCDA&CS
 Treas: William Small NCDA&CS

New Board Members

Nancy Sugg (Expires 2012)
 Sterling Davenport (Expires 2012)
 Matt Parker (Expires 2012)
 William Small (Expires 2012)
 George Sullivan (Expires 2014)
 Randy Gray (Expires 2014)
 Dale Pridgen (Expires 2014)
 Gene Wiseman (Expires 2014)



Announcements

Open Board

Meeting

Feb. 24, 2010

1pm

**Pitt County Coop-
erative Extension**

Center

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.

2010 NC Crawfish
Grower's Association
Promotional Boils:
June 5th Raleigh
Farmer's Market
June 19th Piedmont
Triad Farmer's Market

NC Crawfish Grower's
Annual Meeting- March
4th. Washington NC.
Contact Steve Gabel
for more information
252-482-6585