

WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE 2026
TENTATIVE AGENDA

Thursday, March 12th _____

9:00am – 3:00pm Fish Health Workshop for Farmers: Limited to 15 individuals. Pre-registration is required. **View agenda and registration information [HERE](#).**

Friday, March 13th _____

8:00-8:10am: WAA Welcome and Updates/Board Introductions

8:10-8:30am: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

*Lauren Kisley, Veterinary Program Manager - Division of Animal Health,
WIDATCP*

8:30-8:50am: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Todd Kalish, Deputy Director, Bureau of Fisheries Management, WIDNR

8:50-9:10 am: Fish Processing: Getting Started

Andrew Vetter, Environmental Health Sanitarian, WIDATCP

9:10-9:30am: 100% Great Lakes Fish Initiative

*David Naftzger and John Schmidt, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and
Premiers*

9:30-10:00am: Retail Marketing and Distribution

TBD

10:00-10:20am: Vendor Lightning Talks

10:20-10:50am: Break/Trade Show

10:50-11:05am: Aquaculture Feed & Nutrition

Sabine Mader, RAS/CAS Segment Manager, Skretting North America

11:05- 11:20am: Aquaculture Diet Research

Uthpala Padeniya, College of Menomonie Nation

11:20-11:35am: Pike Perch Out of Season Spawning Applications

Mark Schmitz, Concordia University Wisconsin

11:35am-noon: Workforce Development & Training

*Peter Shep & Ryan Freimuth, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee School of
Freshwater Sciences*

12:00-1:00pm: Lunch

12:15-1:00pm: Taste of Wisconsin Aquaculture Cooking Demonstration with
Chef Dani

1:00-1:20pm: National Aquaculture Association

Caitlyn Czajkowski, Executive Director, NAA

1:20-1:45pm: North Central Regional Aquaculture Center

Tommy Detmer, Director, NCRAC

1:45-1:50pm Break Out Sessions Introduction

Spence Driver, WAA President

2:00-4:00pm Breakout Sessions

- Recirculating Aquaculture: *Moderator: Colin Bursik*
- Pond culture/Raceways: *Moderator: Spence Driver*

- Marketing/Retail/Wholesale/Consumer Education: *Moderator:*
Dave Sundal

4:00-4:30pm: Break/Trade Show/Cash Bar

4:30-5:30pm: WAA/MNAA/MIAA Meetings

5:30pm-7:30pm: Reception & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 14th _____

8:00-9:00am: Prevent, Diagnose & Treat: Aquatic Health Management and Case Studies

*Myron Kebus, Aquaculture Outreach Veterinarian, College of Veterinary
Medicine, Michigan State University*

9:00am-9:30am: Pond Water Quality Management & Aeration

*Bob Robinson, Fisheries Biologist & Director of Sales & Marketing, Kasco
Marine*

9:30-9:50am: Aquaculture Research and Resource Highlights

*Emma Hauser & Thomas Craig, The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility*

9:50-10:00am: Break/Trade Show

10:00am-12:30pm: What We've Learned: Aquaculture Farmer Panel

12:30pm: Closing Remarks and Next Steps