

WAA The CREEL

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LIVELY GROUP MEETS FOR 22ND WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

By Bob Robinson

On March 3 & 4 a lively group of attendees with interest in Wisconsin fish farming attended the 22nd annual Wisconsin Aquaculture conference in Marshfield, WI. The theme for the event was “Wisconsin Aquaculture: Moving Ahead to the Future.”

This year’s meeting was a bit different in that many of the regulator stakeholders were part of a preconference workshop on permitting and licensing. After attending most of these conversations and exchanges I’ll just say two things. 1) Regulatory concerns are very complicated and seemed to be an inhibitor to greater growth within the state. 2) The regulatory agencies sincerely want to help the industry grow. The issues are a bit more complicated for many reasons but certainly do include regulations that cross multi-jurisdictional boundaries into many industries. It seems that the WI DNR is overwhelmed at times and simply could get a boost with more manpower to help understand the nuances of this industry as well as to be able to simply spend more time to help the people of the state they serve.

I was able to sit in on most of the talks and here is a quick rundown of some of the more interesting talks:

Pentair Aquatic Eco-systems Inc. is firmly invested in Urban Organics in St Paul, MN.

The goal at this aquaponics facility is to produce 150 tons of arctic char and 300 tons of fish total annually. Other parts of this converted urban building include a microbrewery as well as a distillery. I can see a road trip in the near future. They are also involved in Great American Aquaculture which is a Marine Sea Bass facility located in Connecticut. The Sea Bass or “Branzino” are a high value product. The facility is not directly on saltwater so seawater has to be mixed in house. *continued on page 7*



Wisconsin Senator Tom Tiffany, Peter Fritsch, and Paul Zajicek
Photo: Bob Robinson

Aquaculture Bill Update: Senate Bill 95 - The Fishing for Our Future Act

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill makes various changes to the regulation of aquaculture and fish farms.

Wetland permits

Under current law, no person may discharge dredged material or fill material into a wetland unless the discharge is authorized by a wetland general permit or individual permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. An individual permit is issued to a person for a particular discharge that is not covered under a general permit. A general permit is issued for certain categories of discharges, including a discharge that is part of a development for agricultural purposes if the discharge does not affect more than 10,000 square feet of wetland. This bill adds aquacultural purposes to this category of discharge.

This bill also exempts normal aquaculture activities from the requirement to obtain an individual or general wetland permit, if the discharge is to a wetland that *continued on page 3*

The CREEL

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The CREEL is published quarterly, March, June, September and December; WAA welcomes input and involvement from all interested parties.

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles are authored by *The CREEL* editor and/or WAA editorial committee. Editorial comments pertinent to other submissions are italicized and noted in parenthesis (ed.)

All opinions expressed in *The CREEL* are those of the contributor/author and not necessarily those of the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, its officers or directors.

The Wisconsin Aquaculture Association is a 501(C)(5) organization

Aquaculture Bill Update, cont. from pg. 1

has been created for aquacultural purposes in an area without any prior wetland history. The bill defines "normal aquaculture activities" to include the following activities in fish farms: 1) constructing, maintaining, or repairing ponds or raceways; 2) filling in or drawing down ponds or raceways; 3) maintaining or improving swales or other drainage areas; and 4) maintaining, repairing, or replacing drains, pipes, or other flowage controls. The bill also exempts the construction or maintenance of roads used in fish farms from the requirement to obtain an individual or general wetland permit.

Current law requires an applicant for an individual wetland permit to submit to DNR an analysis of the practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge that will avoid and minimize the discharge's adverse impacts on the wetland and that will not result in any other significant adverse environmental consequences. Under current law, DNR must limit its review of practicable alternatives to those alternatives that are located at the discharge site and any adjacent site if the proposed project is necessary for the expansion of an existing industri-

al, commercial or agricultural facility. The bill adds the expansion of an existing aquacultural facility to this list.

Natural bodies of water used as fish farms

The bill expands the category of natural bodies of water that may be used as part of a fish farm to include an artificial water body that is used as a registered fish farm or as part of a registered fish farm, regardless of the water source of the artificial water body, including an artificial water body that is fed by a spring. Under current law, a natural body of water may be used as a fish farm or part of a fish farm only if the water body is a freeze-out pond, a preexisting fish rearing facility, or a body of water for which DNR has issued a permit. The bill defines "natural body of water" as a spring, stream, pond, lake, or wetland that was historically present in a natural state but may have been physically altered over time.

The bill also creates an exemption to the general prohibition on using a natural water body as a fish farm for a person who holds a permit from DNR to use a natural water body as a fish farm and who takes no action in the water body other than maintaining the fish farm facility.

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CREEL ADVERTISING

The CREEL reaches many potential customers four times per year. If your business involves the growing or selling of any aquaculture product or any necessary equipment, feed or services, advertising will be a great benefit to you.

The CREEL goes to press the 1st of February, May, August, and November. Please submit photo-ready ad copy and payment to the Secretary/Editor 1 week prior to this for inclusion in the upcoming issue.

Rates per issue are as follows:

1/8 page: \$30; 1/4 page: \$40; 1/2 page: \$60; Full page: \$100

WEBSITE ADVERTISING OPTIONS AND RATES

WAA has 2 hot link categories to choose from:

Industry Links, with subcategories of **Aquaculture Product, Live Fish and Misc.**

Consumer Links with subcategories of **Fee Fishing and Fresh/Smoked Fish, etc.**

Cost is \$20 a year for members, \$30 for non members.

Don't Have a Web Site? WAA has a special price of \$100 for a 1 page web site—includes 1-2 pictures, text description of your farm and contact info, your own stand alone domain name and your logo can be added. After the first year, maintenance with changes is \$55/year.

Want a more descriptive listing of your online directory? Get an Enhanced Listing - for \$20/year you will get a map, photos, narrative.

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From the Editor

My time as secretary of WAA is quickly coming to a close. This is my last CREEL and I will be working through the next 4 weeks. I have enjoyed working in the industry and getting to know many of you over the years - this was a job that I thoroughly enjoyed. When I took this position my experience with fish farming was limited to Ron & my farm in northern Wisconsin, but my knowledge quickly broadened and your needs and issues and goals became mine. Through the years you have allowed me to get to know you and your businesses, instilling in me your need to have the industry be recognized, promoted and supported. You are a small industry and have had many ups and downs, but through it all you keep striving for the recognition and support it needs. Never give up on your goals, keep working together – given the opportunity, the aquaculture industry has the capacity to play a major part in the state and country's economy now and in the future. In addition to getting the current bill passed, you also need to keep in the back of your mind the need to reinstate the aquaculture extension program when the opportunity arises. The state Extension program provided you an invaluable, cost effective service in terms of bringing you on farm workshops, and helping many of you navigate the intricate and complicated maze of regulations.

Two people I want to particularly thank: Barb Kelm – Barb, before I even knew I needed help, you jumped in at the very first conference back in 2008, helped with the Field Days and the annual picnics. You helped me stay organized and on top of things. And Kathy Foster – in addition to also jumping in and helping at events, I can't thank you enough for agreeing to take on financials - not being an accountant, this was always a challenge to me to ensure the numbers all worked out. And thank you to all the board members over the years – you placed your trust in me to just go ahead and get done what was needed.

From the conference survey this year's conference was another success; the talks, insight on operations, regulations, and networking being singled out. Also the need for on beginning and intermediate farm workshops was mentioned. Please work with the board on your needs and how you can work together to fulfill them. The board have their own businesses to run and it will take the involvement of members to accomplish these goals.

Remember that Aquaculture Day is coming up on the 3rd Saturday in July. Keep in touch with the board if you are planning on participating. This has been, and will still be, a great opportunity for you to invite your legislators, media and the public to your farms to explain what you do, your day-to-day operations and what your goals and issues are. And remember to thank your legislators for their help with the industry.

Thank you so much for your friendship and the opportunity to work with you these past 7 years.

Cindy

If you need to get in touch with me, my email is cindy@javatrout.com

Aquaculture Bill Update, cont. from pg. 3

Navigable water permits

This bill also creates an exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit from DNR to construct, dredge, or enlarge an artificial water body that connects with a navigable waterway or that is located within 500 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of an existing navigable waterway. This exemption applies only to the maintenance or repair of an artificial water body or registered fish farm. This exemption does not apply to the requirement under current law to obtain a permit to grade or remove more than 10,000 square feet of topsoil from the bank of a navigable waterway.

Dams on navigable streams

This bill also creates an additional exemption to the requirement that a person maintaining a dam on a navigable stream must allow at least 25 percent of the natural low flow of water of the stream to pass through the dam. Under current law, this requirement does not apply to a dam where the water is discharged directly into a lake, mill pond, storage pond, or cranberry marsh, or to cases in which the DNR determines that the required minimum discharge is not *continued on pg 5*

From Senator Tom Tiffany

Fishing is an important part of our state's economy and heritage. Every year almost one million Wisconsinites enjoy fishing in our lakes, rivers, and streams. Without private aquaculture, our state would not be able to meet the demands of sport fishermen, tourist, or commercial fishing operators. Private aquaculture supplies live bait to tackle shops, stocks our lakes and rivers, and supplies grocery stores with locally grown fish.

Aquaculture is a \$5.3 million dollar industry in Wisconsin and supports almost 500 jobs. Unfortunately, the industry has declined in recent years due to burdensome and inconsistent regulation. Representative Felzkowski and I are proposing to regulate aquaculture similar to agriculture as they each grow a product for human consumption. This bill will lead to more consistent and predictable regulation of an important industry. Doing so will allow the aquaculture industry to thrive as the industry has done nationally.

Over the last eight months we have worked with the Department of Natural Resources, Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, and Ducks Unlimited to clarify the intent of the legislation. Through those meetings we were able to build a consensus on many aspects of the bill with the final product matching our intent of allowing regulatory flexibility while continuing Wisconsin's high environmental standards.

Senate Bill 96 and Assembly Bill 160 have been introduced in both houses of the legislature. SB 96 was given a public hearing and passed committee with bipartisan support. AB 160 will be given a public hearing on Wednesday, March 29th (*at this writing*). This is important legislation for the industry but without your support this bill won't pass.

Aquaculture Bill Update, cont. from pg. 4

necessary for the protection of fish life. Under the bill, this requirement also does not apply to an existing dam in an existing, registered commercial fish farm, located in Langlade County, where the water is returned to the navigable stream.

WPDES permits

This bill clarifies what conditions DNR may include in a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit issued to a fish farm. Under current law, DNR must include in WPDES permits issued to certain large fish farms requirements that are based on certain provisions under federal law. Those provisions require fish farms to use specified best-management practices relating to discharging solids, storing materials, and inspecting and maintaining production and wastewater treatment systems.

This bill also prohibits DNR from including additional conditions in a permit issued to a large fish farm unless those conditions are necessary to meet certain standards, such as federal or state water quality standards or schedules of compliance established by DNR. The bill also states that any condition that is included in a permit issued to a large fish farm must be based on site-specific best management practices to the great-

est extent allowed under federal law.

Variations to water quality standards

The bill also specifies certain information that DNR must use in deciding whether to grant a variance to a fish farm. Current law allows a WPDES permittee to request a variance from applicable water quality standards. Under current federal regulations, any variance granted by DNR must also be reviewed and either approved or disapproved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. This bill states that, when deciding whether to grant a variance to a fish farm, DNR must rely on the same guidance documents and other information that would be used by EPA in reviewing the variance.

Water withdrawals under the Great Lakes Compact

The bill also provides that if a fish farm withdraws water and places it in an aquacultural pond that is registered with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, any subsequent use of that water from that pond is not a "withdrawal" for purposes of the Great Lakes Compact, as long as the subsequent use is not, and does not result in, a diversion or intrabasin transfer out of the original lake basin. The Great Lakes Compact generally prohibits water from within the Great Lakes basin from being diverted out of the basin and imposes certain requirements on a person who withdraws 100,000 gallons of water per *continued on page 6*

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Aquaculture Bill Update, cont. from pg. 5

day or more from the Great Lakes basin.

Furnishing fish eggs for stocking purposes

This bill also allows DNR to furnish fish or fish eggs to private ponds, private club, corporations, or preserves that are located in this state and that have entered into an agreement with DNR, if the fish or the fish grown from the fish eggs will ultimately be stocked into waters of the state that are open to the general public. Under the bill, if the entity receiving fish eggs from DNR creates more fish than are required under its contract with DNR, those excess fish are not required to be stocked into waters of the state that are open to the general public.

Agricultural use in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

Under current law, a person may develop or use land in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway for agricultural use if the development and use comply with the rules for the soil and water resource management program promulgated by DATCP. This bill adds aquaculture to the list of activities that make up "agricultural use" in this context.

Sales and use tax exemption

This bill creates a sales and use tax exemption for farm-raised fish sold to a fish farm that is registered with DATCP.

WHEDA loan guarantees

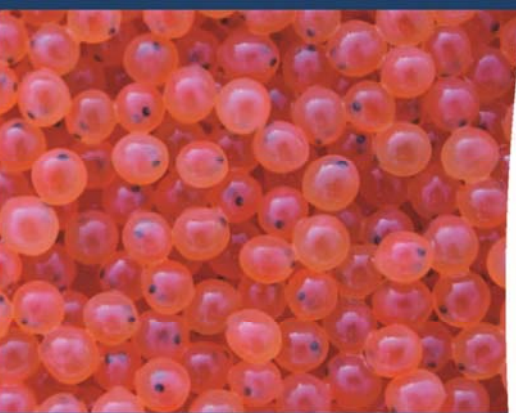
Under current law, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority administers the Wisconsin Development Reserve Fund (WDRF) to provide loan guarantees to farmers and other small businesses. Current law provides that a loan made to a farmer to finance the acquisition of agricultural assets or the cost of improvements to facilities or land, which are acquired or made for agricultural purposes, is eligible for a guarantee from the WDRF. This bill expands the type of loans that are eligible for this guarantee to include loans made to acquire assets used in aquaculture and loans that are made for aquacultural purposes.

Transportation of agricultural products

This bill also allows the Department of Transportation to issue permits for the transportation of fish and minnows in vehicles that exceed certain weight limitations.

DNR and DATCP rules

In addition, the bill requires DNR to promulgate rules that define the role and extent that genetics is involved in DNR's fish stocking strategies and that standardize DNR's fish donation procedures. The bill also requires DNR to assess the viability of continuing to classify bait fish and forage fish as established nonnative fish species and to promulgate new rules as necessary. Under the bill, DNR and DATCP must review the departments' rules relating to viral hemorrhagic septicemia and promulgate new rules as *Continued on page 7*



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Aquaculture Bill Update, cont. from pg. 6

necessary. The bill also requires DNR to assess, with DATCP, the efficiency and utility of the fish hatchery classification system under rules promulgated by DATCP, and requires DATCP to promulgate new rules as necessary.

Because this bill relates to an exemption from state or local taxes, it may be referred to the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions for a report to be printed as an appendix to the bill.

THE WAA BOARD AND OFFICERS THANK THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS AND BUSINESSES FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO ON THE AQUACULTURE LEGISLATION: As of January 28, 2017

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Aquaculture Conference continued from page 1



Ann O'Leary, Dani Klontz and Ron Johnson Photo - Bob Robinson

Ann O'Leary spoke briefly about Wisconsin agriculture as well as some of her thoughts on being chosen as the 69th Alice in Dairyland. She travels more than 40,000 miles throughout

the state to promote farm raised products to various audiences.

Some interesting facts she shared include:

WI agriculture is an annual 89 billion \$ industry

43 billion of that is from dairy

There are over 600 varieties of cheese made *cont. page 9*

TROUTLIDGE PRODUCES EGGS WITH ENHANCED RESISTANCE TO FLAVOBACTERIUM COLUMNARE

Troutlodge has achieved a milestone by producing trout eggs with enhanced resistance to *Flavobacterium columnare*, the bacterial pathogen that causes what is commonly known as *columnaris* disease. Kyle Martin, Troutlodge's research geneticist noted, "our ability to offer these eggs to our customers is the culmination of several years of collaboration and cooperation with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ag. Research Service and should improve survival and growth of trout wherever *columnaris* is an issue."

Troutlodge is offering limited numbers of these eggs in May and June and they will be all-female triploid eggs. Troutlodge is the first company to offer these genomically selected eggs to trout growers. Keith Drynan, Troutlodge's newly appointed General Manager stated "these eggs reflect the continued efforts and success of Troutlodge's staff to stay on the cutting-edge of new developments and to move the technology to actual production, much to the benefit of trout growers. These trout eggs should help make trout growers more efficient and thus make the production of trout more sustainable, which ultimately benefits consumers and the environment."

Any trout growers wishing to make orders should contact Troutlodge through their web site: www.troutlodge.com or via Hendrix-Genetics at www.hendrix-genetics.com.

Troutlodge, headquartered in Bonney Lake, Washington, is the world's leading producer of trout eggs. Each year, Troutlodge produces over 500 million trout eggs and sells those eggs into 60 countries around the world. Troutlodge operates seven trout hatcheries in Washington State, one trout hatchery in Idaho and two trout hatcheries on the Isle of Man (British Isles). Sister companies, Landcatch (Scotland) has selectively bred Atlantic salmon in Scotland for over 30 years, and produces salmon eggs in the three main salmon producing countries while, Hendrix Genetics Aquaculture, S.A. (Chile) produces both Atlantic salmon and trout eggs and has been in business in Chile since the early 1990s. www.troutlodge.com. Hendrix Genetics BV, headquartered in the Netherlands, is a leading multi-species breeding company with primary activities in turkeys, layers, traditional poultry, swine and aquaculture breeding. Backed by a strong portfolio of leading companies and brands, Hendrix Genetics provides expertise and resources to producers in more than 100 countries, with operations and joint ventures in 24 countries and nearly 3,000 employees worldwide. . www.hendrix-genetics.com.

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She has visited Rushing Waters Trout Fisheries and stated there is great hope for the industry to grow. Part of the growth will come from the desire of people to purchase locally grown, wholesome product. She encouraged all farmers to open their doors for tourism and to “share their story.” Each year in July Wisconsin opens the doors of many fish farms and encourages consumers to visit. In my opinion this is a great way to bridge the gap and for consumers to really understand not only the value the industry brings, but to also show the human side of fish farming.

Paul Zajicek (The National Aquaculture Association executive director) made it to the meeting and was impressed by the turnout as well as the dedication of members. In Paul’s words “The NAA was well-represented at the recent Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference in Marshfield WI. Bob Robinson and I were present and enjoyed the

company of 122 attendees who benefited from a day-long permitting workshop, and a day and a half of presentations. During the Saturday luncheon, two state senators attended which appeared to bode well for the Association’s second legislative attempt to gain reduced regulatory burden. As you may be familiar on or about March 2nd the Washington Post reported on a leaked budget document focused on NOAA programs which included elimination of the



Paul Zajicek, Executive Director NAA, the center of attention during an informal gathering of WAA members. Photo: B. Robinson

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Sea Grant program, external research funding, and reduced funding for weather satellites. The NAA met with the leadership of the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association to discuss this development and potential responses and with Chris Hartleb, Professor at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and co-director of the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility. Sea Grant is a key partner and contributor of research funds to benefit Wisconsin aquaculture and other Great Lake states. As a result, Dr. Jim Hurley, Chair, Sea Grant Association, has provided background facts and figures to the NAA regarding the beneficial impact of Sea Grant programs”. There have also been more communications with Congress and some of the decision makers on this issue. Just because the President proposed to funding cut does not mean it will fly through Congress. Congress writes the budget! As you can see in the accompanying photo Paul actually gathered anyone he could find to share the budget cut suggestion. It was actually kind of cool to see Paul stand in the middle of a gathering of 10-15 famers and express to them that the NAA will do everything in its power to help them.

Dr. Chris Hartleb gave an informative talk comparing walleye and tilapia production and tied in plant growth and nutrient reduction. Some of the take home points follow:

Retail prices on Tilapia vary between \$2.00 and \$4.00/ pound

Retail prices for Walleye range from \$9.00 - \$16.00 per pound

Fillet yield on walleye is 40% or better. *Cont. on page 13*

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SPEAKERS

John Birr
DATCP Sec Ben Brancel
Deb Esselman
Barb Evans
Greg Fischer
Mike Foster
Dr. Chris Hartleb

Bill Keleher
Dani Klontz
Bill Kriese
Greg Trusso
Ann O'Leary
Bob Robinson
Bryan Sederberg

John Gozdziwski
Steve Stilowski
Senator Tom Tiffany
Dr. Osvaldo Villet
Bill West
Emma Wiermaa
Paul Zajicek

Our moderators and laptop monitors: Peter Fritsch, Terry Hogan, Dan Gruendemann, Dr. Chris Hartleb, Mike Foster, Dave Gollon, Tim Gollon, Tim Winkel, Ben Gollon, and LSSU students: Rachel Frey, Kacie Ferguson, Scott Cooper, Taylor Barnum, Karen Fischer

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The Liner King
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Poster Displays: Lake Superior State University & John Birr, SAE Aquaculture Grant Recipient

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Terry Hogan - our "auctioneer" and Roger Krogstad - our "runner"

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Bob Robinson - *Director of Sales & Marketing - Fisheries Biologist*

- Started at Kasco in 1999
- Over 30 years of industry experience, with expertise in water quality, aeration & aquaculture applications
- Worked for Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, State of Wisconsin, Aquatic Eco-Systems & Purina-Rangen Fish Feeds
- Holds Bachelor of Science degrees in water resource management - fisheries & biology from UW-Stevens Point



Joe Holz - *Outside & International Sales*

- Started at Kasco in 2002 as inside sales & customer service support
- Helps customers in a wide area of uses & unique applications including aeration needs in backyard ponds, intensive aquaculture, golf & irrigation applications, water treatment & processing, mining, & lake front property management
- Worked at Rushing Waters Fisheries in Palmyra, Wisconsin in fish rearing, fish health, culling, sorting & processing
- Holds Bachelor of Science degrees in environmental science & geography from Carroll University



Andy Gillis - *Outside Sales*

- Started at Kasco in 2005
- Currently the product manager for de-icers & circulators
- Previous owner of an aquatic supply business where he was the aquaculture consultant & helped customers with aeration projects in ponds, lakes & open water
- Attended University of Maryland & Johns Hopkins University



Ken Rust - *Outside Sales*

- Started at Kasco in 2009, but previously sold Kasco products for more than 20 years working in the industry
- Currently the product manager for Kasco's Robust-Aire diffused aeration system
- Helps customers design proper aeration layouts for ponds & lakes to improve & protect the health of their ponds
- Holds a Master of Science degree in Aquaculture & Fisheries from LSU



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	Walleye	Tilapia
Temp range	68-75	64-90
Dissolved oxygen	5.0-6.0	3.0-10.0
pH	6.0-9.0	7.0-8.0
Ammonia	.02 ppm	0 - .04 ppm

Other interesting parts of his presentation included Chris mentioning a student who had said they'd like to start a project. One year later the student had a bed and breakfast with the slogan "pick out your lettuce and it will be prepared when you get back later in the day." A retail survey suggested that taverns and bars serving food were interested in smaller fillets. When they added breeding to the fish prior to frying, it allowed for greater profit potential. White table cloth restaurants typically look for a filet that is larger and might start with at least 6 ounces. In some cases people who get into aquaponics get stuck on the fish more than the plants. But in all cases the



"The Line" at Taste of Wisconsin Aquaculture Cooking Demonstration. Photo: B. Robinson

plants are the primary crop. The fish are secondary and are part of the nutrient source to support plant growth. Many teaching disciplines can be incorporated into an aquaponics program within any school district. They include: math, marketing, budgeting, engineering, science, selling and biology.

Again, the Taste of Wisconsin Aquaculture Cooking and Tasting Demonstration led by Dani Klontz was a huge success. Dani is a cook and really knows how to engage the audience. The wide variety of cooking

preparations were well received by the hungry and enthusiastic crowd. I'm surprised that more associations don't do this type of event.

The general take away from this meeting is simply that Wisconsin could produce a heck of a lot more fish if they simply did not have as many regulations that restrict growth. This theme has basically been the same since I started attending these meetings 22 years ago. We can only hope that regulators get this message. The need and want is here in the state. If we are to reduce our trade deficit and dependence on other countries for fish, it must start with United States farmed raised fish.

AQUACULTURE CONVENTION FOCUSES ON THE FUTURE

*Jenessa Freidhof, Regional Editor, The County Today
March 22, 2017*

More than 100 members of the aquaculture industry along with numerous speakers and vendors gathered March 3-4 at the 22nd annual Wisconsin Aquaculture Association convention at Hotel Marshfield in Marshfield.

With the convention's 2017 theme of "Wisconsin Aquaculture: Moving Ahead to the Future," attendees participated in workshops ranging from aeration technology to choosing the right kind of nets. They also had the opportunity to learn about proposed legislation intended to help the industry have more equality with other agriculture industries.

Aquaculture in Wisconsin contributes more than \$21 million in economic activity in the state with Wisconsin ranking 20th in the nation for aquaculture products.

Bob Robinson discussed the importance of aeration for healthy fish populations.

"In an emergency, any type of aeration is better than nothing," Robinson said. "White water is good."

According to Robinson, keeping the water moving through formal aeration or through simple splashing can make a big difference in the oxygen levels in ponds.

Robinson also talked about preventing winterkill.

"Having 1 percent of pond surface area open will help prevent winterkill in your ponds," Robinson said.

Bryan Sederberg of Duluth Nets by H. Christiansen discussed ways for farmers to select the proper net for their set-up. He said it is important to consider pond and tank location, how the nets will be applied and what species you are intending to capture.

Members could then participate in an open discussion, led by Bill West, regarding grants and research that farmers see necessary in the aquaculture industry.

"I only write grants if I see an absolute need for research on my property," West said.

He said there are several facilities in Wisconsin that are doing research on aquaculture technologies, but it is important that people involved in the aquaculture industry work together to ensure the research is relevant to their needs.

"It is our job to find out what we need them to do research on," West said. "It is the technology behind the fish, not the type of fish, that is important."

Another topic discussed during the convention was current legislation circulating in Madison regarding the aquaculture industry.

The bill, which was authored by state Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Hazelhurst, aims to give Wisconsin aquaculture equality with other Wisconsin agricultural industries.

The bill was introduced during the last session, but was unable to get passed before time ran out. It was recently reintroduced during the new session, with several Wisconsin senators and representatives joining the cause, including Sen.

Patrick Testin, R-Stevens Point. *Continued on page 14*

Aquaculture Convention Focuses, continued from page 13

According to a letter released by WAA, nearly 1 million Wisconsin fisherman along with 300,000 tourists use Wisconsin lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. Wisconsin aquaculture is also a primary supplier of live bait for fishing, provides stock for game fish, and supplies locally grown fish for restaurants and grocery stores.

Under current law, aquaculture is inconsistently defined and regulated depending on the chapter of the statutes. In some cases, it is considered agriculture, while in others it is not. This affects the estimated 125 commercial fish farms in Wisconsin and 500 employees whose jobs depend on the aquaculture industry.

If passed, aquaculture regulations would shift to be under the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as opposed to under numerous organizations. (correction: Departments)

Testin said he is hopeful this legislation will bring new jobs and help provide farm fresh foods from the aquaculture industry. It will also help clarify the industry's regulations to be more consistent and predictable to help aquaculture continue to be successful in Wisconsin.

The conference continued with presentations by students who received grants through the Wisconsin FFA Foundation to start their own aquaculture projects. The grants typically are \$500 and can be used by a current high school FFA member to develop their aquaculture related Supervised Agricultural Experience. This year's recipients are John Birr from Oconto Falls High School and Alex Orr from Waupaca High School.

Birr said his project goals are to "contribute healthy foods to the school's lunch program, become part of the school's other agriculture classes and encourage others to look into aquaponics as a business opportunity."



UWSP-NADF Update

By Emma Wiermaa

Conferences in 2017...

Aquaculture America 2017 was held in February in San Antonio, Texas. Nearly 2,000 people attended the conference which included around 700 abstracts and presentations. The UWSP Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility was represented by Greg Fischer, Facility Operations Manager and Emma Wiermaa, Outreach and Education Specialist. Fischer was the co-chair of a walleye session and also presented on intensively rearing the hybrid walleye in water reuse systems. Wiermaa presented on the UW-Stevens Point workforce development program to advance the aquaculture and aquaponics industry in Wisconsin.

UW-Stevens Point was also well represented *continued*



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UWSP-NADF Update, continued



Fischer presents techniques of raising cold water species in various systems at WAA Conference.

at this year's Wisconsin's Aquaculture Conference. UWSP NADF Director, Chris Hartleb, presented on aquaponics including researching new prospective species for aquaponics; the walleye and hybrid walleye. Fischer presented on raising different cold water species in various systems in Wisconsin and Wiermaa presented on current outreach and training opportunities through UWSP NADF, including a Pond Culture Workshop available this summer. *Continued on page 15*

UWSP-NADF Update, continued from pg 14

Presentations and further information can be found on the webpage at aquaculture.uwsp.edu.

Fishing for the Future Aquaculture Bill...

UWSP NADF provided informational support for the Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry at a public legislative hearing in Madison on Thursday, March 9th regarding advancing sustainable aquaculture in Wisconsin and the Fishing for the Future Aquaculture Bill. The facility provided information regarding the importance of sustainable aquaculture in Wisconsin in terms of food safety and security, protection of wild populations, and economic development. It is the facility's mission to support the advancement and development of Wisconsin's aquaculture industry in a responsible, safe, sustainable manner through legislation, partnerships and educational programs.

Current Projects Highlighted

The USGS Partners with UWSP NADF to test the effects of fish treatments on cold water reuse systems

Untreated outbreaks of disease can decimate entire production units of fish and can endanger a whole production year. Therapeutic drugs are essential to ensure the health, productivity,



Cold water recirculating system at UWSP NADF used in determining the effect of formalin and hydrogen peroxide on biofilter efficiency.

and well-being of fish stocks reared in intensive culture. There are only a few FDA-approved drugs for U.S. aquaculture, and even less approved for sustainable recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS).

The USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center has funded and collaborated with UWSP NADF to determine the effects of both formalin and hydrogen peroxide on the efficiency of the biofilters in RAS for freshwater *continued* finfish. The objective of this project is to potentially create an FDA approved concentration for these treatments in RAS.



Lake trout and rainbow trout reared at commercial densities in cold water recirculation system for biofilter project at UWSP NADF.

Currently, rainbow trout and lake trout are being used for the project at UWSP NADF utilizing the facility's cold water recirculating system. The effects of formalin use in RAS was studied last year, while this year, the effect of hydrogen peroxide is currently being analyzed. At the end of the study, the rainbow trout will be donated as *continued on page 16* fillets to local residents and the Tribal Elderly Program. Last year over 500lbs of fillets were donated from the project.



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UWSP-NADF Update, continued from page 15

Atlantic Salmon Production in 2017

UWSP NADF has been partnering with several companies to help advance the sustainable production of Atlantic salmon in Wisconsin. Atlantics are showing to be a promising aquacul-



UWSP NADF and Superior Fresh staff stand alongside hauling tanks holding the first group of Atlantics that will be raised at Superior Fresh for food fish production.

ture species for Wisconsin due to egg availability, growth potential in freshwater, and marketability. Specifically, the Cascade strain of Atlantic salmon, currently being raised as a broodstock species at UWSP NADF, have shown amazing growth potential when raised in fresh water recirculating sys-



Atlantic salmon fingerlings are weighed by UWSP NADF Manager, Greg Fischer (left) and technician, Jared Neibauer (right) before being transferred to Superior Fresh, LLC. as part of a partnership to advance the company's sustainable salmon production. Others in the photo include UWSP NADF Technician Jim Miazga (far right), and Superior Fresh staff; Nick Zaccaria and Adam Olson (far left).

tems. This year, the broodstock will be spawned for the third consecutive year. This is a collaborative project with a Washington company, Riverence, LLC., who will be creating a new broodstock for the commercial supply of Atlantic salmon eggs for food fish production in the United States. Wisconsin will have the opportunity to purchase eggs as early as 2018.

Superior Fresh, LLC., located in Northfield, Wisconsin, has also partnered with UWSP NADF for technical assistance, demonstration and cold water species expertise to advance their facility and operations. Superior Fresh will be the largest cold water aquaponics facility in the world. They are

also the first indoor Atlantic salmon farm in the United States. UW-Stevens Point is also partnering to provide interns, technicians and further support staff. Currently, this partnership is helping to advance the company's sustainable production of Atlantic salmon reared in water recirculating aquaculture systems. As part of the partnership, a group of Atlantics have been reared at the UWSP NADF and recently transferred to Superior Fresh for continued rearing. These are the first fish that the company will be producing for Wisconsin's markets.



UWSP NADF Technician Jim Miazga, holds up a 5 year old Cascade strain Atlantic salmon as part of the facility's broodstock project.

Wisconsin Aquaculture 2017 Needs Survey

By Bill West, Blue Iris Fish Farm

During the recent WAA conference, there was an aquaculture needs survey conducted. The participants were asked to rank a series of options which are most important to aquaculture as it pertains to their business. The survey included options for indoor/outdoor culture, multiple species, coldwater/coolwater/warmwater culture options etc. Because the survey was just completed, we have not been able to look at everything that is taking place here but listed below are the results:

Beginners (no experience)

Access to affordable capital

Transfer of research information to industry

Understanding regulations

cont on page 17

2017 Needs Survey, continued from page 16

Effective education/extension programs
Better feeds for my species

Growers with between 1 and 5 years' experience

Lack of hands on training for beginning aquaculture entrepreneurs
Lack of training/meetings among intermediate growers
Understanding of regulations
Effective education/extension programs
Lower costs of feeds

Growers with between 5 and 10 years of experience (on two submittals)

Availability of fingerlings
Understanding regulations
Transfer of research information to industry
Cost of fingerlings
Lack of processing facilities

Growers with greater than 10 years' experience

Understanding of regulations
Better feeds for my species
Lack of information, resources or locating sources of information

Lack of hands on training for beginning aquaculture entrepreneurs
Availability of fingerlings

As can be seen by the responses, the priorities vary appreciably from the beginning farmer to those with considerable amount of experience. The beginning farmer wanted access to affordable capital where this was not important to established farmers. Those who had some experience all had some problem with regulations but also were interested in getting better feeds and also looking for a supply of fingerlings. There was an overwhelming response from all categories that we need to have better access to good information. It did not seem to matter where the information came from WAA, NCRAC, research institutions wherever. The bottom line, there is a perception that the transfer of information from generator to recipient is not happening. Therefore, we have got to do a better job at providing information or at least providing a list of information sources.

To that end, I would suggest that the WAA become more involved in identifying locations for information and providing opportunities for training. In the next few months we will start looking into such opportunities and post various training sessions on our website if not also in the Creel. In the interim, it is suggested that you *continued on page 18*

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take an opportunity to peruse the websites of Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (NADF) and University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (aquaponics), Freshwater Institute in Milwaukee and NCRAC.org for sources of information relating to a variety of aquaculture activities.

Record number of extended growth walleye stocked in 2016 with more to come in 2017

Fish from initial year of Wisconsin Walleye Initiative reaching harvest size this year

MADISON -- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources stocked a record number of extended growth walleye fingerlings in key Wisconsin waters in 2016, even as fish from the initial year of the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative are expected

to begin reaching harvest size this year.

In all, 797,815 of the 6- to 8-inch extended growth walleye were stocked in 150 Wisconsin waterbodies in 2016, up from the 760,969 fish stocked in 133 waters in 2015, said Dave Giebtbrock, DNR fisheries culture section chief. Gov. Scott Walker's proposed 2017-2019 biennial budget continues funding the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative at current levels for both years.

"We appreciate the vote of confidence in our program and the continued support for this important effort to restore and sustain Wisconsin as a premier walleye destination," Giebtbrock said. "This year, anglers can look forward to catching some of the 455,307 large fingerlings we stocked in 2013 with harvest opportunities increasing as more fish reach legal size in the years ahead."

In addition to the fish stocked during the first year of the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative in 2013, extended growth walleye stocking totaled 719,670 fish in 2014. Prior to the launch of the initiative, in 2012 the department stocked 142,121 extended growth walleye.

Through the years, the number of lakes that are stocked with the larger fish has varied depending on the size of the waters and number of fish available. Lakes are stocked on a rotating basis and some lakes require a larger number of fish to reach the standard rate of 10 fish per acre needed to support a good recreational fishery. For example, Lake Mendota received 98,077 fish in 2016, none in 2015 and 97,751 in 2014.

Walleye are a favorite quarry for Wisconsin anglers and boost the economy by driving expenditures for lodging, dining, retail purchases, guided trips and tournament participation among other things. Wisconsin remains one of the top three fishing destinations in the U.S. with resident and non-resident anglers generating an economic impact of nearly \$2.3 billion per year, according to the American *continued*

Sportfishing Association.

Giebtbrock said the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative fosters growth in the aquaculture industry, with ,000 fish coming from private and tribal hatcheries in 2016. The contributions from private hatcheries continue to climb, with some 239,000 in 2015 and 213,000 in 2014.

Justine Hasz, DNR fisheries bureau director, said support from the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative also has meant critical infrastructure improvements for the state hatchery system including a \$4.6 million investment at the Art Oehmcke Hatchery in Woodruff; a \$2.5 million investment at the Gov. Tommy G. Thompson State Fish Hatchery in Spooner and a \$1.1 million investment at the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery in Wild Rose.

"Modernization of these facilities contributes to the efficiency of our stocking program with enhanced fish health and better outcomes for anglers," Hasz said. "The improved facilities are functioning well and helping us get these young fish off to the best possible start so that anglers can enjoy great walleye fishing for years to come."

The Wisconsin Walleye Initiative is part of DNR's overall management strategy to help restore naturally reproducing populations in lakes that formerly supported native populations and improve walleye numbers in lakes that need regular stocking to maintain good fisheries.

While stocking the larger, extended growth fingerlings makes sense in some lakes, DNR also stocks approximately 1.4 million small fingerlings each year. DNR fisheries biologists develop stocking plans for the different sized fish based on specific lake conditions; in some lakes the smaller fingerlings perform very well and are more cost effective than the larger fish.

To learn more, visit the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, and search "[Wisconsin Walleye Initiative](#)."

Contact(s): Dave Giebtbrock, DNR fisheries culture section chief, David.Giebtbrock@Wisconsin.gov, 608-266-8229; Jennifer Sereno, DNR communications, Jenifer.Sereno@wisconsin.gov, 608-770-8084

Leonardo DiCaprio wants people to eat more farmed fish

Americans aren't big on seafood. Worldwide, the average person eats about 44 pounds of fish and shellfish a year. A typical American eats roughly a third of that amount.

That's a problem—both for our health and for the environment. High in nutrients and low in fat, fish are an excellent source of protein. They're also more sustainable for the environment than livestock. And so a burgeoning movement is underway to persuade Americans to stop turning up their noses at food with fins. Now the cause just got *cont on page 19*

Leonardo DiCaprio, continued from page 18

its highest-profile proponent: movie star, environmentalist and noted shark-attack-survivor Leonardo DiCaprio. DiCaprio just announced that he's investing in LoveTheWild, a US-based company that is repopulating grocery store freezer aisles across America with frozen, oven-ready seafood. We're not talking fish sticks here. LoveTheWild's selections involve a spectrum of intriguing sauces paired with flash-frozen fish (barramundi in mango sriracha chutney, for example, or catfish with cajun crème). Each takes about 20 minutes in the oven before they're ready. But the really remarkable thing here—and LoveTheWild's boldest innovation—is the fish itself. One hundred percent of Love The Wild's selection is aquaculture—meaning, it's farmed. This is a big deal because, however little Americans like to eat fish, they tend to be even leery of seafood that's farmed. But because we've basically hit ceiling on the global supply of wild-caught fish that can be harvested sustainably, the volume of those catches hasn't really budged since the mid-1990s. If Americans are going to eat more fish, aquaculture will have to move in to fill the gaps.

[Full Story at QZ.com](#)

White House proposes steep budget cut to leading climate science agency

By Steven Mufson, Jason Samenow and Brady Dennis March 3, 2017

(excerpts)

The (White House) is seeking to slash the budget of one of the government's premier climate science agencies by 17 percent, delivering steep cuts to research funding and satellite programs, according to a four-page budget memo obtained by The Washington Post.

The proposed cuts to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would also eliminate funding for a variety of smaller programs, including external research, coastal management, estuary reserves and "coastal resilience," which seeks to bolster the ability of coastal areas to withstand major storms and rising seas.

NOAA is part of the Commerce Department, which would be hit by an overall 18 percent budget reduction from its current funding level.

The OMB outline for the Commerce Department for fiscal 2018 proposed sharp reductions in specific areas within NOAA such as spending on education, grants and research. NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research would lose \$126 million, or 26 percent, of the funds it has under the current budget. Its satellite data division would lose \$513 million, or 22 percent, of its current *continued*

White House Proposes, continued

funding under the proposal.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and National Weather Service would be fortunate by comparison, facing only 5 percent cuts.

The figures are part of the OMB's "passback" document, a key part of the annual budget process in which the White House instructs agencies to draw up detailed budgets for submission to Congress. The numbers often change during the course of negotiations between the agency and the White House and between lawmakers and the administration later on. The 2018 fiscal year starts Oct. 1.

Another proposed cut would **eliminate a \$73 million program called Sea Grant**, which supports coastal research conducted through 33 university programs across the country. **That includes institutions** in many swing states that went for President Trump, such as **the University of Wisconsin at Madison, the University of Michigan, Ohio State University, the University of Florida and North Carolina State University.**

[Full article in Washington Post](#)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/03/white-house-proposes-steep-budget-cut-to-leading-climate-science-agency/?utm_term=.28987e4d267e

Aquaculture obstacles, roadmap to growth detailed in new book by George S. Lockwood

By Aaron Orłowski

Published on Thursday, March 09, 2017

Regulations and a negative public image hold back aquaculture in the U.S. even though it's needed now more than ever, argues aquaculture pioneer George S. Lockwood in a new book published in February.

A former president of the World Aquaculture Society, Lockwood worked in aquaculture for 45 years. He launched Monterey Abalone Farms in 1972 and eventually farmed abalone, salmon, sea urchin and oysters in Hawaii using a technique that pumped water from the deep ocean into on-shore tanks and ponds.

The new book, "Aquaculture: Will it rise to its potential to feed the world?" stems from Lockwood's experience as an aquaculture entrepreneur and scientist.

Aquaculture is the likely world's fastest-growing food production industry, surpassing the amount of fish captured from the sea in 2014. When done properly, it can have a lower environmental impact than fishing for wild seafood and farming on land. More of is needed to feed a growing global population,

New Book, continued from page 19

Lockwood argues.

In the U.S., aquaculture is constrained by government regulations that make establishing new aquaculture operations difficult, Lockwood writes. Additionally, aquaculture opponents have planted a negative image in the public's eye, which influences regulators, consumers and investors, who then withhold capital.

“Do they really mean to discourage consumption of the healthiest foods available with high levels of omega-3 fatty acids that are produced in the most environmentally sustainable manner?” Lockwood asks.

<http://www.seafoodsource.com/news/aquaculture/aquaculture-obstacles-roadmap-to-growth-detailed-in-new-book-by-george-s-lockwood>. The book is available on Amazon

Insect-based aquafeed firm to expand in USD 10 million deal

By Cliff White, Monday, February 27, 2017

Nutrition company AgriProtein has announced plans to build up to 200 factories globally to scale up production of its patented insect protein for animal feeds.

Founded in 2008, South Africa-based AgriProtein uses food waste to cultivate colonies of flies. It then uses the larvae of the flies to create MagMeal, which is marketed for fish aquaculture, and other products with agricultural uses.

Its new deal with Austrian firm Christof Industries will create up to 25 fly farms annually, with 100 planned by 2024 and a further 100 scheduled to be built by 2027.

“The USD 10 million (EUR 9.4 million) partnership will help bring insect protein into the mainstream of feeds used in aquaculture, poultry farming and pet food,” AgriProtein said in a press release.

The new fly farms will be built in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas, according to the company. Each factory will house approximately 8.5 billion black soldier flies, will take in up to 250 tons of organic waste daily and will produce nearly 5,000 tons of MagMeal, as well as and 2,000 tonnes of MagOil – an omega-rich oil for use in feeds – per year. [http://](http://www.seafoodsource.com/news/aquaculture/insect-based-aquafeed-firm-to-expand-in-usd-10-million-deal)

www.seafoodsource.com/news/aquaculture/insect-based-aquafeed-firm-to-expand-in-usd-10-million-deal

THE COOK'S CORNER

Taken from cafedelites.com

Honey Garlic Butter Salmon In Foil

2 1/2# salmon

1/4 cp. butter

4 cloves of garlic, crushed

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1/3 cp. honey

Salt and pepper to taste

2 Tbl. chopped parsley

Preheat oven to 375.


Line baking sheet with foil, enough to wrap salmon in.

Melt butter in sauce pan, add garlic, lemon and honey and whisk until well blended. Place salmon on foil, brush with butter mixture, season with salt and pepper. Fold foil over salmon and seal so butter mixture doesn't leak out.

Bake 15-18 minutes.

Carefully open up foil, then broil for 2-3 minutes on medium to caramelize the honey.

Garnish with parsley and serve



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DRAFT MINUTES

WAA Annual Membership Meeting 6pm, Thursday, March 2, 2017 Hotel Marshfield, 2700 S. Central Ave. Marshfield, WI

Peter Fritsch called the meeting to order at 6:08pm

Members present: Tim Gollon, Tim Winkel, Jim Held, David Gollon, Terry Hogan, Darrick Magee, Ben Sasse, Kayla Sasse, Ed Baum, Doug Fuller, Bob Robinson, Dave Reto, Mike Foster, Bill West, Spence Driver, Dan Gruendemann, Benjamin Gollon, Peter Fritsch, Melanie Berg, Tom Berg.

Staff: Kathy Foster, Cindy Johnson

Others Present: Mary Magdanz, Paul Zajieck, Ron Johnson, Erica Gruendemann, Mike Hahn

Overview of the year

Peter said Mike Hahn will give a review on the Aquaculture legislation. This bill has been the main focus of the association.

Today's workshop was a good one with DATCP and DNR. One thing it brought out was that there were different interpretations of the rules in different parts of the state.

End of Year Financial Report

Kathy Foster reported we had \$2,618.60 in our accounts at the end of the year. Our general expenses were:

Aquaculture Day - \$600

CREEL \$2092

2016 Conference brought in \$21,488

2016 Conference expenses were \$18,349

Administrative expenses were \$7,200

Retail Sales were \$572

Our checking account is now at \$30,539.40 and savings is at \$1,100

Since January donations to the Aquaculture legislative have totaled \$11,400

Fishing for Our Future Update

Mike Hahn went over his handout he the Aquaculture legislation. He has been working for the last 1 ½ years on this legislation to help ease the burden on Wisconsin aquaculture. This will help Wisconsin to see growth the rest of the country is experiencing. The money that WAA has spent has gone to the time invested in helping legislators understand the industry. Last year we got to the last day of the legislative session and the bill was pulled. It was a good effort and reflected that, in that we got as far as we did in such a short time.

This time we have reworked the wording and communicated with DNR and some of the conservations groups. The bill is officially called "Fishing for Our Future" Act.

Some points Mike covered were:

Walleye Initiative has expired. The bill will codify this initiative (the legislature has allocated money for fish purchases by the DNR). If a fish farm produces more eggs than needed, these extra offspring are not required to go back to the waters of the state.

Aquaculture is to be treated as agriculture, but we can't get all of the exemptions that agriculture has. Having all of the exemptions was what was of concern to some of the legislators. The main point is that maintenance and repair will be allowed. Aquaculture can't get an exemption from practical alternate analysis – for example, like the cranberry growers who are dependent on wetlands - aquaculture farms do not have to be located in a wetland. There will be exemptions for farm activities that are defined as normal activities. This bill acknowledges that wetlands are a byproduct of building a pond. If it was a previously delineated wetland, then you would need to get a permit to do maintenance.

Every place that agriculture is defined in the statutes, also includes aquaculture being defined as agriculture.

There will be a general permit for aquaculture for minor wetlands impact.

Federal - the DNR must rely on the same guidance documents that would be used by EPA – the DNR cannot be more stringent.

There will be a senate committee hearing on March 9 and it will go to the Senate floor for a vote in early April.

For more details, see the article starting on page 1 of this CREEL

Nominations & Voting for 2 Open Directors Positions

4 people were nominated for the open director positions: Dave Gollon, Bill West, Jim Augustyn and Melanie Berg. As Melanie Berg was not a WAA member there was discussion on eligibility and she agreed to pay business level membership dues to be able to run for office. Ballots were tallied resulting in Dave Gollon and Melanie Berg being voted in as directors.

Any New or Old Business

Our contract with George Klaetsch, our lobbyist, will run \$3,000/month for the next 2 months, Axley's bill will run approximately \$1,000/month. We have a tab that has been running since August 2016. Between this and our conference expenses, we will use up our current cash. Dave Gollon asked for every WAA member to donate to the legislative effort to get the Fishing for Our Future Act passed - even if it is just \$20. Every WAA member will benefit from this bill. Peter Fritsch, who is a member of *continued on page 22*

2017 Calendar of Events

July 15 Aquaculture Day

Minutes, continued from page 21

United State Trout Farmers, said that USTF cannot donate money, but they can loan us money, so it is there if we need it.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Johnson,
Secretary, WAA

WAA Spring Board Meeting Thursday, March 2, 2017 Hotel Marshfield 2700 S. Central Ave., Marshfield, WI

Dan Gruendemann opened the meeting at 8:10pm

Present: Peter Fritsch, Terry Hogan, Dan Gruendemann, Mike Foster, Tim Gollon, Tim Winkel, Dave Gollon, Ben Gollon, Melanie Berg

Staff: Kathy Foster Cindy Johnson

Minutes from 12/1/16

Peter made the motion to approve, 2nd by Ben,

Treasurer Report

Peter made the motion to approve, 2nd by Ben. It was reiterated again that we will probably spend all that we have on the Fishing for Our Future Act.

Board members introduced themselves

Guests:

Bret Shaw, is an Environmental Communication Specialist for University of Wisconsin-Extension and an associate professor in the Department of Life Sciences Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since he talked to most of the members at the WAIAC meeting, he just briefly recapped the grant that he has applied for to promote local food. He has been talking with farmers getting a feel for what their needs are and sees that one of the biggest hindrances is regulations. He would like for the board to give him feedback on his grant proposal.

Other Old Business

Secretary position. It was decided to divide the position up between board members and for Cindy to make a job manual to help the board with the responsibilities.

New Business

There was a discussion of pursuing sturgeon propagation. It was noted that something will need to change statutorily for this to happen. Dave Gollon made the motion that WAA support Mike Foster in the pursuit of private propagation of sturgeon. Action and discussion on this will be *continued*

WAA STORE

Books

Managing Wisconsin Fish Ponds - \$15

Best Management Practices for Aquaculture by Malison & Hartleb - \$40 for WAA Members, \$45 non WAA Members

NCRAC Sunfish Culture Manual - \$20

Fish Hatchery Management, 2nd Edition - \$60

DVD's

UW -Spawning of Yellow Perch, dvd - \$10

Other

"Fish of Wisconsin" poster - \$12ea.

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Baseball Cap - faded denim w/ WAA logo - \$12

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tabled until after the Fishing for Our Future Act passes. 2nd by Melanie Berg.

New Officers

Dave made the motion for Peter to remain President, 2nd by Terry; Dave made the motion for Terry to remain Vice President, 2nd by Tim W.; Terry made the motion that Dan remains Chairmen, 2nd by Tim W.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Johnson
Secretary, WAA

**WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.
2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

WAA membership levels & benefits. All memberships run from Jan - Dec

Associate - \$35 Receive 4 issues of The Creel, name & address listed on members search, inclusion on member only list serv for vital information, use of portable display to promote Wisconsin Aquaculture, discounts on conference and selected workshop registrations, annual members' picnic, participation in annual Wisconsin Aquaculture Day, annual membership meeting.

Business/Active - \$75 Benefits of Associate level, **PLUS:** Business level members can vote at the annual membership meeting, are eligible to serve on the WAA or WAIAC boards, and only these members are listed on our online directory by processing, produce type, sales and fish species - this is an asset if you are a commercial business as consumers and other farmers utilize this directory when searching for producers and suppliers.

Group - \$100 1 business membership and up to 4 associate members - farm employees, vendor employees, agencies, university, etc.

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For Renewals: Check here if your name, address, phone, or email has changed

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Business Name _____

Address- Mailing _____

Physical _____

City, State Zip Code _____

Phone: Home (will not be on website) _____

Business (on website) _____

Website _____

Email _____

Put me on WAA list serv (keep up to date with association and industry news) Yes (need email address) No

Type of Membership: Renewal New

Business/Active(\$75/year voting) _____
Associate (\$35/year non-voting) _____
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Donation to help with Aquaculture Legislation _____

TOTAL enclosed _____

For Group level includes 1 business member & up to 4 associates - list members name (designate business member)

If you have a Business membership please include: types of processing (ex. fillet, whole, smoked, etc.), producer types (ex. food, stocking, bait, etc.), fish species, sales types (ex. adult, fingerling, fry, egg, etc.)

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