

WAA - The CREEL

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WAA 2008 CONFERENCE - MARCH 14 & 15

WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE: MEETING GLOBAL CHALLENGES - LOCALLY

OUR 13TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE



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After a year hiatus, the WAA conference is back in full swing with it's 13th annual conference.

This past year has brought many changes and challenges—most notably the discovery of VHS in the state. On a global perspective, there has been the food safety questions with imports, which is helping to place more value on home grown, locally produced food. These issues have turned attention to protecting our farms and livelihood from diseases and focusing on more efficient, economical and safe fish production.

With these concerns in mind, we have selective a variety of topics and speakers that will appeal to many different farmers - from the established farmers to those just starting; from perch and wall-eye to shrimp; energy programs and resources; and updates on fish health, VHS and the new rules. Additionally, we have added a focused pre-conference trout workshop and an extended bluegill session. On Thursday, a focused trout workshop will be held from 1-3 pm. This workshop will explore the current state of the industry, shortfalls in market demand, VHS risks, production costs, quality control, market branding, fallow trout waters, recreation stocking, fee-fishing and aqua-tourism. On Saturday NCRAC is sponsoring an extended session on bluegill with 3 presenters. This workshop will be the first of a series that NCRAC is sponsoring throughout the north central region this year.

Our usual activities are on the agenda: Friday's luncheon is sponsored by Roundy's Supermarkets and will feature trout from Rushing Waters, with Bill Bonzheim, Roundy's Director of Seafood being the keynote speaker. As in the past, Dani Klontz will be giving her always popular "Fish Cooking Tips and Demonstration", followed by our reception and social gathering. A silent auction at the vendor tables will be conducted during the two-day conference. The top bidder for the silent auction will be announce at Saturday's lunch.

As you look over the schedule you will notice 2 new additions - the "Wisconsin School Poster Contest" (see related article on page 12) and a raffle. While the silent auction has focused on mostly vendor donations, the raffle will allow members, attendees and others interested in promoting Wisconsin aquaculture the opportunity to donate items. Proceeds from the auction *Cont on page 12*

MARCH 2008

The CREEL

Volume 41 * * * Number 1

WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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The CREEL is published quarterly, March, June, September and December; serious and/or good humor letters and other submissions received by the first week of the preceding month WILL be printed. 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.

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March 14 & 15

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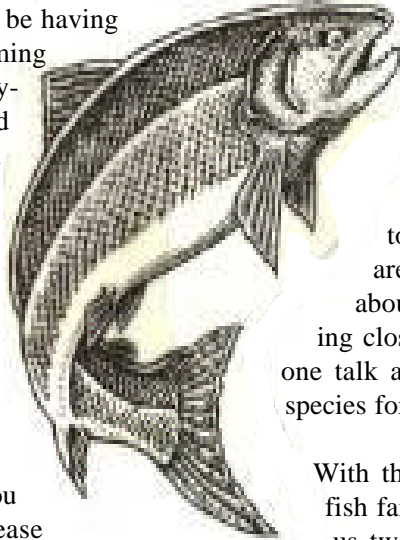
Submit photo-ready ad copy and payment to the Secretary/ Editor by the 1st of February, May, August, or November, for inclusion in the upcoming issue.

Rates per issue are as follows:

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

President's Message

About this time last year we were just first wondering how soon we would be impacted by viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS). Well it certainly did not take us long to answer that question. We have seen quite a bit of rule making by both the WDNR and WDATCP regarding VHS. Just the other day I was wondering, now that we have a lot of rules, just how does it affect registered fish farms? Well, we will be having a lot of information to distribute at the upcoming conference but here is something that everyone should be clear on. If you own a pond and it is not registered with WDATCP, all activities in and around the pond must be done in accordance with the new rules of the WDNR for public waters. That is, you cannot take live fish from the water offsite, you cannot move water offsite, the same rules for using and disposing of minnows used on public waters apply to your ponds etc. If you are a registered fish farm, you must abide by the rules of WDATCP regarding VHS as well as rules for stocking if you intend to stock in public waters. Please, please visit both WDATCP and WDNR websites for updates on these rules.



One thing all this attention to VHS did was to focus our attention on the importance of individual farm biosecurity. Biosecurity was the most important point driven home last February (before the VHS outbreaks) while I was attending the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center Conference. Little did I know that biosecurity would become a household

word so soon in Wisconsin.

VHS did distract us from the business of raising fish. For sure VHS will certainly change our approach to fish farming, and, who knows we have yet to see the potential impacts.

But I think this year we have some exciting things to talk about at the conference. We are going to have a trout grower's workshop on Thursday (pre-conference workshop prior to the conference). Seems there are a few trout growers who never have enough trout and wish to encourage growers to increase production. We are also starting to get very encouraging results about raising perch indoors. We will also start looking closer at the potential of bluegill and, we will have one talk about the potential for shrimp as an alternative species for Wisconsin culture.

With the pre-conference workshop, there will be more fish farmers in attendance on Thursday. This will give us two nights to meet and plan this year's strategies instead of just Friday night. There will be more opportunity for late night round table discussions than which can be obtained during the day sessions. Do not overlook the opportunity to come early and talk fish.

See you at the conference.

Bill

Wisc. aquaculture assn— committees

WAA Committees report directly to the Board of Directors and are essential in performing the groundwork in achieving association goals. Members wishing to contribute or having a problem are encouraged to deliver their input through committees. The committees are the mechanism for members to address issues; new committees will be created as needs are identified. When in doubt, contact with any officer or board member (see p.2) will work.

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Nominating:

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Chair: Jim Pierce; Members: Bill West, Dave Gollon

Finance:

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Baitfish:

Chair: Ben Gollon; Members: Dave Gollon, Fritz Gollon, Bill West

Perch/Sunfish:

Chair: Dan Gruendemann; Members: Bill West, Brad Tork, Mike Heilman

Fish Health:

Chair: Dave Gollon; Members: Dan Gruendemann, Bill West, Mike Heilman, Dr. Myron Kebus
Ruby Kettula, Jeff Taylor

Marketing & Sales:

Chair: Jim Pierce; Members: Bill West, Brad Tork, Jeff Taylor, Ron Johnson

Dave Gollon - Gollon Fish & Bait From The Chairman's Desk

As I contemplate what I am about to write I can't help think about this industry. Its past, its present and its future. I think about the friends I've discovered through this organization, the business relationships that have developed, and even some of the disagreements that have occurred.

I hear some of the discussions about the big guys vs. the little guys, stocking vs. food fish, and bait vs. trout. These discussions are short sighted, introverted and frankly do the industry more harm than good. Remember all of the big guys started out as little guys and most of us are involved in more than one aspect of farming, raising food fish and stocking, bait and stocking. Some are doing all of it. Just at different levels. We are a very diverse group of mostly very good people.

The issue that amazes me and frustrates me the most is the complacency that has developed within this industry. Recently both DATCP and DNR have implemented new rules that have a direct impact on all of us. The impact not only affects how we do business but the rules have a huge financial impact on us immediately. They also pose a greater financial burden on us in the future, an impact on some of us that may even force some of us out of business.

The future in this industry for some of us is very promising and for others it's coming to an end. Why am I saying this? It's very simple; most of us wait around for someone else to do something, preferable on our behalf. This way I believe we can blame someone else for our misfortunes or our own inadequacies.

I hear excuses like I don't have the time, I don't have the money, what for, and no one listens or cares what I have to say. Every one of those sorts of excuses is BS. We all have five minutes to write a letter or send an email. All of us can afford a stamp and we have to say something in order to be heard.

At the new rule package hearings (both DNR and DATCP) there were less than five fish farmers that attended or sent in comments to either agency regarding the rules. We as an industry should be embarrassed at that low turn out. We have become part of the problem and no part of the solution.

Currently there is not a single part of this industry that I know of that has surplus fish. That proves that the markets are there and opportunities available for fish farmers.

Unless we get involved and participate we all face a rough future. So we must take responsibility for our own actions or inactions. Quit blaming the regulators or the rules and get involved, stand up and be heard. Offer alternatives and solutions. Otherwise my advice is to call a realtor and cut your losses. Harsh but true.

**Just starting up?
Want to know what programs are available
for your farm?**

Thinking about a co-op?

**ATTEND WAA'S
ANNUAL CONFERENCE!**

Tips & Insights By Greg Fischer, NADF Facility Manager

As spring approaches many coolwater and warmwater fish facilities will be preparing for egg collection and incubation. A common problem with incubating eggs is fungus or Saprolegnia infections. These infections are usually identified to the eye as a white cottony growth. As with all fish health issues, your first step should be to provide hatchery conditions as favorable as possible to the incubating eggs. This includes sufficient oxygen, correct temperature, appropriate pH, and removal of dead eggs. If fungus is evident or continues to present an issue, a known hatchery method for chemically treating fungus (Saprolegnia) infections is formalin at 1667 ppm for 15 minutes. Some common trade names of approved for fish use formalin are Paracide-F (Argent Chemicals - 800.426.6258) and Parasite-S (Western Chemical - 800.283.5292).

A note of caution with using any of the above formalins. Store at recommended temperatures of 59°F and do not expose to direct sunlight. Do not allow to freeze and avoid prolonged storage. Cold and freezing cause formation of paraformaldehyde, which is toxic to fish. Paraformaldehyde can be recognized as a white precipitate in the container. When in doubt, throw it out. Also, remember to order sufficient formalin in the warmer months as it cannot be shipped to us in the cold months.



Kendall Holmes, Advanced NADF Technician placing a common chicken waterer modified for a 15 minute formalin drip treatment on lake herring eggs in a Bell Jar Incubation system.

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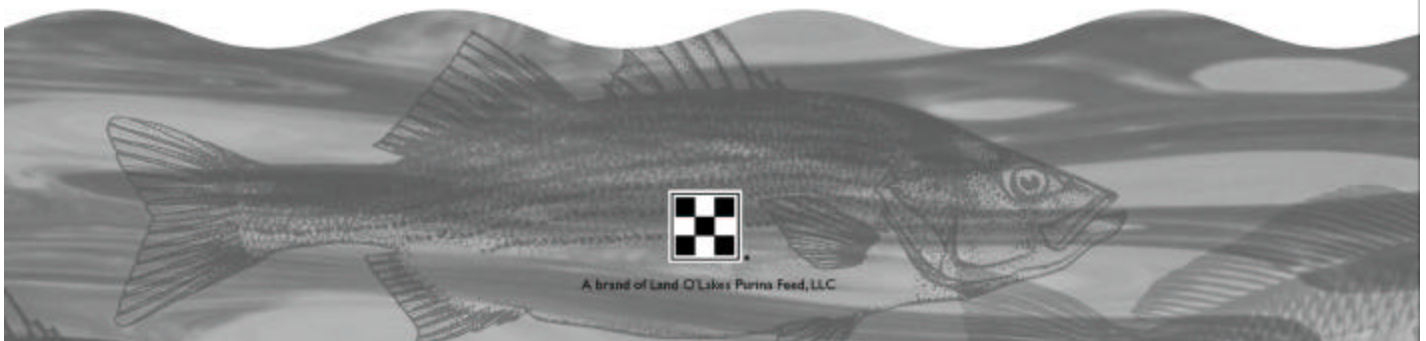


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ORGANIC AQUACULTURE STANDARDS SHOULDN'T BE FISHY

BY URVASHI RANGAN

REPRINT

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www.foodtraceabilityreport.com"

Developing standards for USDA-certified organic aquaculture is proving to be a fishy business (see FTR December, Page 14). Not all fish farms are created equal and can vary significantly in terms of pollution, escapes, and what the fish eat. Some aquaculture systems are more easily adapted to organic production than others. Systems that are completely contained—where waste can easily be recovered, where rations are vegetarian and feed contamination is easily controlled—are the most adaptable to “organic” production.

Other systems, such as those for salmon, are not contained but are “open.” Pollution, infectious disease and fish escapes into the wild are not easily controlled or monitored in a standardized way. To complicate matters further, many of these ‘open’ farmed fish need to eat wild-fish meal, which raises questions of sustainability, contamination with mercury, pesticides and PCBs, and an unfortunate exception to the current requirement that all organic animals eat a 100% organic diet.

While herbivorous seafood such as shrimp, tilapia and catfish can be raised in closed systems and meet consumer expectations as well as organic principles of production, carnivorous fish raised in open net pen systems cannot. Consumers Union, along with more than 40 other environmental and consumer advocacy groups, be-

lieves that products meeting the tenets of organic production should be rewarded with organic eligibility. Where those principles can't be met, products shouldn't qualify for the coveted organic label.

Some in the fishing industry want all farm raised fish to be eligible for organic certification, arguing that limiting the scope of organic aquaculture will create a market barrier. They argue that lowering organic feed and pollution standards will create an incentive for producers to improve their practices over time. Without a lower standard, the organic aquaculture market won't succeed, they contend.

However, those arguments should be treated with a great deal of caution. The organic market began quite small and selective, and it was based on strong organic principles. Only products that met high standards were rewarded with USDA's organic label, which could legitimately carry a premium price for adding measurable value over conventional production. Now organic products have become one of the fastest growing sectors of the food industry. In 2001 a similar attempt to weaken organic standards backfired. Fieldale Farms, a chicken producer, tried to gut the organic standards to allow less than 100% organic feed for livestock. That move was vociferously countered by several groups, including consumer advocates, farmers, the Organic Trade Association, and eventually even the U.S. Agriculture Secretary. They all agreed that anything less than 100% organic feed fell short of what organic means and what consumers expect. Thanks to congressional intervention, that loophole was overturned. We should not make the same mistake again.

We also know that consumers are pretty smart. According to a Consumer Reports food labeling poll conducted last July, some 74% of consumers are concerned about environmental pollution from “organic” fish. The poll also showed that 91% of consumers want contaminants in fish to be absent or present only at very low levels. And consumers vote with their dollars for the products that are most valuable to them.

USDA's National Organic Program is a marketing program designed to provide guarantees that producers have addressed consumers' environmental and health concerns. To weaken the standards to allow more products to enter the market is a dangerous strategy that will backfire and weaken the integrity of the entire “organic” label. Consumers want to buy high quality products and not so-called “organic” seafood that has been sold down the river.

Urvashi Rangan, PhD., is a senior scientist and policy analyst at Consumers Union in Yonkers N.Y.

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The following is a response to U. Rangan's article

Let's not avoid tough aquaculture issues - By Jim Pierce

USDA needs to follow the lead of European organic certification bodies in developing organic aquaculture standards with goal-based regulations, including standards for open water production and fish-eating species. Everybody — consumers, farmers and Mother Earth herself — will be better served by not ignoring these tough issues (see FTR January, Page 18).

We must think outside the barnyard. Certainly organic standards for tank or pond systems, and for species such as tilapia, shrimp and catfish, will be relatively easy to develop. But there is also benefit in developing organic standards for more challenging systems such as net pens, and for carnivorous species such as trout, *cont pg 8*

RICK NELSON RETIRES

AFTER OVER 20 YEARS AT LA CROSSE FISH HEALTH CENTER, HE LOOKS FORWARD TO WEST COAST LIVING AND FISHING

Rick Nelson, Project Leader at La Crosse National Fish Hatchery, retired in early January. He has spent over 33 years in fish health at facilities from the west coast to the east coast and in between. Rick is a Brooklyn native, but traveled the country attending schools in New Jersey, California (B.S. Fisheries, Humboldt University), and West Virginia. Since Jacques Cousteau wasn't hiring when he graduated [sic], he became a California state park ranger, and then worked in Alaska for 5 years as a diver before focusing on fish health. When he started at La Crosse, he brought with him experience from Coleman National Fish Hatchery, CA; Dworshak NFH, ID; and White River NFH, VT. His fisheries expertise covers both Pacific and Atlantic salmon, steelhead, lake trout, coaster brook trout, and warm water fish and contributed to the 48+ classes he has taught and his contribution to "Introduction to Fish Health" which is in use by colleges and universities for their aquaculture programs.

His enjoyment of meeting other fisheries people and sharing his knowledge led to the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association honoring him with their Education Award.

After moving over 52 times in his life, he is looking forward to his upcoming move to Oregon where he and his wife, an Oregon native, will join their 3 children and grandson. His "work" plans include doing a lot of fishing, particularly fly fishing, travel and maybe some consulting.

WAA thanks Rick for his contributions to Wisconsin aquaculture and wishes him good fishing.

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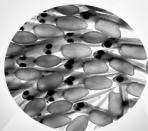
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**Tough aquaculture issues -
cont from page 6**

salmon and mollusks. Just as with organic terrestrial livestock production, not all producers, species and geographic regions can adapt to organic standards. If we create strict, goal based standards, many will.

Unquestionably the aquaculture industry deserves to be chided for the actions of a few bad apples. Consumers Union and other groups have done laudable work in exposing environmentally damaging operations that offer products of questionable quality and safety. These are precisely the practices that would be mitigated by organic compliance.

For example, consider chicken farming. Producers more interested in the bottom line than in animal welfare have been exposed for their egregious practices. Increasingly, concerned consumers seek out better sources for meat and eggs. Farmers — often the very same farmers threatened by ruthless “economies of scale” — seek a value-added niche market, get certified organic and, in many cases, preserve their farms.

As we craft standards for organic aquaculture, it’s amazing to see how organic fish farming begins to resemble organic terrestrial farming. In each case there are levels of control, best and worst practices, and farmers eager to pursue better practices in order to capture a market niche.

Foreign organic certification agencies, most notably those in the European Union, have aquaculture standards allowing open ocean net pens and use of fish meal for organic fish. While not perfect, they are driving the industry toward better practices and should be considered a template for our own standards.

In the United States, the Organic Aquaculture Working Group would allow sustainably harvested fish screened for contaminants to be used in organic fish feed at a declining rate over time. Such a pragmatic, continuous improvement approach is not an assault on organic standards but exactly the solution necessary to bridge an imperfect present and a better future. U.S. aquaculture, both producers and consumers, deserve that same win-win opportunity. Instead of dwelling on the shortcomings of the status quo, let’s paint a picture of what could be and should be. We can strive for a system of continuous improvement that deserves the organic seal now and in the future. If net pen aquaculture is jettisoned from organic aquaculture, or if organic regulations are set so high as to be logically impossible or commercially unprofitable, we have rendered a serious disservice to organic producers, consumers and the environment.

All farming, including organic farming, carries inherent risks to the environment. To exclude certain production models, especially models with the most potential for improvement, is counterproductive and will preclude environmentally minded consumers from using their purchasing dollars to drive industry behavior.

If we build it they will come.

Jim Pierce is responsible for certification at the Organic Valley/CROPP cooperative and founder of the Trout Palace, a rainbow trout farm in southwest Wisconsin.

**Make Plans to Attend the
pre-conference Trout Workshop
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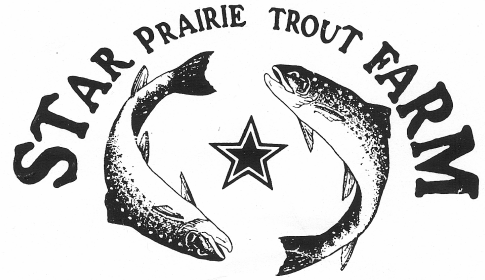
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WAA'S 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

"WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE: MEETING GLOBAL CHALLENGES—LOCALLY"

Registration will be open **Thursday 12:30 - 1:30 pm**
Friday 7am - 4pm
Saturday 7am - 10am

Trade Show open **Friday 7am - 6pm**
Saturday 7:30am - noon

PRECONFERENCE
THURSDAY, March 13

1:00– 3:00p Trout Workshop
3:00 – 5:00p WAIAC Quarterly Meeting

CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, March 14

6:45 – 8:00a Breakfast
7:30 – 8:30a WAA Annual Meeting
8:30 – 9:30a **Welcome** - Bill West, WAA President,
Matthew Frank, DNR Secretary (invited)
Randy Romanski, DATCP Deputy Secretary (invited)
9:30 – 10:30a 1. **State of US Aquaculture** - Jimmy Avery,
Mississippi State University
2. **Wis. Aqua. Ext. Program** - Ron Johnson,
Aquaculture Outreach, UW-SP/NADF
10:30 – 11:00a Break
11:00 – 12:00 **Farm Programs**
1. **Focus on Energy** - Brenda Jessen
2. **Nat Resources Conservation Svc** - Matt Rataczak
3. **Water Quality Lab** - Kevin Masarik, Groundwater
Educator, UWEX, Stevens Point & Sarah Kaatz,
Aquaculture Outreach, UW-SP
Noon – 1:30p Lunch - Sponsored by Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc.
Keynote Speaker - Bill Bonzheim, Director of Sea
food, Roundy's Supermarket
Awards - Dave Gollon, Owner, Gollon Bait and Fish
Farm
1:30 – 2:30p **VHS/Rules Updates**
1. **DATCP** - Myron Kibus, State Aquaculture
Veterinarian, DAH
2. **DNR** - Mike Staggs, Fisheries Bureau Director
2:30- 3:00p Break
3:00 – 4:00p 2 Concurrent Sessions
Co-ops
1. **Co-op Overview** - Will Hughes, Division
Administrator, DATCP-DAD
2. **Perch Co-op** - Bill West, Blue Iris Fish Farm
Stocking
1. **Success Story Lake Assn** - Tim Gollon, Owner,
Gollon Bait and Fish Farm

4:00 – 6:00p

2. **Conservation Stocking, USFWS** - Doug Aloisi,
Hatchery Manager, Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Boston Seafood Show - Peter Fritch, Farm Manager,
Rushing Waters Fisheries, Inc.

Cooking Seminar/Demo - Dani Klontz

School Poster Contest Judging

6:00 – 7:00p

Reception

7:00 – 11:00p

Social Gathering

SATURDAY, March 15

7:00 – 8:00a Breakfast

7:00 – 8:00a WAA Board Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00a **Walleye**

1. **Early Spawning** - Jim Held, Aquaculture Out-
reach, UW-Madison

2. **Advanced Fingerling Production** - Alan Johnson,
Fisheries, Iowa DNR

9:00 – 10:00a 2 Concurrent Sessions

**"Shrimp, A Possibility for Wisconsin Aqua
culture?"** - Bob Calala, Calala's Water Haven, OH

Ponds/Perch

1. **Plastic Lined Ponds** - Sarah Kaatz, Aquaculture
Outreach, UW-SP

2. **Triploid Grass Carp/Weed Control** - Mike
Keo Farms, AR

3. **Perch Spawning Video Overview**- Jim Held,
Aquaculture Outreach, UW-Madison

Frieze,

10:00 – 10:30a Break

10:30 – Noon 2 Concurrent Sessions

Start-up Aquaculture

1. **Planning a Facility** - Jim Held, Aquaculture
Outreach, UW-Madison

2. **Processing Rules & Food Safety** - Mike Barnett,
DATCP

3. **Business Plan** - Mary Avery, Dir. Business. Admin
Program, Ripon College

Bluegill - sponsored by NCRAC

1. Joe Morris, Associate Prof., Dept of Natural
Resource. Ecology and Mgmt, Iowa State University

2. Geoff Wallet, Facility Coordinator, Piketon Re-
Center, Ohio State University

3. Chuck Hicks, Principal Investigator, Aquaculture
Research, Lincoln University

search

Noon – 1:30p

Lunch

WrapUp - Lance Grahn, Dean, College of Letters and
Science UW-SP

Silent Auction & Raffle - Jim Pierce, Trout Palace

**For conference updates - go to
www.WisconsinAquaculture.com**

**You can now register on line at www.WisconsinAquaculture.com
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2008 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete a separate registration for each attendee

Name _____

Spouse _____

Business/Organization _____

Street/City _____

State/Zip/Phone _____

Email _____

Registration fees, pp

Conference registration fees includes:

Friday - breakfast, trout lunch, 2 breaks, reception

Saturday - breakfast, deli lunch, 1 break

Thurs, Mar 13 - Focused Trout Workshop	\$15	___
Fri/Sat, Mar 14, 15, WAA member	\$100	___
Fri/Sat, Mar 14, 15, non WAA member	\$130	___
Additional person, same organization	\$85	___
Spouse	\$65	___
Student (HS or College)	\$65	___
Friday, March 14, only	\$70	___
Saturday, March 15, only	\$60	___
Late fee, (after March 1 , plus registration)	\$25	___
Total		___

PAYMENT

You can pay by check, made out to WAA, OR

Credit card payment, the following information must be completed

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Billing address _____

Credit card name - circle one: Mastercard, Visa or Discover only

Credit card number/exp date _____

3 digit security code on back of card _____

Please remember to register early so you can avoid a late fee, you will be on our meal list and to also insure that your registration will arrive in our office in time

Register on line or: mail or fax registration and payment to:

WAA
PO Box 1408
Bayfield, WI 54814

cindy@WisconsinAquaculture.com
715-373-2990 ph/fax

Holiday Inn Manitowoc
Interstate 43 and US Hwy 151
4601 Calumet Ave.
Manitowoc, WI 54220-9299
Front desk 920-682-6000 Fax 920-682-6140

Rooms:

We have negotiated special room rates. Taxes are not included and rooms are not included in the registration fee.

Single \$62/night, double \$72/night, plus tax.

Booking code for conference is **AQU**.

Please make your reservations by Feb 14, all blocked rooms will be released after this date.

Rates valid for Thurs and Friday nights (check for Wed/Sat nights).

Check in time is after 3:00 p.m., check out is 12 noon.

Changes and cancellations accepted up to 24 hrs prior to scheduled arrival without any penalty.

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REMINDERS

IN ORDER TO AVOID A LATE FEE OF \$25, REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 1

THAT WAY YOU CAN PICKUP YOUR PACKET AND NOT NEED TO STAND IN LINE AT THE CONFERENCE TO REGISTER AND PAY, AND WE WILL HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT FOR THE MEALS

HAVE YOUR CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS MUST BE IN THE WAA OFFICE BY MONDAY, MARCH 10, OTHERWISE REGISTER AT THE CONFERENCE



2008 Conference, cont. from page 1

and raffle will go towards the Poster Contest, the FFA Aquaculture Proficiency Award and conference costs. If you have an item you wish to donate, please contact Sarah Kaatz at 715-346-3037 or SKaatz@uwsp.edu.

WAA's annual meeting will be held on Friday at 7:30 a.m. Our Active members will be voting to fill 2 openings on our Board of Directors.

Our conference would not be possible without the help of our partners, associates in aquaculture, and aquaculture businesses - UW-SP/NADF/Extension, DATCP, DNR, Nelson & Sons, Roundy's Supermarkets Inc., Troutlodge, NCRAC and Dani Klontz. Please thank these people and businesses for their generous contributions and for helping to support our conference.

2008 Aquaculture Poster Contest

WAA Conference, March 14, 2008, Manitowoc

New this year is the Wisconsin Schools Poster Contest. Many students are interested in fish farming but do not know where to go for information and how to get started. This event was created in order to help bring school students and aquaculture programs in better contact with fish farmers and expand their understanding of fish farming in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Aquaculture Association (WAA) in conjunction with the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (NADF) and the University of Wisconsin Extension (UW-EX) is sponsoring this first annual Aquaculture Poster Contest.

The theme for these posters is "Aquaculture is Agriculture". The posters will be displayed and judged at the Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference on March 14 in Manitowoc, WI. Winning posters will then be on display for one year at NADF in Red Cliff, Wisconsin and appear in the WAA Newsletter, *The Creel*. Winners will be selected on the basis of originality, artistic appeal and understanding of Wisconsin Aquaculture. We want to encourage everyone to contact their local school about this contest and encourage the school or their agriculture/aquaculture program to participate. Following is the information and rules for the contest.

RULES

1. Posters must be at least 11" x 17" and no more than 22" x 28". Posters should be flat (three dimensional posters are not allowed) and on white poster paper or equivalent material.
2. Students may use drawing materials of their choice: ink, paints, colored markers, colored chalk, water colors, crayons etc.
3. Only one poster per school, joint class participation is encouraged.
4. Each poster must be identified on the back and clearly printed with name of class and school, grade (s), instructor's name, contact phone number, and school address.
5. Prizes will be awarded to the first three places: \$100 first, \$50 second, \$25 third.
6. Posters must be received **No Later** than Friday March 7, 2008

7. Contest is open to all Wisconsin schools. Contestants may be present during judging but attendance is not required.

Subject Material

1. Subject material shall be an area of Wisconsin Aquaculture depicting one or more of the segments such as raising fish for food, bait fish, recreation stocking and fee-fishing or showing one of the culture methods such as ponds, raceways, tanks and recirculation aquaculture systems (RAS).
2. Poster contestants are encouraged to use the theme: "Aquaculture is Agriculture". This theme emphasizes that fish farming is part of agriculture and is the fastest growing segment of global agriculture. The purpose of the poster contest is to promote creative thought regarding the benefits of growing fish in Wisconsin, how aquaculture uses natural resources in an environmentally sound manner, promotes rural communities and produces safe locally grown products.

Mail Entries to:

WAA
Cindy Johnson, Sec/Tres
P O Box 148
Bayfield, WI 54814

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING YOUR POSTERS

1. Read all the poster contest rules carefully before starting.
2. Discuss in class about aquaculture and how it's important to Wisconsin.
3. For reference go to [www. WisconsinAquaculture.com](http://www.WisconsinAquaculture.com) to find a fish farmer near you and plan a visit to a nearby fish farm.
4. Decide on the message you want to share.
5. Space any lettering out on poster before you make drawings
6. Neatness counts!
7. Check your poster from 10' away to see if you can read it.
8. Make sure you have the contact information on the back side of the poster

Be sure to mail the poster in time to be **received** by Friday, March 7, 2008.

For additional questions you can contact Ron Johnson, Aquaculture Outreach Specialist, 715-779-3189 or ron.johnson@uwsp.edu

For additional information on the Wisconsin Aquaculture 2008 Conference please go to:
http://wisconsinaquaculture.com/Forms/011808_Mini_Brochure.pdf

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THE NCRAC
BLUEGILL SESSION
ON MARCH 15
AT THE 13TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

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Steve Abernathy – Owner of Til-Tech Aquafarm, which produces Tilapia fingerlings in an indoor recirculating facility.



"I use and sell Kasco Aerators because they have always been dependable and have served us well in our small ponds."

Paul Williams – Owner of Owen and Williams Fish Farm, producers of game fish, grass carp, and catfish.



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THE COOK'S CORNER

Recipe found on: www.nobonesaboutit.com

Bluegill Worcestershire

1 cp flour
Coarse ground pepper
Salt
Butter
Worcestershire sauce
Lemon
Parsley, finely chopped

Put one cup of flour into a zip-lock bag or bowl, add coarse ground pepper, and salt to your taste. Coat the Bluegill fillets completely with the flour mixture. Cook the fillets in a flat pan on medium heat with a little butter, or vegetable oil if you are calorie conscious. Cook for about 5 minutes on each side or until fillets are slightly brown. Add a splash of Worcestershire sauce, lemon and finely chopped parsley for the last minute of cooking. Put cooked fillets onto a dinner plate and pour the extra sauce over the top of each plate. Serve with rice, corn and a nice salad. Bluegills never tasted so good.

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Agendas / MINUTES

Wisconsin Aquaculture Association
Annual Meeting
March 14, 2007, 7:30 a.m.
Holiday Inn
I-43 and Highway 151
1-920-682-6000
Manitowoc, WI

AGENDA

Introduction of Board & Officers
Minutes
Treasurer Report
Secretary Report
March Elections
Other Old Business
New Business
Aquaculture Summit Meeting
Co-op Feasibility Study
Adjourn

WAA Quarterly Board Meeting, Dec 7, 2007
Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI

Meeting brought to order by VP Dan Gruendemann at 8:18 a.m.

Board members present: Jim Pierce and Jeff Taylor (Ruby Kettula broke her leg recently and had a hip replacement last week, flowers are being sent)

Officers present: Dan Gruendemann and Cindy Johnson

Others present: Dave Gruendemann, Sarah Kaatz, Ron Johnson

Pending approval by email/phone (due to lack of quorum), the following actions were taken:

Minutes: motion made by Jeff Taylor to approve minutes, seconded by Jim Pierce, approved by members present.

Financial Report motion made by Jim Pierce, seconded by Jeff Taylor to approve report, approved by members present.

Secretary report:

Conference 2008

Draft of conference speaker/topic agenda presented. It was requested if anyone had any suggestions or changes to get in touch with Cindy very soon.

A raffle could help bring in additional money with smaller items that members may consider donating. Ron J. mentioned that a raffle permit might be needed.

An aquaculture project poster contest is being planned to help foster a closer relationship with the high school aquaculture programs. Ron and Sarah are heading this up. Ron suggested that the posters be judged and awards be made for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Entertainment is proving to be costly - \$700- 1,800 for a band. It has been suggested that we forego entertainment this year. *cont pg 19*

Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory
Council Quarterly Meeting
December 7, 2007
Holiday Inn
I-43 and Highway 151
1-920-682-6000
Manitowoc, WI

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.
- 2) Roll call/Introductions
- 3) Sept. 7, 2007 Minutes
- 4) Council Discussion of Reports:
 - WAA
 - Agency (DATCP, DNR, Commerce, DPI, WTCS)
 - UW-System (Madison, Milwaukee, Stevens Point, Sea Grant)
 - NADF
- 5) Other Business:
 - Unfinished
 - New
 - Issues to be brought before WAIAC at next meeting
 - Speakers
 - Topics
- 6) Announcements
 - Next Meeting: March 13, Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI
- 7) Adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council
December 7, 2007 Quarterly Meeting Minutes –DRAFT

Location: Holiday Inn Manitowoc, Manitowoc, WI
920-682-6000

WAIAC Members Present: Dan Gruendemann, Jim Pierce, and Jeff Taylor. Myron Kibus, Jeff Malison and Phil Moy.

WAIAC Members Absent: Ed Baum, Sean Charette, Peter Fritsch, David C. Gollon, Fred (Fritz) Gollon, Ruby Kettula, Brad Tork and Bill West. Carol Dunn, Greg Fischer, James Gibson, Chris Hartleb, Jeff Hicken, Will Hughes, Bud Sholts, and Steve Yeo.

Others in attendance: Mike Bandli, Fred Binkowski, Rick Decker, Dave Gruendemann, Jim Held, Mike Heilman, Cindy Johnson, Ron Johnson, Sarah Kaatz, Jeff Nuese.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call/Introductions

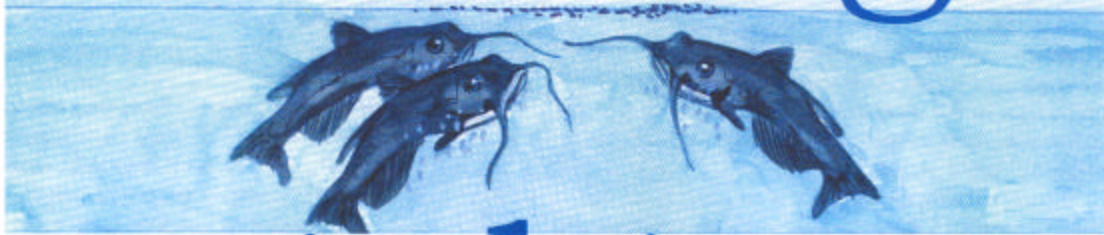
Minutes from September 7, 2007 meeting:

No Quorum and no changes noted.

Discussion of Species Assessment Group– Bill Horns, Wisconsin DNR

Bill Horns reported on the invasive species rule. The invasive species rule attempts to address a broad range of invasive species (not just aquaculture/fish). Within the process there are a number of Species assessment groups to help advise *cont on pg 17*

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETINGS - Location: Holiday Inn, Manitowoc

March 13

WAIAC quarterly meeting 3 pm

March 14

WAA Annual Meeting 7:30 am

March 15

WAA Quarterly Board Meeting 7 am

PRE-CONFERENCE & CONFERENCE

Location: Holiday Inn, Manitowoc

March 13

Pre conference trout workshop, 1 pm

March 14-15

WAA Conference

June 12-13 Location: Bayfield and NADF

Aquaculture Field Days

WAA/WAIAC Quarterly Meetings

Aquaculture Outreach Specialists (AOS)

Northern—Ron Johnson

P.O. Box 165

Bayfield, WI 54814

715-779-3189, Ron.Johnson@uwsp.edu

Central—Sarah Kaatz

Univ of WI-SP, 234 Nelson Hall,

Stevens Point, WI 54481

715-346-3037, SKaatz@uwsp.edu

Southern—Jim Held

302 S. Main St

Lake Mills, WI 53551

920-648-2902, JaHeld@wisc.edu

These people are here to assist you. Please contact them with any questions you may have concerning aquaculture.

AQUACULTURE MANUALS

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WALLEYE CULTURE MANUAL

NCRAC'S NEWLY RELEASED

YELLOW PERCH CULTURE MANUAL

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WAIAC MINUTES, cont. from page 15

on development of the rule. The aquatic species group includes 10-12 fish and wildlife specialists and Dave Robinson, Dave or Tim Gollon and Phil Moy.

Details for the rule can be found on the DNR webpage and 6 listening sessions are to be held January 10, 11, 14-17, 2008. These sessions are to be informational and precedes the more formal rule making process. There will be rule hearings in the summer of 2008 and rule in effect in early 2009.

Bill said that species considered by this rule and defined as a potential invasive species needed to be viable in Wisconsin (can survive at temperatures below 38 degrees F) and not covered under separate regulations. Non-native farm species and some permissible aquarium species (goldfish and Koi) will continue to be allowed. Horns suggested that there will be a number of controversial species or species of interest that will have considerable discussion points. Some examples include mosquito fish, grass carp, blue catfish, white sturgeon, high-fin bitterling, and weather loach.

Ron Johnson asked if Kamloops or Brown Trout would need an additional permit or be referred to the DNR. Bill Horns said it would not. DATCP would use the DNR list.

Bill also said there were a number of species that were not of concern like UW research on suribib and the 4-5 tilapia requests per year. He anticipates there will not be a change to DNR's approach on these fish on the prohibited restricted list.

Ron summarized several other key industry concerns:

DNR does not want Grass Carp to enter state, but many fish farmers would like to have process by which certified triploid individuals may be allowed.

Mosquito fish appearances are more often incidental than expected. There is concern on how the DNR would handle enforcement on these incidental appearances. Bill was not sure how rule points would appear.

DNR imports hybrid striped bass for itself (several loads per year). Fish farmers would also like to have the opportunity to import for a broader commercial use.

There are no indications for what enforcements would be implemented at each level. The industry feels these need to be identified going into the listening sessions. Prohibition seems to refer to possession, not just importation

Jim Pierce added that the industry would prefer a specific prohibition list. Right now if a species is not listed it may be prohibited by default. The industry is concerned about potential future aquaculture species being restricted and no longer available without any recourse.

There were also a number of questions of Bill:

- How specific would restrictions be to strain or hybrid?

Bill(BH) said the rule would use any strain in the normal sense of the word.

- Is there a genetic pollution issue within the rule? BH - Some discussion but not addressed at this point.
- Any indication of what "viable" means? BH - freshwater, survives and reproduces at some temperature threshold. *Cont. pg 18*

- The DNR imports many of the restricted species. Will the DNR exempt itself? BH - assumes the DNR would handle in the same way as other requests.
 - Any consideration for shell fish? BH - Has not been raised in conversation, but assumes will still be prohibited.
- How will information from session get summarized? BH – In the listening session, the DNR would prefer written comments. For the hearings, there is a stronger desire to summarize oral comments. He encouraged WAA to formalize in name of association any specific comments.

Council discussion of reports

WAA: None

University System (UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Stevens Point, UW-SP NADF)

Jeff Malison gave a brief update on a number of the NADF projects discussed at last WAIAC meeting.

- Walleye project – They may skip pinhead fry feeding trials.
- Jeff to speak with Steve Nichols about grain based perch diets
- They are conducting a literature review on chubs project
- Jeff Malison and Jeff Taylor are involved with AOVA trials

Last meeting there was a question about fish transportation – the NADF needs input from the industry for what NADF could do as a project.

Agency (DATCP, DNR, Commerce, DPI, WTCS)

DATCP

Dr. Kebus recognized the work put in by NADF to host the training on the emergency rules (mostly pertaining to VHS). DATCP would like to see a regulatory rule training workshop on an annual basis.

Dr. Kebus briefly summarized and provided handouts on the testing requirements in the DATCP Emergency Rule. Additionally, copies of the public notice of the public hearings for the DATCP Emergency Rule were distributed. The hearings were scheduled for January 7th Appleton; 8th Madison; 11th in Eau Claire. Written comments also could be submitted to DATCP before January 25th.

The DNR (supported by the DNR Board) is requiring a fish health certificate as part of their wild bait harvest permit. But this may present great challenges. DNR issues 2000+ wild bait harvest permits per year which now would result in 2000 additional fish health certificates, roughly seven-fold greater than current workload. DATCP currently reviews about 300 fish health certificates annually. DATCP does not register wild bait harvesters, (it does not receive any license fees from the wild bait harvesters). Currently, all work to review the fish health certificates is essentially funded through fish farm registrations. In essence, this places DATCP in the position of asking fish farms to pay for the cost of reviewing wild bait harvester fish health certificates.

DNR publicly indicated that they would support DATCP’s efforts to get additional positions and if necessary provide positions from DNR to support the review of fish health certifications. DATCP has fewer positions than 10 years ago when program started, while the workload has greatly increased.

Furthermore, currently DATCP does not have staff or clear statutory authority on wild bait harvest. As of December 7th, 2007, DATCP has received 19 certifications from wild bait harvesters. These wild bait harvest fish health certificates are being filed but not reviewed. DATCP’s Division of Animal Health will only review the fish farms fish health certificates.

Historically, the wild bait harvesters have been resistant to fish health requirements including fish health certificates. The DNR Board was prepared to close wild bait harvest because they perceived this activity to be a high risk to the spread of VHS. In an effort to prevent closure of wild bait harvest, the DNR fisheries staff proposed the fish health certificate as a tool to provide assurance that the risk of this activity was adequately addressed. It is ironic that in a relatively short period of time, the wild bait harvest industry has become highly reliant on fish health certificates to provide assurance that they are addressing the risks of VHS.

There were a number of questions of Dr. Kebus:

- Dan G. asked about timing on import permits - DATCP has up to 30 days to issue fish import permits, and has never failed to meet this expectation during the entire 10 years of the program during which approximately 1,200 permits have been issued. However, the increase in additional demands such as reviewing wild harvest bait fish health certificates would likely slow the rate at which fish import permits can be issued
- Fred B. asked about testing needs for fish or eggs import permit for research purposes at the Great Lakes Water Institute. Kebus answered that the imported fish or eggs need to be held for remainder of lives in fully enclosed building 1) No discharge of untreated water, and 2) No commingling. The brood stock of the eggs would need to be covered on a fish health certificate for the eggs to be imported and subsequently released from the research facility.
- Federal Authorities say egg disinfection isn't equal to testing - would still need testing. Need further research to satisfaction fed/state authority.

Commingle is defined. see ATCP 10.01 Wis. Administrative Code – basically if fish are on a fish farm, they are commingled.

Commerce, DPI, WTCS: None.

Other Business:

Announcements:

WAA conference is scheduled for March 13-15th in Manitowoc. Next WAIAC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2008, preceding the conference.

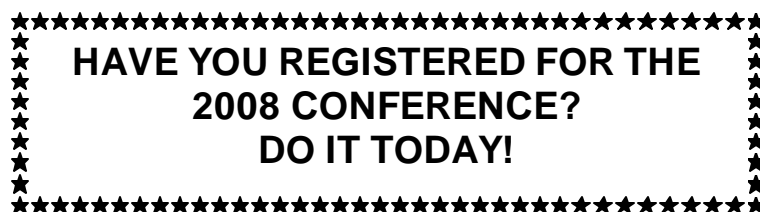
Need to start planning for 2008. We may look to restructure WAIAC and looking for new WAIAC Board members.

Adjournment:

Jeff Taylor made motion to adjourn the meeting, Dan Gruendemann 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at (approx.) 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Bandli



WAA QUARTERLY MEETING, cont from page 15

Registration fee structure was discussed. Suggestions were made to have member's registration at \$100, non-member at \$125 and have further consideration for the employee, spouse and student fees. These would be the early registration fees, with a fee imposed for late registration. The cut off date for early registration should be set at about 3 weeks out.

Cindy will get with Chris as to what costs may be taken from the Program Fund that has been set up – ex printing, mailing and supplies (name tags, etc) costs.

Awards – need to check into what awards WAA will be awarding (Dave Gollon Chairman).

Holiday Inn is not charging for set up or meeting rooms; in return they need a guarantee of 150 meals and 100 room nights .

Web site redesign

Cindy received quotes from Randy Van Vlack (Lake Superior Explorer, Inc.) for the shopping cart and web design.

Randy gave a quote of \$675 to program the on line-shopping cart. By having the conference registration on line, hopefully people will register early which will help with estimating numbers, meal commitments and with lines at the conference. Cindy will get a cost of additional fees from the merchant account service and get back to the board. Jim P. made motion to have on line shopping cart, 2nd by Jeff T.

The cost of a redesign of WAA's site is \$1275. It was decided to put this off until later in the year. Randy said we can make this payment in installments if we decide to go ahead.

It was decided to take the fish health certificate listing off the web site – only 4 members are using it, and since it does not have an automatic expiration date, Cindy has to manually keep track of the FHC expiration dates and it involves several steps to update the information. There was also the question of liability if a farm's expiration date would be missed and therefore wrong FHC status be posted on the site.

FFA sponsorship - WAA has been sponsoring the aquaculture proficiency award. The cost this year is \$555. Jim P. made motion to continue the sponsorship, 2nd by Jeff T.

Fish Health – Ron – DATCP Emergency Rules will be in public hearing in Jan. DATCP attorneys determined that DATCP can not require FHC for the wild bait harvest. Last week, DNR announced that they will require FHC's to be done. DNR Permanent Rules are now in effect. DNR has said that since May there have been 4600 14 day permits granted to between 80-90 harvesters - the Permanent Rule now authorizes a 30 day harvesting permit. It is estimated that will now be 3000 - 3500 wild bait harvest permits requested plus the accompanying FHC's. Ron said a fact sheet will be put together on DATCP & DNR Rules after both agencies rules become permanent.

The DNR have become aware of some things since the rules have been in effect. One thing that became apparent was that the permits are issued before the fish are harvested, but the FHC's are issued after the fish are harvested. Another issue that has come up is with the harvesters who don't have a facility to hold the fish until they are tested before taking them to the bait shops, etc. It was

brought up that the risk factors are with wild source fish and not with fish farms. Therefore, it may be time for the industry to come up with "fish farm certified bait". Down the road, there may be economic advantage with distinguishing wild from farm raised.

Extension – Ron - A Biosecurity workshop (15 attendees) was held in September after the quarterly meeting and the Rules workshop was held last week (86 attendees). Both DATCP & DNR thanked Extension for pulling the Rules workshop together. Each agency also suggested that this be an annual event.

Mike Bandli, Ron, Sarah and Cindy had a meeting with Jim Gibson, Ag Education Director for the Tech Colleges last Friday. Discussions were on: 1) common grounds/programs with the aquaculture industry, 2) plans are underway for a meeting in February at Stevens Point; it will involve people from some of the technical colleges and from the aquaculture industry. One of the discussion points is "a needs assessment", - what things are the industry, as potential employers, looking for – certificate program, tech skills, etc, down the road. 3) In July, the Agricultural Education Association is having their annual meeting. Ron & Sarah will be doing a 2 hr credit class on aquaculture. WAA will look into having a booth with info for the teachers.

Ron talked with Jeff Hicken, DPI. He found out there are 350 schools with agricultural programs, a survey will be sent out to see which of these has aquaculture programs. The extension specialists will schedule visits to these schools. DPI will help with the poster contest at the conference, WAA can judge posters, this event will help WAA and make connections with the schools and their aquaculture programs.

Elections – The election committee will have to get things lined up for elections in March. Open is the President – for 1 year only, (elections will be in 09), and Chairman of the Board - for 1 year also. Additionally board members Ruby and Mike's terms expire in March. They will be asked if they want to rerun.

Jeff Taylor made the motion to adjourn, Jim Pierce - 2nd

Respectfully submitted
Cindy Johnson

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- ◆ Name and address listed on members search

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- ◆ Listed by Business Type/ Fish Species/Producer Type/ Processing Type/Sales Method

GROUP—\$75

- ◆ 1 active membership and up to 4 associate members— farm employees, vendor employees, agencies, university, etc.



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