

WAA - The CREEL

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December 2008

December 5 Rules Compliance Workshop to be Held in Madison

By now everyone should have received a brochure and registration for the Rules Compliance Workshop that will be held at the East Side Club in Madison on December 5. The 2008 Rules workshop was well attended and attendees and the departmental staff commented on the value of this type of an annual workshop. This year we have also invited USDA-APHIS and USFWS to attend as well as DATCP, DNR, DoC and SBA Advocacy. This is an important workshop and you are urged to make plans to attend.

Registration fees are \$25 for WAA members and \$30 for non WAA members. You may mail in your registration, register online or pay at the door if you wish, but you are strongly urged to at least **pre-register** so we can have a lunch reserved for you. There is no food service available at the East Side Club and food can only be catered onto the premises. A registration form is on page 18, or you can go to www.WisconsinAquaculture.com for a brochure and more information and to register online.

GUIDELINES FOR DATCP COMPLIANCE

This is a reminder to all Wisconsin DATCP registered fish farms: there are requirements that must be followed to stay in compliance regarding importation, record keeping, and stocking of fish into waters of the state. If you are contacted by a DATCP animal health inspector and are asked for documentation, you must provide it. Also, please remember that there are fish health requirements for moving fish from farm to farm and from farm into waters of the state – check with both DATCP & DNR for current health requirements regarding Fish Health Certificate and testing for VHS. The following will help you with compliance requirements.

Importing Requirements – ATCP 10.62

If you will be importing live fish or fish eggs from another state into Wisconsin, you must obtain an import permit prior to importation. To request an import permit application, call 608-224-4887 or write to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health, Aquaculture, PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-9811. In addition, a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required to import **non-native** species of fish or fish eggs, under Section NR 29.735, Wisconsin Statutes.

Cont on pg 9



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
WAA OFFICERS
AND BOARD**

2009 March Conference

WAA is holding the 2009 Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference at the Ramada Inn in Hayward, WI on March 13 and 14. Speakers and topics are being finalized and the schedule will be posted on the website, a brochure and registration will be mailed and a listserv message will be sent out at that time.

We are having Dani come back for her cooking demonstration, and the WI School Aquaculture Poster Contest will be held and all attendees will be invited to join in the judging.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN ON ATTENDING!

From the Editor

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A Brief Overview of WAA and Aquaculture in Wisconsin

A lot has been going on with aquaculture in Wisconsin this year. Following is a quick run down; further information can be found inside this Creel

WAA has: Hosted

Annual Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference - March 14-15, Manitowoc

WAA Member Annual Picnic/Fish Fry - June 13, NADF

First Annual WI Fish Farm Day - August 23, Statewide

Helped sponsor

Trout workshop - March 13, Manitowoc

June Field Day - June 12, NADF and Bayfield

Beginning Aquaculture Workshop - Sept 27, Oct 25, Star

Prairie and Silver Moon Springs trout farms

WI School Aquaculture Post Contest - March 14, Statewide

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The CREEL

December 2008 Volume 41*** Number 4

WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

www.wisconsinaquaculture.com

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.

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Wisconsin aquaculture assn. Committees

The following are committees that were formed at the June meeting. If you are interested in joining any committee, please contact any committee member. The effectiveness of our committees and our organization are based on membership participation.

Committee

Members

Business Development

Creation, review and development of business development tools for aquaculture

Peter Fritsch,
Sarah Kaatz

Research & Education

Coordination and review of research, training, educational programming

Dan Gruendemann
Jim Held

Regulatory Policy

Coordination, review and impact assessment of regulatory actions

Dave Gollon
Terry Hogan
Ron Johnson

Conference

Planning of 2009 Conference

Terry Hogan
Peter Fritsch
Jerry Peplinski
Jim Pierce
Cindy Johnson

Perch Committee

Dan Gruendemann
Bill West

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National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators (NASAC)

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MEMBERSHIP

Active (voting): \$50/ year

Associate (non-voting): \$25/ year

Group(1 vote): \$75/ year

All memberships include annual subscription to *The CREEL*

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

President's Message

JEFF TAYLOR - STAR PRAIRIE TROUT FARM

We thought that 2007 was a year of change, but this year has proven to be one also.

WAA has sent out their comments on several proposed rules commenting on where they are reasonable, where they are unreasonable, and offering rational suggestions for changes. I want to thank our members for being proactive and following suit in contacting their state and federal legislators, and giving their comments on proposed rules.

Our board of directors and officers have sat down with DATCP and DNR to understand how new and proposed rules would affect aquaculture. A recent change that is of concern is the new definition of invasive species which was modified in the March 2008 Budget Repair bill and passed before we were made aware of this. When the proposed NR-40, Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control came out, WAA sent comments to DNR and also to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, and we are hopeful that changes can be made before this rule becomes permanent.

WAA has also been commenting on federal rules. One is HR -6311, which very broadly prohibits non-native species, and the other is the APHIS VHS Interim Rule. The Interim Rule as written would have very serious impacts on Wisconsin Aquaculture, and we have just learned that the effective date of this rule has been delayed until January 9, 2009. APHIS will be considering all

comments and hopefully make some adjustments to the Interim Rule.

WAA has added some new programs this past year in an effort to bring more public exposure to the importance of aquaculture in Wisconsin. These include: 1) holding the first annual Fish Farm Day; helping to sponsor 2) the first annual Wisconsin School Poster contest and 3) a series of Beginning Aquaculture classes; 4) having a booth at the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators; having a presence 5) at the Shawano County Farm Brunch and 6) the Free Fishing day at the Great Lakes Visitor Center; and 7) helping to publish a Wisconsin Farmed Fish brochure which will be available this coming year.

Our membership is growing (we are currently at 193 members, a 39% increase over last year) and with your help we will continue to grow, be proactive and make a positive impact on Wisconsin Aquaculture.

I would like to remind you to be sure to attend the Rules Workshop in Madison on December 5th at the East Side Club, that the WAA Board meeting will be the night before (the 4th) at the AmericInn in Monona, and the WAIAC meeting will also be on the 5th just prior to the workshop.

Have a warm and happy Holiday Season - a time for family and for embracing the New Year. Remember to renew your membership in WAA - Aquaculture in Wisconsin is family, and we appreciate and need your support.

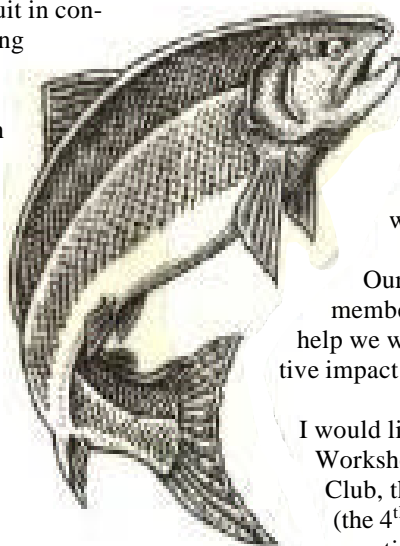


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Sarah Kaatz - Aqua Outreach, Central
Jeff Taylor - Star Prairie Trout Farm

From The Chairman's Desk

Greetings fish farmers, and hello winter.

Well, 2008 was a trying year for our industry and for the entire country. It seemed that we started the year with VHS on the back burner in the spring, with no huge fish kills it seemed almost not a factor for a time. Then in the fall, BANG, over regulation on a disease we can not control and do not have. Same for the economy, this spring we were chugging along with the talk of a slow down, we all start to wonder if sub prime mortgage rates are that good of a deal, and BANG, Wall Street takes it in the shorts. Sorry to remind you of these episodes but it will help prove my point when I get to it. Now for the point. One thing has remained constant during all of this, and actually how is it that some sectors of our industry are thriving during these times of trouble? People eat food. I bet the day you read this at some point you ate food. I also bet like many other people you have been to the grocery store more recently than to a restaurant. What this means is no one has stopped eating, the market is shifting from restaurants to retail and the sales are off the charts at the store level. How can you tap into this market? Farmers markets, direct to stores, I even talked with a fellow trout farmer recently who pulls over on main roads and sells from the back of a truck - and, yes it is legal with the right paperwork. And the paper work is easy to get!!! So again I usually come back to this at some point when near the podium, but we need to think outside the box. People more than ever want local food, local this and local that, it is amazing what people will consider local, my farm is the local choice for Western Ohio and all of Iowa - that is outside the box. So I will leave you with a homework assignment, at your next meal, while eating food, think of a new way to sell your fish to people who eat. Examples: Smoked bullheads that came by airmail and are unwanted, taste pretty darn good. There are no chubs available; are there any of you bait guys who have medium to large suckers that can be smoked up? Chubs are retailing for \$22/lb in Chicago, can any bait people raise chubs or something close? Why aren't perch sold in the round at the store level? I was recently at a trout farm in Pennsylvania that sold most of its trout whole on ice, does anybody in Wisconsin do this? This last idea can make a live stocker an overnight food fish dealer, and maybe even a believer in what I am saying. I don't have the answers but every day I learn something new and I think together we can grow this industry.

By the way, we will even have a new elected president by the time you read this, don't worry, it won't matter, people will still eat food.

Best regards,
Peter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
MARCH 13 AND 14
WAA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Tips & Insights

By Greg Fischer,
NADF Facility Manager



Now is the time to begin preparations for next spring for your operation. Inventory and order any fertilizer, chemicals, nets, or other supplies so you have them in plenty of time for spring. As we all know, spring often comes quickly and the fish will be ready many times before our operations are!!! Also some items, especially chemicals, cannot be shipped when temperatures are below freezing, such as formalin. Now is also a good time to inventory your fish health supplies and make sure you have everything in order for spring. Many of the chemical suppliers have special deals this time of the year so you can actually save some money. Also this may be a good time to review some of your fish health practices, biosecurity and rearing procedures at your facility. With that in mind, I thought it might be useful to share some common calculations for rearing and fish health treatment calculations from a variety of sources. Remember before treating your fish to always consult with qualified fish health personnel to determine exactly what is ailing them.

Common Hatchery Disinfection and Treatments

Salt Treatments:

Salt Dip or Bath Treatment: $V \times CF \times ppm$

(V= Water Volume, CF= correction factor)
Active Ingredient. (Ppm=% x 10,000)
(Active Ingredient. Of chemical being used)
3.0 % Dip for 5 gallons water = 567 grams salt
4.0 % Dip for 5 gallons water = 756 grams salt
5.0 % Dip for 5 gallons water= 945 grams salt

Prolonged salt treatments or standard hauling treatment at 0.7 % salt = 24 grams of salt per gallon of water

Formalin:

Egg disinfection and treatment in bell jars at 1667 ppm with 5 gpm for 15 min.

75 gallons x 0.00378 g/gal x 1667 ppm= **473 ml formalin for 15 min drip treatment**

Formalin Treatment for standing bath

62ppm = 0.23 ml formalin/gallon water
(i.e. 70 ml formalin for 300 gallons of water)
100 ppm = 0.38 ml formalin/gal water
(i.e. 113 ml formalin for 300 gallons of water)
150 ppm = 0.56 ml formalin/gal water
(i.e. 170 ml formalin for 300 gallons of water)
200 ppm = 0.76 ml formalin/gal water
(i.e. 228 ml formalin for 300 gallons of water)

Iodine:

Egg disinfection: 100 ppm for 10 minutes
30 ml Argentyne per 3.785 liters (1.0 gallon) of water

Constant Flow Treatment:

$\frac{gpm \times T \times CF \times ppm}{AI}$ = wt of chemical needed

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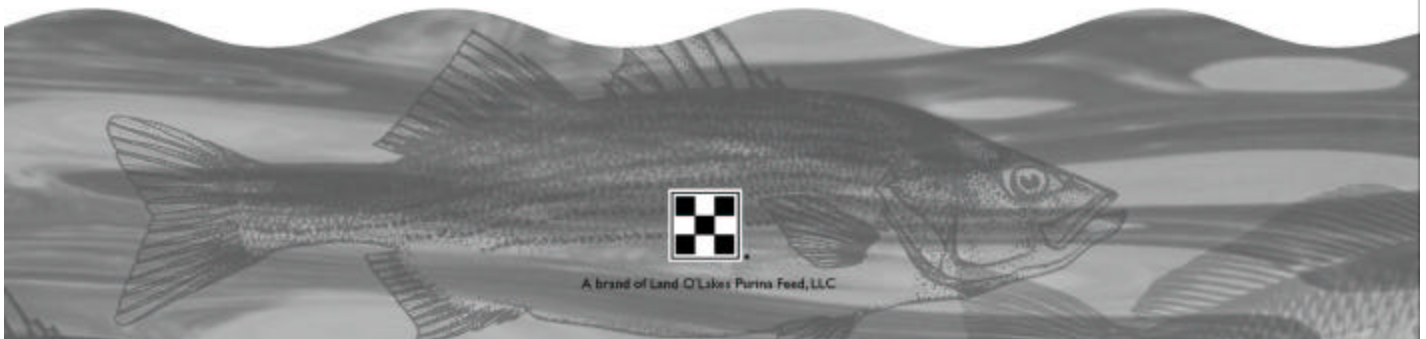


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2008 Workshop and Extension Highlights

by Sarah Kaatz, Aquaculture Outreach Specialist

This year has been eventful for the Aquaculture Outreach Specialists. We have continued to visit farms, give presentations to school and community groups and hold workshops.

Our first workshop of the year was the Trout Growers workshop, held before the WAA Conference in March. There is a need for more trout to fill the food fish market here in Wisconsin and our goal was to bring together established trout growers and folks interested in starting to raise trout. We had 14 people attend the afternoon workshop and it provided great networking opportunities.

50 people attended the 2nd Annual Aquaculture Field Day and Vendor Fair on Thursday, June 12th in Bayfield. The day started with a discussion of fish farm biosecurity and implementation; Ron Johnson, aquaculture specialist, facilitated a round table discussion of how things had changed on fish farms since last year's



Jeff Taylor talking to the September 25 Beginning Aquaculture Workshop at Star Prairie Trout Farm.

VHS and Biosecurity focused Field Day.

We have also started our Beginning Aquaculture Workshop series. There will be six workshops held throughout the state coinciding with the six Extension Districts. The workshops are an all day event,



October 27 Beginning Aquaculture Workshop, morning class at Elton Town Hall

with the morning lecture-style sessions focusing on introducing folks to aquaculture in Wisconsin, business planning and economics, and rules and regulations. The afternoon is spent

Tips & Insights, cont from page 4

Gpm= gallons per minute flow

T= treatment time (minutes)

CF= correction factor

Ppm= concentration of chemical

AI= Active ingredient of chemical

Standing Bath Treatment:

$$\frac{V \times CF \times PPM}{AI} = \text{wt of chemical needed}$$

V=volume of water in unit to be treated

CF= correction factor

PPM= concentration of chemical

AI= active ingredient of chemical

The information above was taken from US Fish & Wildlife Service, Introduction to Fish Health Management, 2nd edition, 1995.

As always, please remember happy fish and good production start with good water quality and a proper rearing environment.



Tim Winkle talking to the October 27 Beginning Aquaculture Workshop at Silver Moon Springs Trout Farm

at a fish farm, providing participants with the opportunity to ask questions of the farmers directly and see first hand what goes into running a fish farm.

The first workshop was held in the Western

District in Star Prairie and at Star Prairie Trout Farm. Our second workshop of the fall was held in the Central District in Elton and Silver Moon Springs. Overall, there were 28 people who attended our fall classes. We have gotten great reviews of the workshops so far, and will continue the series this spring. Stay tuned!!

Other highlights from the year include the First Annual Wisconsin Aquaculture Poster Contest for high school students. The posters were on display at the WAA Conference and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place posters were awarded. The winning posters are on display for the year at NADEF. We plan to have another poster contest next year at the WAA Conference in Hayward.

We are also working on a Wisconsin Farmed Fish brochure. The brochure will highlight the benefits of purchasing local, Wisconsin-raised fish. We hope to have the brochure available by the 2009 WAA Conference.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEETINGS

December 4, 2008

WAA Board Meeting, 5 pm

Location: AmericInn, Monona (Madison)

December 5, 2008

WAIAC Meeting, 8 am

Location: East Side Club, lower level, Monona (Madison)

WORKSHOPS

December 5, 2008, 10 am

DNR/DATCP RULES

Location: East Side Club, lower level, Monona (Madison)

June 10 –11, 2009

Aquaculture Field Days RAS Workshop

Location: NADF/ Bayfield

June 12, 2009

WAA Member Picnic/Fish Fry

Location: NADF

2009 Beginning Aquaculture Workshops (4)

Dates and locations: TBA

2009 CONFERENCE

March 13 & 14, 2009

Location: Ramada Inn, Hayward, WI

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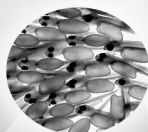
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WAA/WAIAC Regulatory Policy Committee Summary

By Ron Johnson, Aquaculture Outreach Specialist

The Regulatory Policy Committee has been busy with several new rules and proposed rules. The following is a listing of letters, meetings and workshops that the committee has worked on and issues that are pending. Also, a reminder to everyone that Friday, December 5, 2008 will be the Rules Workshop to be held in Madison at the East Side Club (downstairs) starting at 10:00 am.

July

- WAA Letter to Madeleine Bordallo regarding HR-6311
- Letter requested by Senator Bob Jauch regarding VHS testing costs
- WAA Letter to Small Business Regulatory Review Board

August

- Meeting with Carol Dunn, Small Business Ombudsman DOC
- DATCP Emergency Rule Hearing, Madison & informal session after hearing on permanent rules.
- DATCP Information Session on Permanent Rule, Stevens Point
- WAA letter to SBRRB concerning NR-40
- WAA letter to DNR concerning NR-40
- WAA letter to SBRRB read into testimony by Carol Dunn

September

- Meeting with Carol Dunn, DOC
- SBRRB Letter to Sec Frank, DNR, concerning NR-40

- DATCP/DNR Meeting concerning Ponds (Stocking/Harvest/Oversize Gear)
- USDA APHIS VHS Interim Rule published
- Compliance Reminder Letter on WAA web site & list serve
- Letter to SBA Advocacy, Ray Marchiori, regarding USDA APHIS Interim Rule

October

- WAA letter to USDA APHIS regarding VHS Interim Rule
- SBA Office of Advocacy letter to USDA APHIS regarding Interim Rule

November

- November 5, meeting with DNR concerning Great Lakes Compact
- November 6, meeting with DPI concerning fish farm registrations and schools
- November 18, DOC SBRRB Hearing with DNR regarding NR-40

December

- December 5, NADF/WAA/Extension Rules Compliance Workshop, Madison, WI

The Perch Committee is looking for anyone who is raising perch or interested in raising perch to join and discuss ways to produce and market their fish. Call anyone on the committee for more information.



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DATCP Compliance Guidelines,

cont from page 1

Record Keeping – ATCP 10.61

As a fish farm operator, you need to keep the following records for all fish and fish eggs shipped from or received at your fish farm:

- The name, address, fish farm registration number, and live-stock premises code, if any, of the person from whom you received or to whom you delivered fish or fish eggs
- The date on which you received or delivered fish or fish eggs
- The location at which you received or delivered fish or fish eggs

The size or class, quantity and species of fish or fish eggs you received or delivered

It is recommended that these items should be bills of sale/purchase receipts and for farmers who do not have official sales receipts, these transactions must be kept in an organized sales/purchases log. As a fish farm operator, you shall keep those records for at least 5 years and, upon request, shall make them available to the department for inspection and copying.

Stocking onto farms or into Waters of the State – ATCP 10.64 or NR 29.736 & 29.981

In order to stock fish, the recipient must have a DATCP fish farm registration (which is not waters of the state) or they

The Year in Review,

cont from page 1

Had a table at

Free Fishing Day at Great Lakes Visitor Center - June 7,
Ashland

Shawano County Farm Brunch - June 22, Shawano

Attended and had a booth

WI Assoc of Lakes Conference - April 17-19, Green Bay

WI Assoc of Ag Educators Conference - July 6 - 7, Madison

USTF Midwest Aquaculture Conference - Sept 18 - 20,
Milwaukee

Aquaculture research projects performed this year

- 1) Double Cropping of Perch
- 2) Fish Growth and Production as a Factor of Pond Fertilization Regimes

WAA committees are being restructured

WAA joined the National Aquaculture Association

We will be able to keep apprised of national issues and lend our voice to issues and proposed federal rules and also receive support from NAA.

Involvement in legislative issues

WAA has commented on several state and federal proposed rules this year and has had meetings with agencies for rule clarification.

Membership

Our membership has increased 39% this year - we are currently at 193 members.

Dues can be paid by credit card on line or mail in.

About 1/3 of our membership have not signed up for important WAA messages via our listserv. This year notices were sent of meetings, events and legislative issues using our list serv program. If you have not been receiving these important messages and wish to be on our list, please add your email address to the dues notice when you mail it in, or put a note in the comment box if you pay online. Your email addresses are secure - no one has access to our list serv program except the Secretary and it is not given out to anyone.

must have a DNR fish stocking permit (for waters of the state).

The question has been asked – “Does the distributor (stocker) have legal responsibility to ensure that his/her fish are being stocked legally?” The answer to this question is yes, if the distributor does the stocking. If the distributor simply sells fish to a private party who takes them home and stocks them, then the answer is probably going to be no, unless he was otherwise conspiring with the purchaser to stock illegally. A DNR citation issued for this violation would normally cost \$1,133. The maximum penalty per stocking violation is \$2,138.

You can refer to DATCP 10.64 and DNR rules NR 29.736 Stocking of fish and NR 29.981 Parties to a violation, for more information on stocking regulations.

WAA's First Annual Fish Farm Day

The Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, along with member fish farms, sponsored the First Annual State Wide Fish Farm Day on Saturday, August 23, 2008. Throughout the state, ten member fish farms opened their doors to the public promoting Wisconsin aquaculture and explaining the importance of locally grown, fresh, safe fish.

Free events at individual fish farms included farm tours/talks, demonstrations, plus activities for the entire family such as fee fishing. Ashley Huibregtse, the 61st Alice in Dairyland, made an appearance at Silver Moon Springs in Elton. Participating farms were: Brookcrest Fisheries, Woods &



Ashley Huibregtse, the 61st Alice in Dairyland, at Silver Moon Springs

Waters Enterprise, Wilderness Springs, Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility, Trout Palace, Rushing Waters Fisheries, Star Prairie Trout Farm, Bullfrog's Eat My Fish Farm, Silver Moon Springs, and Eagles Roost Trout Farm

Overall the farms reported it to be a success. Some farms had upwards of 50 people visiting throughout the day with some traveling as far away as the Twin Cities. One farm reported that the next day (Sunday) was very busy and another said that Sunday was one of their best Sundays ever.

Our event was posted on over 20 websites, went out on several listserv messages, with a press release going to over 80 media, which resulted in 1 TV interview, 1 paper interview and 5 radio interviews.

We will be doing this again in 2009, so plan on participating and help to promote Wisconsin Aquaculture!

NEW IN 2008!

SPAWNING OF YELLOW PERCH DVD

Produced by University of Wisconsin-Extension, University of Wisconsin-NADF



Covers yellow perch broodstock handling, spawning, egg fertilization, incubation, hatch, and pond stocking of fry.

Approx 28 min in length.

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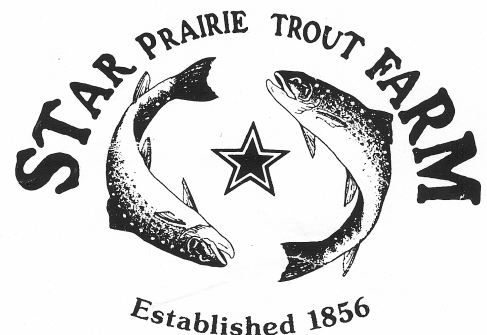
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STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Great Lakes Compact

The Department of Natural Resources is trying to locate all fish farmers that are doing business in the Great Lakes Basin that have withdrawals averaging 100,000 gallons per day or more in any 30 day period. The passage of Wisconsin Act 227 – the state's implementing language for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (Compact) gives only until **December 8, 2008** for facilities withdrawing the 100,000 gallons per day to be registered and grandfathered regarding the act.

If your fish farm is within the Great Lakes Basin see map at: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/images/glbasin_web.pdf and 100,000 gallons or more pass through your farm per day than you need to register with DNR and become grandfathered.

Additional information is forthcoming at the time the CREEL is going to press, a list serve will be sent out and the topic will be covered at the December 5th Rules meeting in Madison. If you have any questions please contact Ron Johnson at 715-779-3189 or email at ron.johnson@uwsp.edu.

2008 Farm Bill – Insurance for Fish

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) has a new provision for crop buy in for Disaster Assistance which includes fish. To be eligible for the Disaster Assistance the farm must purchase at least catastrophic risk protection as part of the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) that is available through the Farm Service Agency. Fish are part of the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP) program. The deadline for purchase of the risk protection is December 1, 2008. For more information contact your Farm Service Agency agent in your county.

Following is the letter that WAA sent to APHIS concerning the VHS Interim Rule.

Dr. Gary Egrie
Senior Staff Veterinary Medical Officer
National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS
4700 River Road Unit 46
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

10/7/2008

Dr. Egrie;

We believe that the Interim Rule **should not** go into effect on November 10, 2008 until key provisions are changed. For the past decade, Wisconsin has not only been a leader in fish health programs, but also understands the importance of preventive procedures, and initiated VHS testing for imports of susceptible species of fish in September 2006 (two months before the Federal Order). We have worked closely with USDA APHIS staff to communicate industry concerns regarding VHS by providing recommendations on regulations that secure the safety of the industry, slow the progression of VHS while allowing commerce to continue, and are supportive of sensible rules. However,

Wisconsin fish farmers feel that the APHIS Interim Rule goes beyond reasonable regulations and that the costs associated with the rule will cause significant economic burden on our small businesses and may put many farmers in jeopardy of losing their businesses.

The Interim Rule on VHS - Docket No. APHIS-2007-0038 was written, according to the summary, to restrict the interstate movement and importation into the United States of fish susceptible to VHS to prevent further introductions into, and dissemination within, the United States of viral hemorrhagic septicemia. There is no doubt that the Interim Rule will accomplish restricted movement of fish (from farms) but at a cost that will cripple the aquaculture industry in the Great Lakes Region, and probably will not prevent the disease from spreading through natural conduits or by water via the thousands of boats and vessels that are involved in commercial transport, sport fishing and recreation in the region.

The Regulatory Impact Analysis is disjunctive with the Interim Rule by stating, "*Net impacts of the interim rule are expected to be small because of the existing State regulations and the Federal Order.*" And in the summary – "*The potential impacts of the interim rule are not known given the lack of information on aquaculture operations and commercial fisheries in the regulated areas.*" It is very disappointing that APHIS did not understand how the commerce of live fish shipments work as stipulated by the economic analysis that the interim rule would have no adverse economic consequences– in view of the fact that stakeholder meetings were conducted and many professional organizations offered assistance. While the assessment is correct that many states have adopted equal or more restrictive rules concerning VHS, the interim rule has many changes from the modified federal order and which **will** have an economic impact on the industry. The state and federal VHS rules are not allopathic to one another but add layers of regulations - all costing large sums of money in order to comply. If the Interim Rule goes into affect without modifications, the aquaculture industry in the Great Lakes region will be in jeopardy by being placed at a competitive disadvantage to other regions of the U. S. and it will certainly have a negative effect on the multi-billion dollar sport fish industry. It is imperative that a new Economic Analysis be completed that has input from affected stakeholders and aquaculture professionals in the region.

We offer the following comments and suggestions:

1. **Definitions (§§ 83.1 and 93.900) and §83.4 Regulated Fish.** The definition of Anadromous fish does not take into consideration that in the Great Lakes Region Natural Resource agencies stock specific strains of fish that are Anadromous, spending part of their lives in streams and part in the Great Lakes (non saltwater). This definition seems to then allow the exemption (from regulation) of anadromous fish species from VHS strain IV (a) that occur on both the East and West Coast. Although VHS strain IV (b) affects more species of fish, there are still unregulated shipments of frozen fish coming into the Great Lakes Region from areas known positive to VHS strain IV (a). The definition appears to be subjective to avoid regulations for VHS strain IV (a), and there is no regulation on frozen fish.

2. **General Restrictions; Conditions of Movement (§§ 83.2 and 83.3)** This section appears to distinguish between VHS tested live shipments of fish and non-tested fish moved in interstate commerce for slaughter. However in Paragraph (b) the term transported in a sealed conveyance and accompanied by VS Form 1-27 needs better definition and if intended to mean sealed by a veterinarian or competent authority, this will be too costly and there is insufficient infrastructure to comply (see below). It should be noted that many fish processing plants are not located on municipal sewage systems. It seems reasonable that dewatering could be land based on fields

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



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Peter Fritsch – Farm Manager for Rushing Waters Trout Farm, the largest Rainbow Trout producer in the Midwest.



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Need we say more!

The following article will also be in the winter issue of *The Lake Connection*

Fish Stocking in Wisconsin

By Mike Heilman, Brookcrest Fisheries, LTD

Fish stocking or "fish planting" has a long history in Wisconsin. Dating back to the early 1900's raising fish was done by 12 state operated fish hatcheries. The Wild Rose, Bayfield, Madison, and St. Croix Falls hatcheries raised trout, while Delafield (bass & pike), Minocqua (bass, pickerel, & muskellunge), Oshkosh (pike, pickerel, & bass), Eagle River (pike), and Spooner (pike) hatcheries raised game fish. Two others, Sturgeon Bay (Lake Trout) and Sheboygan (Whitefish & Lake Trout) supplied fish for Lake Michigan. Distribution of fish fry and fingerlings was done by railroad car. The "Fish Car" - Badger #2 - operated on the rails from 1912 to 1945. Fish, swimming in milk cans, were chilled by ice and primitively aerated by people tending them; the fish car even had the capability to hatch fish. The fish car carried 184 10-gallon cans, which could carry 42,300 3-inch fish or 368,000 one-inch fry. The fish cans were transferred to vehicles, which then delivered the fish to the lakes.

Present fish stocking is now done by truck, ranging from pickup trucks to semi trailers, equipped with insulated hauling tanks supplied with tiny oxygen bubbles allowing fish to ride safely and thereby reducing stress on the fish. The truck driver also carries a special meter so he can monitor the oxygen content to keep the fish at the proper levels. The use of an oxygenated hauling tank allows for transportation of larger fish to lakes, streams, and ponds, which allows for the stocking of extended growth fish.

Fish stocked into public waters, regulated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and managed by the assigned lake manager, must come from a source that is health tested and free from the VHS virus. Fish at hatcheries, whether private or state operated, must test either annually or semi-annually to ensure disease free fish. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) follows the Federal guidelines to determine the process and application for testing fish.

DNR lake managers use several factors to determine what species to stock and the numbers of fish to stock. Managers look at lake studies and stocking history to help guide future stockings. Another aspect that lake managers take into consideration are if the species desired are natively present in the body of water, if the species are already present, and will the species be harmful to the water body. Natural reproduction is another consideration - the species may be unable to repopulate or, if stocked, can reproduce and become over populated. Social reasons are another aspect taken into consideration in stocking fish; lake front development has altered natural shorelines of lakes and rivers in Wisconsin and this has contributed in determining what fish are in lakes and streams. The DNR stocks many lakes and rivers in Wisconsin but

they cannot meet the demands put on the lakes from fishing pressure. Lake associations help "their" lake with habitat restoration and with fish stockings, guided by the DNR lake manager. Lake managers try to do what is best for the lake whether that is only allowing a stocking every few years, alternating species, or offsetting DNR stockings with alternating years. One manager, who I have talked to, manages a lake that is stocked one year by the DNR and the following year by the lake association. Another lake in his jurisdiction is allowed to stock every four years with walleyes, a species that is not able to reproduce in that lake, and another species agreed upon by the association and the lake manager. Every body of water is treated differently depending on the fish being stocked. For example, if largemouth bass are stocked, some managers may feel that stocking a low

Cont on page 16

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Cont from page 11

(not subject to runoff), as the soil would neutralize the virus. The offal, including carcasses, should be allowed to be disposed via commercial waste companies (in compliance with state standards) or sold to companies that produce a product that in the process neutralizes the virus (cooking, change in pH - pet food, or fish emulsion).

1. Interstate Certificate of Inspection (ICI) (§ 83.5) Paragraph (b) – *the requirement of the 72 hour inspection by accredited veterinarian or a state, Tribal or Federal competent authority for aquatic animal health.* There is insufficient infrastructure (accredited authorities) to carry out the inspection and, most notably, VHS carries no visual symptoms specific to VHS. Wisconsin Aquaculture Specialists called several accredited aquatic veterinarians and fish farmers who ship in interstate commerce to get an idea of the impact. The veterinarians told them that they charge \$1 per mile round trip and they may be hundreds of miles from clients. The sight (visual) inspection itself may cost up to \$150 due to disruption in their business day. The total cost for the inspection would be several hundreds of dollars and many said they could not comply because of frequency, and distance from clients would disrupt their business. The number of shipments at certain times of year runs several per week so the total cost of compliance runs into the tens of thousands of dollars per farm per year. We recommend that the 72 hour inspection be dropped for domestic interstate shipments. There may be need for the 72 hour inspection on international shipments.

2. Testing Requirements (§ 83.6) – The incorporation of the farm level certification standard and reduction of percent prevalence with facilities showing negative testing results over a period of time is a welcome relief. However, the standard for water temperatures between 50 and 72 °F, coupled with the twice per year and at least 3 months between tests, will not work. Many farms have water sources that are below 50 °F most of the year and other farms will not have those water conditions at the interval needed to take samples in order to comply. We recommend that USDA APHIS allow the state competent authority and their clients to work out a schedule for testing that makes sense for the farm and meets scientific knowledge of VHS. The Interim Rule fails to address, and give credit for, the AFS Blue Book standard of 60 lot fish once a year, which was required in the modified Federal Order and adopted by many states in the Great Lakes Region. Although APHIS would like the Interim Rule to serve as a draft standard model for state regulations "for all other regulated diseases", many of the states have adopted the blue book standard in their statutes, which are not easy to change. The consequences are that farms that ship to several states will have double the testing costs causing excessive economic burdens with no benefit derived from the test results.

3. Testing Requirements (§ 83.6) Paragraph (c) – *testing for fish held on a water source that is not a secure water source will be valid for 30 days from the date of sample collection.* This simply will not work since VHS testing takes a minimum of 28 days and longer with shipping. USDA APHIS should not be looking at "open water source" but rather if the fish are "cultured fish" as defined in the Interim Rule, or "wild source" indicating fish captured from unregulated waters, which are not aquaculture facilities. The 30 day testing requirement for cultured fish should be dropped.

Shipping Containers; Cleaning and Disinfection (§ 83.7) Although we agree that cleaning and disinfection is part of a biosecurity program and should be practiced on farms, the requirement to be monitored by the accredited competent authority is unworkable. This suggests that the competent authority needs to be present during the cleaning and disinfection and that simply is too costly, and again there is not the infrastructure in place to comply. A better solution is to recognize that

fish farmers are the last people that want VHS on their facilities and have taken steps (biosecurity plans or VHS HACCP plans) to prevent the disease from coming onto the farm. Again, USDA APHIS needs to recognize the risks associated with, and the difference between, fish coming from "wild source" and "cultured fish". The risks are greater in wild source fish.

The Wisconsin Aquaculture Association would like to acknowledge that USDA APHIS spent a lot of time, money and energy on the Interim Rule and Economic Analysis; there are sections that are improvements from the modified Federal Order. However because there are many provisions that are unworkable and will have disastrous effects on the aquaculture industry in the Great Lakes Region, we feel that the modified Federal Order should remain in place until these sections can be modified. WAA is willing to work with APHIS and other stakeholders to reconcile these points of concern. We suggest a meeting, sponsored by APHIS, which includes representatives from the eight Great Lakes States to include fish farmers, aquaculture extension specialists, state and national aquaculture organizations and State Competent Fish Health authorities. The meeting could be informational to allow APHIS to gain information about aquaculture commerce that is needed to complete the rule making process. Also WAA would like to invite Dr. Gary Egrie, to the Rules Workshop on December 5, 2008 to be held in Madison, Wisconsin to give an update on the Interim Rule. WAA also recognizes that APHIS has received comments from aquaculture concerns and scientists out of the region that believe that VHS has to be contained at all costs, even if this means significant hardship on fish farmers in the Great Lakes Region. APHIS has the difficult task of sorting out the wishes of competitors and the scientific validity of these concerns. VHS is out in the wild, not on any United States farm, and it is here to stay – regulations must be sensible, allowing commerce to continue while safeguarding fishery stocks. This is not an easy task but one that must be transparent and in conjunction with stakeholders.

We look forward to working with USDA APHIS on a modified version of the Interim Rule that will slow down the advancement of VHS without the heavy economic burden placed on fish farmers. But, again, the Interim Rule must not go into effect on November 10, 2008.

Sincerely,

Jeff Taylor

Jeff Taylor, President WAA

Cc

Senator Herb Kohl
Senator Russell D. Feingold
Representative Paul Ryan
Representative Tammy Baldwin
Representative Ron Kind
Representative Gwen Moore
Representative F. James Sensenbrenner
Representative Thomas E. Petri
Representative David R. Obey
Representative Steve Kagen
Wisconsin Senator Bob Jauch
Wisconsin Senator Dale Schultz
Gary Jensen, National Program Leader USDA CSREES
Ray Marchiori, SBA Regional Advocate
Betsy Heart, Ex-Dir NAA

Tour of Milwaukee County House of Correctional Fish Hatchery

Dave Mueller, a Corrections Officer at HOC, received a degree in fisheries science at UW-Milwaukee. Dave is in charge of the HOC Hatchery and gave us a tour of the facility. In 1984 an onsite unused dairy barn and water tower were remodeled to house a fish facility consisting of both indoor tanks and outdoor ponds. HOC inmates work at both the hatchery and the adjacent vegetable gardens, which provides fresh produce for the Hunger Task Force Program. This year over 40,000 fish - yellow perch (30,000), hybrid bluegills and sunfish(9,000), and largemouth bass (3,300) - were hatched and raised this year. These fish provide fishing opportunities for urban residents who have limited outdoor recreation options—especially kids, elderly and the handicapped. This is accomplished by stocking fish into Milwaukee County park lagoons as part of the Department of Natural Resources Urban Fishing Program. The stocking is done in late winter and early spring. Sport fishing clubs hold seminars at the parks in order to teach children fishing skills, water safety and environmental stewardship. Schools, civic groups, and organizations such as the scouts, use the hatchery as an educational resource.



Indoor Tank

Dave Muller, left, leading the tour of hatchery



One of the outdoor ponds at HOC Hatchery

Tours of UW-Milwaukee Great Lakes WATER Institute and Rushing Waters Fisheries

On Saturday September 20, the USTFA Midwest Aquaculture Conference offered 3 post conference tours. These were to the GL WATER Institute, Milwaukee House of Corrections Hatchery, and Rushing Waters Fisheries.



Research Tank at GL WATER Institute

The GL Water Institute is a research facility administered by the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. The 130,000 square foot building, located in the Port of Milwaukee, was acquired in 1973. The

Institute conducts research, education

and outreach focusing on the Great Lakes and other aquatic resources. The research vessel R/V Neesky is moored at the facility's 1300 deep water harbor frontage. The Institute's labs and facilities include a small library, radio-chemistry and analytical chemistry laboratories, as well as labs for aquatic ecology, microbiology, and fisheries biology among others.



Research Tanks at GL WATER Institute

Rushing Waters Fisheries is located in Palmyra on 80 acres of forest at the edge of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Artesian springs feed pure clean water through the farm's 56 ponds and raceways. Beside offering recreational year round fee fishing, Rushing Waters also offers smoked and fresh trout, smoked salmon, and a full line of fresh and smoked seafood.

Fertilized Kamloop trout eggs are brought into their hatchery and hatched out in two weeks.



Pond at Rushing Waters



Seafood Display at Rushing Waters



Indoor Tanks at Rushing Waters

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Fish Stocking in Wisconsin

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number will allow natural reproduction to populate the water body quickly. Walleyes are typically a species that do not reproduce well in most lakes; therefore, it is recommended that they be stocked at 25 fish per acre. Yellow perch stocking, if allowed, is recommended at around 100 fish per acre if the perch are large or 1000 perch per acre if they are small. Factors in stocking northern pike and muskellunge depend on the size of fish, expected survival, and any fish studies done on the water body.

Fish stocking has a long history in Wisconsin, and is a useful tool to keep population densities high in lakes and stream in order to meet the demands put on the natural resource by the increase of anglers and angling pressure. Through the combined efforts from the DNR lake managers, DATCP, private fish hatcheries and lake associations, we can keep supplying Wisconsin waters with large healthy fish for years to come.

For information on fish from private hatcheries, you can go to WisconsinAquaculture.com.

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2008 Conferences and Events

CONFERENCES

WAA attend several conference this year.

The **Wisconsin Association of Lakes Conference** was held in Green Bay on April 17-19. Mike Heilman, Cindy Johnson, Sarah Kaatz, and Ron Johnson manned the WAA booth.

On July 6-7 we had a booth for the first time at the **Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators Conference**, where a large number of teachers visited and talked with Mike, Ron, Sarah, Jim Held and Cindy about aquaculture in their schools. The US Trout Farmers had their national **Midwest Aquaculture Conference** in Milwaukee this year September 18-20 and WAA also had a display set up.

EVENTS

At Wisconsin's **Free Fishing Day** on June 7, WAA donated posters which were handed out at the Great Lakes Visitor Center.

Two weeks later, Sarah Kaatz manned a table at the **Shawano County Farm Brunch** and passed out Fish of Wisconsin posters, fish recipes and samples of smoked fish and spreads.

WAA held it's annual **Members Picnic/Fish Fry** at NADF, following the June Field Days. Everyone was treated to perch and whitefish and all the fixings. The Apostle Islands cruise scheduled for the evening before had to be cancelled due to thick fog, but some people stayed over and were able to attend a show at the Big Top Chautauqua Friday evening.

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Questions for Panel Discussion

Please submit your questions concerning rules and regulations. The questions will be read to the panel by an Aquaculture Outreach Specialist to avoid any conflicts with individuals. Attach your questions with the registration or send to Ron Johnson by email Ron.johnson@uwsp.edu or fax 715-779-3189

Wisconsin Aquaculture Research Summary

By Jim Held, Aquaculture Outreach Specialist

2 research projects have been completed this year:

- 1) Double Cropping of Perch - a double crop of perch in one season was accomplished by using both induced early spawning and delayed late spawning utilizing 2 different groups of broodstock.
- 2) Fish Growth and Production as a Factor of Pond Fertilization Regimes - determining optimal production based on the type and amount of fertilization used in ponds.

SONNY GOLLON Wisconsin River Live Bait

Carl "Sonny" Gollon died on Sunday October, 19 at the age of 76. He was born in Sevens Point, the son of Carl and Monica Gollon. He was enlisted in the Army where he earned several medals, including the Bronze Service Star. Upon returning home, he worked in the family bait business and in 1960 founded Wisconsin River Live Bait which he ran until his retirement in 1999. He is survived by his mother, a son Carl, daughter Suzanne, sisters Jeanette, Viola, and Loretta, and brothers David, Phil, Fred and Bill.

THE COOK'S CORNER - from Dani Klontz

Smoked Trout Cream for appetizers or dip

1# cream cheese
1/2 cp whipping cream
2 green onions, chopped
1/4 cp minced fresh parsley
2 tsp dried dill
2 tsp lemon juice
1 clove garlic, crushed
Dash hot pepper sauce
8 oz smoked trout, shredded

Beat cream cheese and cream in food processor until smooth. Stir in remaining ingredients. Spread on burrito size tortilla wrap, wrap in plastic and refrigerate at least 6 hours to allow tortilla to soften. Unwrap and cut into bite size pieces

Can also be served on bagels or as is with fresh veggies, bread or crackers.

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A g e n d a s / M I N U T E S

Wisconsin Aquaculture Association Quarterly Board Meeting December 4, 2008, 5 pm AmericInn, Monona, WI

AGENDA

Introduction of Board & Officers

Minutes from 9-18-08 and approval

Treasurer Report and approval

Secretary Report

Committee Reports -

Regulatory

Business Development

Research & Education

2009 Conference

Upcoming Workshops

Other Old Business

New Business

Adjourn

Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting December 5, 2008

**East Side Club
Madison, WI**

AGENDA

- 1) Call to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.
- 2) Roll call/Introductions
- 3) Sept. 18, 2008 Minutes
- 4) Council Discussion of Reports
- 5) Other Business:
Unfinished
New
- 6) Announcements
- 7) Adjourn at approximately 9:30 a.m.

WAA Board Meeting, September 18, 2008, Hilton Milwaukee City Center, Milwaukee

Board Chairman Peter Fritsch opened the WAA Board Meeting at 4:45 pm

Board Members/Officers present: Peter Fritsch, Board Chairman; Bill West, Board Member Cindy Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer; Terry Hogan, Vice President, on speaker phone; Jeff Taylor, President and Jim Pierce, Board Member joined later

Others present: Dan Gruendemann, Dave Gruendemann, Sarah Kaatz, Ron Johnson

Board Members not present: Dave Gollon, Fritz Gollon, Mike Heilman, Jerry Peplinski

There was no quorum, so absent board members will be contacted for their vote on motions made.

Minutes:

*Peter Fritsch made the motion to accept the minutes, Bill West 2nd.
Dave Gollon, Fritz Gollon, Mike Heilman and Jerry Peplinski were
contacted by phone and email – all approved the motion.*

Treasurer Report:

Peter Fritsch made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jim Pierce 2nd.

*Mike Heilman and Jerry Peplinski were contacted by phone and email
– all approved the motion.*

Secretary Report:

*The FFA Proficiency Sponsorship is due this fall – Peter Fritsch made
the motion to pay the sponsorship, Jim Pierce 2nd.*

*Mike Heilman and Jerry Peplinski were contacted by phone and email
– all approved the motion.*

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Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council

June 13, 2008 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

WAIAC Members Present: Peter Fritsch, Dave Gollon, Dan Gruendemann, and Jeff Taylor. Greg Fischer, Myron Kibus, and Jeff Malison.

WAIAC Members Absent: Jim Pierce and Bill West. Carol Dunn, James Gibson, Chris Hartleb, Jeff Hicken, Will Hughes, Phil Moy, Brian Shepherd, Bud Sholts, and Steve Yeo.

Others in attendance: Mike Bandli, Ed Baum, Lance Grahn, Dave Gruendemann, Terry Hogan, Ron Johnson, Sarah Kaatz, Kenny Kaszobowski, Karen Maron, Wally Maron, Dave Reto, Grace Robinson, Jerry Robinson, Randall Roesech, Swen Schwensen, Jon Wagner, Mark Williams, and Lucas Wycklendt.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Roll Call/Introductions

Minutes from March 13, 2008:

No changes noted. Motion to approve by Peter Fritsch. Second by Dan Gruendemann. Minutes approved.

Council Structure - 3 teams/workgroups

Meeting participants discussed the reorganization of WAIAC around teams/workgroups: identifying a lead fish farmer and UW Ext. Aquaculture Outreach Specialist to facilitate each team, confirming the additional team members needed and proposing the next step for each team. The teams are intended to add people as needed depending on work load.

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Bill West suggested that we should ask the recipient to come to the conference.

Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators Conference – Peter Fritsch made the motion for WAA to attend the conference next year, Jeff Taylor 2nd.

Mike Heilman and Jerry Peplinski were contacted by phone and email – all approved the motion.

Discussion on APHIS Interim Rule

USTF is writing a letter to APHIS requesting they withdraw their rule. Dr Kebus is also writing a letter and will bring up the issue of wild vs. farmed in respect to risk. WAA will write a letter and copy it to federal legislators. This letter will be emailed to WAA members and posted on WAA's website – members need to not only comment on this rule, but also call their congressmen and urged them to contact APHIS and voice their concerns. The comment period ends on November 10, the same date that the rule goes into effect. Several points of concern are: 1) economic analysis was not done properly, 2) need uniformity on whether OIE or Bluebook standards are used, 3) the 72-hour rule is not feasible for domestic shipments and there are not enough qualified veterinarians to handle the inspection requirement, and 4) wild exposure is more critical than water source in regards to risk.

2009 Conference

Topics and speakers need to be confirmed by the end of the year. Topics suggested – bait, food fish, and Rules – DATCP, DNR, APHIS. An email will be sent to members soliciting topics for the conference. A tour of the Spooner hatchery is a possibility, perhaps some kind of a lure demo with Musky Unlimited can be arranged, and the Wisconsin School Poster contest will be held next year, with conference attendees participating in the judging.

Committees:

Regulatory – Ron Johnson

Ron passed out a list of aquaculture related regulatory meetings he has participated in and letters that have been sent out. Carol Dunn, DoC, read WAA's letter on NR-40 (Invasive Species) to the Small Business Regulatory Review Board (SBRRB). SBRRB followed up with a letter to the DNR Secretary. WAA also sent a letter concerning NR-40 to DNR.

Regulations that are coming up – 1) HR-6311 – Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act.. WAA sent a letter of comment and NAA is also going to follow this. 2) Great Lakes Compact - Of concern is water use, within 5 years the state has to show gains in water conservation, and there is no exemption for agriculture and municipalities. 3) Nutrient Criteria – Ron is waiting to hear more details from DNR on this.

Bill West suggested that we should request that WAA be on the committee for the Nutrient Criteria.

Business Update: Sarah Kaatz

Farmed Fish Brochure – this is a WAA/UW-SP/NADF project. UW graphics is working on this, which will help with the cost. Costs will be split with WAA and UW-SP/NADF. We are getting some new pictures to put in the brochure. The next brochure will be on Bait/Stocking.

Cindy Johnson said that the WAA brochure will need redone/updated soon – there are not many brochure left.

Perch Committee: Dan Gruendemann

We need to restructure the committee and solicit participation from

Upcoming Workshops: Ron Johnson

Beginning Aquaculture classes will be held on Sept 27 and Oct 25. Ron Johnson said Gary Jensen stated this is the first time, nationally, in decades that these kinds of workshops have been held.

A Rules Workshop will be held on Dec 5. Agencies that are participating are DNR; DATCP; Carol Dunn, DOC; and SBA Advocacy. The USFW lead investigator has been invited to talk about the Lacey Act and USDA has been asked to give an update on the APHIS Rule. Dr Kebus and Bev Simonds will be available to talk 1 on 1 with farmers at the end of the workshop. This year we will ask for questions that will be presented without the individual being identified. These questions will be given to the appropriate agency ahead of time so they can properly respond.

Old Business:

The proposed Honorary Board Member category was explained. This category will acknowledge members who have been instrumental in the organization, and they will be kept informed of issues before the board and can contribute to the board. It does not give any voting rights and the board must approve the nominees.

Bill West suggested that the board should determine if this is something that necessitates a change in the By Laws.

New Business:

Peter Fritsch will check into WAA becoming a member of the WI Farm Bureau.

There was an open discussion on VHS, testing and fish diseases.

Peter Fritsch made the motion to adjourn the board meeting, Jim Pierce 2nd. Those present approved.

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1) Business Development

Lead Fish Farmer: Peter Fritsch, Rushing Waters Fisheries.

UW Extension Aquaculture Specialist: Sarah Kaatz.

The Next Steps. The next step is to set up a conference call through UWEX WisLine for July 10th. Ron Johnson will also help with this. Will develop a work plan from the call. Mike Bandli will help with getting the agenda set.

2) Regulatory Policy.

Lead Fish Farmers: Dave Gollon, Gollon Bait & Fish Farm, and Terry Hogan, Hayward Bait.

UW Extension Aquaculture Specialist: Ron Johnson.

Confirm Team. May want to include policy makers such as Dr McGraw from DATCP, Mike Staggs, Randy Stark, or John Welke from DNR, and Dr Jane Mussey from USDA APHIS.

Next Steps. Set goal to work toward – organize the Rules and Regulations/Compliance workshop for December. Update at next WAIAC meeting. Decide when to pull policy makers together and meet face to face.

3) Research and Education.

Lead Fish Farmer: Dan Gruendemann, Northside Enterprises.

UW Extension Aquaculture Specialist: Jim Held.

Need to focus on species other than perch – include other industry folks to make the workgroup more diverse as far as representatives for other species.

Next Steps. Suggested to use the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility Industry Advisory Council – will

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expand and rename mission, get priorities for next year. Plan to use Lance's office for meeting in July.

Reporting back to the Council – Lead Fish Farmers and Extension Specialists will present work team plan and updates at the next Council meeting in December. Before that want to have a conference call to pool results and put report together for The Creel. Will do this before September 1st, via conference call, plan on August 25th as the deadline for reporting back.

WAIAC Calendar

December (the first week) – Rules, Regulations and Compliance meeting and WAIAC meeting in Madison

March 12-14th – WAA Conference, Hayward

Presentations

Ron Zillmer, MID State Technical College

Ron Zillmer's presentation was cancelled. Ron Johnson gave an update on Mid State Technical College. MSTC is looking at a new land acquisition for an Environmental Center and would like to incorporate an aquaculture program. They will come back to WAIAC meeting and would like to know specifically what the industry needs and what MSTC need from the industry. WTCS goes through a very extensive process to determine their programs – will need to know what kind of employment opportunities there are in the industry and where exactly the industry is. This project is 5-7 years out, and UWEX has had 2 meetings with them to date.

Jeff Malison update of research.

Fish Health Updates:

- DATCP emergency rule is still in place – it is moving toward a permanent rule
- Fees. Fees are increasing – has been a 2 year process with several changes. Remember this went out for public hearing and comment.

Fish Farm Registration will expire March 31 2008 rather than December 31, 2007. Will still send notices. These changes are permanent.

1. Type I registration from \$25 to \$37.50
2. Type II registration from \$50 to \$125
3. Greater than 5 farms, up to \$300

Import permit increases – will increase from \$50 - \$90.
New VHS findings.

Round Goby in Milwaukee harbor. Lake Michigan was already positive for VHS, but what is significant is that this is the first finding this far south.

Muskies in an Ohio reservoir. This is significant because it is outside the Great Lakes Basin. VHS was considered only to be inside the Great Lakes Basin – this finding changes that, it may also have an effect on the interim rule from APHIS. Whirling Disease. WD was found for the first time in Illinois rainbow trout.

Dr Kebus led a discussion about sampling numbers on the farm.

There was a discussion about quarantines and what happens. If reportable disease is found, report to the Wisconsin State Veterinarian. Will be under quarantine or cease movement or if proven to be medically separated, could be under partial quarantine.

Next Meeting

Planned for early December in conjunction with the Regulatory Update Workshop in Madison.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion to adjourn by Dave Gollon. Second by Peter Fritsch. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

NEWS, UPDATES, BITS & PIECES

Grant Awarded to UW-Madison and UW– Stevens Point
UW-Madison and UW-Stevens Point was one of 17 recipients of Agriculture Development and Diversity grant money. The \$24,205 will fund a project using new technology to raise large and hybrid walleye in a single season to be used commercially for stocking and fish food.

Colin Benell, DATCP Aquaculture Inspector, has been visiting farms and checking records. In order to help farmers with their records, please read the article on page one "Guidelines for DATCP Compliance"

A new Wisconsin agricultural clean technology private equity fund has been launched. "The fund will focus on investing in companies that provide better, faster and more efficient methods of agricultural products that will make future agricultural companies and producers more competitive globally", said Jason Ridge, president of Peak Ridge Capital. For more information call Jason at 608-310-4198.

If you are interested in the Farm Bureau's current **2009-2013 Soil Exchange Offset contract** under the Carbon Credit Program, please call 800-261-3276 for more information.

DATCP has a publication, **Wisconsin Local Food Marketing Guide: A Producers Guide to Marketing Locally Grown Food**, available online at www.datcp.state.wi.us:80/mktg/business/business_resources/index.jsp

Connecting Threads: Weaving the Fabric of Agriculture, Wisconsin's first statewide conference for women who are owners or partners of a farm, will be on Dec 5-6 at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. For more information call Kathy Schmidt at 608-224-5048 or visit www.datcp.state.wi.us/registration/wfarming.jsp

As in past Decembers, the **Wisconsin's Executive Residence is again hosting holiday trees** one of which is designated "Made in Wisconsin" and will be decorated with ornaments promoting Wisconsin businesses. To have your business' ornament displayed, call Vicky Haymann at 608-246-2969. for more information.

David P. Fisher, seafood manager of Farah Foods LLC, dba Meat Processors Inc., Green Bay has plead guilty to **selling zander as walleye pike and Canadian style walleye**. Complete story at www.jsonline.com:80/news/33287864.html

An investigation by Hong Kong food safety authorities has revealed that one of China's largest egg producers has been feeding melamine contaminated feed to it's chickens, producing melamine tainted eggs as reported by Beijing News.

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