

# Texas AquaNotes



Texas Aquaculture Association March 2011, Volume 23, No. 2  
P.O. Box 752, Kemah, TX 77565

## President's Corner

Howdy all! I am looking forward to serving as your TAA President for the next two years. I was extremely disappointed to miss this year's Conference & Trade Show, and apologize for my absence. For those who don't know, I spent the week of the conference in Austin working on legislative issues with the Texas Agriculture Lifetime Leadership (<http://tall.tamu.edu/>) Class TALL XII. I was selected for the two year program last summer and eight session schedule was pre-set prior to our selections. I had to honor my prior commitment to TALL, and felt better about that decision knowing that I had the rare opportunity to represent the Aquaculture industry on not just the state level, but also worldwide. I'm relieved to see that there will not be a scheduling conflict next year, and am eagerly looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Speaking of the Conference & Trade Show dates, next year's Conference is set for January 25-27, 2012. The site is yet to be selected, but mark your calendars and plan to attend. I want to express sincere gratitude to everyone involved that made the 2011 Trade Show such a success. Our Sponsors, Exhibitors, Attendees, Speakers, and Staff all deserve a pat on the back next time you see them. I also need to express my appreciation to Rob Schmid for volunteering to serve as conference chairman again next year. We look forward to another great show. As we move forward with planning the 2012 event, we are asking for your suggestions, ideas, or improvements to create a better conference.

As the new president, I have some HUGE shoes to fill, both literally and figuratively. John Turner deserves a hearty Texas "Thank You" for his many contributions to our organization as president and in his many prior years of service on our board. Big John has always been a great spokesman for our industry and always willing to do his part to share our story. Thank you, John, for your many years of invaluable service!

Hopefully everyone survived this year's freezes with minimal damage. It sure made for some stressful times. If you did suffer losses, report them to your local Farm Service Agency as soon as possible for NAP insurance claims.

With the state's forecast budget woes, we will likely lose some TDA programs. There are no definitive decisions yet, and won't be till the budget is signed by the Governor. But, plan ahead, don't wait for the surprises. Another concern this legislative session will be fees and fines agencies may use to recoup a portion of lost revenue streams. Stay informed, and work to keep regulatory costs within reason.

Finally, the outlook for our industry as a whole appears promising! Things look especially good for the catfish sector, as limited supply has pushed prices to near \$1.00/lb. Feed prices are up, but there has been a recent dip in commodity prices, to open buying opportunities. Most other species have held or increased in value and look promising as our economy continues to rebound. Here's hoping all our industry enjoys the opportunity to prosper in 2011.

Until next time, have a great spring!

Mark Kubecka  
TAA President

## **NPDES HEARINGS**

### Lawmakers Pushing EPA-Crafted Bill to Stymie CWA Pesticide Permit – by John Heltman

A bipartisan group of House lawmakers are planning to quickly move EPA-crafted legislation that would scuttle the agency's forthcoming Clean Water Act (CWA) general permit for the application of pesticides to U.S. waterways by placing the authority to regulate pesticides and their application explicitly under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). But supporters only have a short time to pass the measure through both houses of Congress before EPA's pesticide general permit is set to take effect by court order April 9. The legislative language which EPA crafted at the lawmakers' request but has not taken a position on -- was the subject of a Feb. 16 joint hearing between the House Committee on Agriculture's nutrition and horticulture panel and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's (T&I) water resources and environment panel. Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-OH), who chairs the agriculture subcommittee panel, said in her opening statement that the bill aims to nullify a 2009 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit in *National Cotton Council v. EPA*, which held that the agency must permit chemical spraying activities on or near waters under the water law, rather than undermine the agency's authority in any other way. In this particular case, Schmidt said the agency was forced to develop a burdensome rule against its will by an overreaching court ruling, and so the bill would simply reverse that ruling. "While there are many issues confronting this Congress in which our relationship with the EPA may unfortunately seem to be more adversarial, in this particular case we recognize and acknowledge that the EPA is as much a victim of an erroneous court order as are state and local governments and pesticide applicators," Schmidt said. "We are hopeful that the bipartisan spirit in which we address

this issue will be a model for how we confront other issues."

EPA drafted the bill language by request of House lawmakers, but the agency has taken no official position on the bill. Steven Bradbury, director of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, supplied testimony during the hearing about how the agency regulates pesticides under FIFRA, but declined to answer questions about the agency's forthcoming general permit for pesticides, which is being crafted by the Office of Water. But Bradbury did say the FIFRA framework is capable of protecting waterways from environmental hazards posed by pesticides. "The regulatory restrictions imposed by EPA under FIFRA directly control the amount of pesticide available for transport to surface waters," Bradbury said. "In sum, EPA uses its full regulatory authority under FIFRA to ensure that pesticides do not cause unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment, including our nation's water resources." Andrew Fisk, president of the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA), said in his testimony that the inclusion of pesticide sprayers in the universe of point source dischargers subject to clean water permits has the dual effects of subjecting sprayers and permitting authorities to the financial burden of complying with the permits or the liability of violating the CWA.

ASIWPCA has sought EPA's cooperation in asking the court to grant a six-month stay of the April 9 court-ordered deadline to allow states more time to issue their own general permits, but regardless of whether the stay is granted, Fisk suggested regulating pesticides under the CWA was unnecessary. "No matter the duration, a stay does not address a fundamental question -- is this the appropriate way to manage pesticide

applications in or near water going forward?" Fisk said. "Is this necessary when another federal statute already regulates these applications and provides states sufficient authority to regulate these discharges in consideration of local and site specific water quality issues?" Regulated Point Sources In its 2009 ruling in the Cotton Council case, the 6th Circuit ruled that the agency's longstanding exemption of pesticide sprayers from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process was arbitrary and ordered the agency to consider pesticide sprayers a point source subject to permitting requirements.

House Republicans vowed that the Cotton Council ruling would be among the items that they would seek to address in the 112th Congress, though it was among the few environmental rulings they have expressly sought to reverse.

But the committees' hearing on the issue -- and the fact that EPA drafted the bill's language -- indicate that opponents of the ruling are making a concerted and serious effort to get the bill passed before the April 9 deadline. While the legislative language has not been

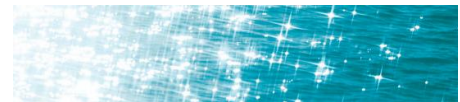
introduced as a bill, several lawmakers expressed support for the bill, including Schmidt, T&I water panel chairman Bob Gibbs (R-OH), ranking member on the Nutrition and horticulture panel Joe Baca (D-CA), and Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-OK). Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY), ranking member of the T&I water panel, did not explicitly express opposition to the bill, but excoriated the leaders of the joint committee hearing for not allowing a more diverse array of opinions to be heard during the hearing. In addition to Bradbury's and Fisk's testimony, the panel heard from the National Association of State Agriculture Commissioners, the Suffolk County, NY Division of Vector Control and the National Water Resources Association.

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## **Barry Lynn Rowland**

Ingleside, TX

News of Barry Rowland's death crossed the desks of many TAA members recently. Many remember Barry as a successful businessman, friendly competitor, man of great character, and dedicated aquaculture supporter. Barry will be missed. Many of us learned something from Barry's manner; how to improve our business

practices, and how we treat our working relationships. Barry made a difference in many of our lives at TAA.

Following is Barry's obituary as printed in the Caller Times newspaper, Corpus Christi:

Barry Lynn Rowland, 60, of Zancudo, Costa Rica, formerly of Ingleside, passed away Saturday February 5, 2011 at his beloved coastal home. Barry was a lifelong resident of Portland and Ingleside where he owned and operated Rowland Fiberglass for many years before moving to Costa Rica.

He is survived by his wife Carole, daughter Christina (Kyle Alty), son Chad Lawson (Amanda) and granddaughter Jaycee Lynn Lawson, one sister, Donna Meng (Greg) of Arkansas, three brothers, Mark (Maryanne) of Kansas, Michael of Portland, and Scott (Vicky) of Aransas Pass, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Allen and Mickey Rowland and brother Steven.  
*Originally published Tuesday, February 08, 2011*

## **COMING to TEXAS**

### **The Four P's of a Safe and Sustainable Aquaculture Industry: Practices, Presentation, Promotion and the Press Saving Your Business and Your Markets**

"The Four P's of a Safe and Sustainable Aquaculture Industry", presented by the National Aquaculture Association and sponsored by the United Soybean Board is coming to Texas!

When: Wednesday, August 10, 2011

Where: Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Please read the information provided by NAA to further explain what the Four P's is all about and stay tuned for more information. We will have registration information and details on our website and we will also send it by email.

**WHAT:** The National Aquaculture Association and the United Soybean Board are inviting local sponsors to host six-hour workshops to empower producers to improve the public image of the U.S. aquaculture industry. The workshops, funded by a grant from the United Soybean Board to the National Aquaculture Association, will give producers the knowledge and skills to help

shape the public's perception of aquaculture at the local level, to market their products more effectively, and to improve their profit line.

The agenda for the workshops will include presentations on farm practices to demonstrate the absence of exotic diseases and invasive species, on regional perspectives of the environmental

soundness and sustainability of aquaculture, and on advocacy and communication. Use of these practices is increasingly important as both large institutional and small regional buyers actively search out environmentally-friendly growers and develop purchase specifications that include a sustainability component.

The agenda will also include a presentation on understanding certification and regulatory verification. With the wide range of certification programs available from a number of different sources, it is critical to understand how current federal and state regulations help to ensure the sustainable growth of the U.S. aquaculture industry, the use of environmentally-friendly practices, and product safety. Buyers and the public need to understand that U.S. producers currently adhere to rules and regulations instituted by state and federal agencies including USDA, EPA, NOAA, and the FDA. These federal and state regulations have the force of law and are a more definitive proof of industry standards than are the confusing and arbitrary certification programs now promoted by private organizations.

**WHY:** U.S. growers are increasingly challenged by inexpensive imports, environmental advocates who oppose growth, and negative media attention. The workshop will provide the information necessary to answer consumer, buyer, and environmentalist questions about aquaculture and enable stakeholders to respond directly to media inquiries with accurate, science-based information. The curriculum will address common misconceptions about aquaculture as well as the economic, health, and environmental benefits of a vibrant and growing domestic aquaculture industry. It will be proactive, anticipating negative stories before they emerge and equipping stakeholders with the tools necessary to reshape negative messages. In the event that a

sensationalized story appears in the media, the training will provide a rapid response mechanism to reshape the story and control the message.

**WHO:** The workshops will be sponsored by the National Aquaculture Association, the United Soybean Board, and a local sponsor. The local sponsors could be an Extension or Sea Grant program, a state aquaculture association, state agency, or other industry group.

Responsibilities of the local sponsor include issuing invitations and promoting the workshop. Workshops must be open to all producers and cannot be limited in any manner, such as by species group, association membership, or regional area. The intended audience also includes high school agriculture teachers, FFA leaders, extension professionals, Sea Grant agents, and others who can expand the outreach of the program to their students and constituents. The goal of the workshops is to reach as many producers as possible and arm them with the information needed to educate the public, answer buyer questions, and advance the growth of a sustainable U.S. aquaculture industry.

Workshop instructors will include Dr. Andy Goodwin and Dr. Nathan Stone of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), Linda O'Dierno, communications consultant, Betsy Hart, NAA Executive Director, and staff or a designated regional speaker from the third-party sponsor.

**HOW:** NAA will be responsible for NAA designated speakers and their travel, curriculum development, and will provide a take-home information toolbox to reinforce and supplement the workshop for each participant. NAA will provide assistance in promoting the program.

To provide a local perspective, the third-party sponsor will be responsible for providing a 20-minute presentation on "Why Aquaculture within the Region is Environmentally and

Sustainably Sound” followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. The local sponsor will also be responsible for issuing invitations and promotion of the workshop, registration, and all arrangements, including workshop site, AV equipment (screen, LCD projector, laptop, podium, mic, etc.), lunch, and any travel expenses needed for the sponsor's chosen speaker on

environmental sustainability. Workshops will be free or have a minimal registration charge and will not be held in conjunction with other events unless approved by NAA in advance. **For further information or to schedule a workshop contact:** Betsy Hart, National Aquaculture Association, E-mail: [bhart@sc.rr.com](mailto:bhart@sc.rr.com) or Telephone: 803-730-3370.



## Aquaculture Drug Update

**Date: 15 February 2011**

New *Guide to Using Drugs, Biologics, and Other Chemicals in Aquaculture* The American Fisheries Society - Fish Culture Section's Working Group on Aquaculture Drugs, Chemicals, and Biologics is proud to announce its publication of the *Guide to Using Drugs, Biologics and Other Chemicals in Aquaculture* and a companion tool, the *Treatment Calculator*, to assist in the calculation of the amount of drug, biologic or chemical to be used for your specific aquatic animal treatment needs. The *Guide* is being published exclusively in electronic format to facilitate efficient and timely updates in our ever-

changing regulatory climate. The *Guide* is provided as an Adobe PDF file, requiring you to have Adobe Reader installed on your computer.

The *Treatment Calculator* is offered as a Microsoft Excel file. Your computer must have installed either Microsoft Excel or any other program that will read and execute calculations of an Excel file. For more information about the *Guide* and *Treatment Calculator*, as well where to obtain your free downloadable copy go to: <http://tinyurl.com/4ara8r2>.



## **Feds Aim to Boost Fish-Farming –** From USAHA News

Federal ocean officials, on Wednesday, outlined broad policies to boost the supply of domestic farmed seafood, generate jobs, spur innovation and boost coastal ecosystems -- but they may not be enough to jumpstart aquaculture in marine waters.

The goals have implications for the near-shore ocean off San Diego County, where a major fish farm was proposed about two years ago but since stalled. The backer of that project, Don Kent at Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute in Mission Beach, said the federal policy outline falls far short of pushing specific actions needed to give U.S. aquaculture an immediate boost.

"It's one thing to have a goal, but what's the strategy to reach it?" he said. "If the policy came out and said we need to have demonstration farms along the U.S. coast and we are going to study them for five years, I would go 'Great. We are the first guys to try it.'"

The Department of Commerce and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Wednesday signaled intentions to boost U.S. aquaculture when they issued complementary draft plans for fish farming. The documents cover raising of shellfish, finfish, and algae for food, habitat restoration and rebuilding of wild fish stocks. Public comments will be accepted on the proposals for the next 60 days.

The proposals were crafted to promote a "sustainable industry" in the U.S. and encourage Americans to apply their ingenuity at home. They emphasize expanded federal research, seeking new food sources for farmed fish, minimizing ecological problems and creating an "efficient" regulatory program for aquaculture operations.

See: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/policy2/>

### **Texas Aquaculture Association BOARD MEMBERS**

	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Brian Brawner	2011
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Paul Dorsett	2011
Jim Ekstrom	2012
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Joan Holt	2013
Chase Holub, Treasurer	2013
Fritz Jaenike	2013
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John Jones, 1st VP	2012
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Robert Schmid	2012
Vance Schultze	2011
John Turner	2013
Granvil Treece	2013
Peter Woods	2013



## AquaCalc 1.0:

### Sometimes the Best Solution to a Problem is the Simplest

From Fishbytes, by Erich Luening Aquaculture North America,  
January/February 2011

AquaCalc 1.0 was developed by a Texas computer software developer named Nick Staresinic. He was paid \$9000 in 1998 by the Sea Grant folks at Texas A&M University to develop a tool that makes building and managing closed recirculation systems as easy as turning on your desktop.

The software tool is available through the Texas sea Grant website for \$25 a download.

As with many things, sometimes the best solution to a problem is the simplest. And if AquaCalc 1.0 is anything, it is simple.

“I originally built it for my own use to automate time-consuming calculations that arose routinely in closed culture of native shrimp in Texas. It quickly became clear that there were other people with the same needs – an “aquaculture calculator” – so I decided to code a more versatile stand-alone app for a wider group of users,” Staresinic told *Aquaculture North America*.

#### AQUACALC 1.0

The folks at Texas A&M University Sea Grant say AquaCalc 1.0 was developed in response to a growing interest in closed system aquaculture and recirculation hatchery systems over the past several decades.

They saw that this interest extends beyond culturists in higher latitudes, where climatic conditions limit the profitable growing season. “Even some tropical producers are seriously evaluating closed pond production techniques as plausible alternative to traditional flow-through practices that increasingly are accused of being “unsustainable,” they wrote in the user manual for the software.

Such systems often require confronting water-quality treatment issues at a more technical level.

AquaCalc 1.0 facilitates several of the technical calculations that arise routinely in the design and operation of closed systems.

On the desktop AquaCalc works on Microsoft systems now and there is a Mac version in beta.

“I have a beta of the upgrade running on Mac OSX Snow Leopard. I’ve been a Mac-guy since the ‘80’s and developed the old Mac version first,” explained Staresinic. “I coded the Windows version after that – on a Mac, with Windows emulation software. The old Windows version still runs on existing Windows operating systems, but the old Mac version is not compatible with the newer Mac OS X.”

Staresinic is coding the upgrade in Java (the old apps were in C++), so the new app will run on any operating system that supports the Java Virtual Machine – e.g., Mac, Windows, Solaris and Linux.

The ability to work on Microsoft and Mac will most likely make it workable with components of some of the larger aquaculture management software packages I’ve covered in this column before.

#### THREE MENU COMPONENTS

The user interface of AquaCalc has three menu components once the software is opened – Design, Ops (short for Operations) and Ratchets.

The Design menu includes six items useful in design of recirculating aquaculture systems. For instance, Tank Specs calculates areas and volumes, in commonly used units, for tanks of three basic shapes; *O2 Uptake* estimates the minimum oxygen and air supply rates to satisfy the metabolic requirement of the cultured animals and of the nitrifying bacteria that oxidize the ammonia these produce; *NH3 Production* estimates production on un-ionized ammonia, a figure important in sizing biofilters and also projects the amount of solid nitrogenous waste and the drop in oxygen and alkalinity resulting from

nitrification; *Heat Up* calculates energy needed to heat a volume of water, which aids selection of heating gear; *Water Mixing* displays results of mixing two volumes of water of different water-quality characteristics. The Ops (operations menu contains five items useful during routine culture operations. *Feed Rate* estimates the amount of feed needed to support a cultured population; *pH(Alk)* estimates the amount of sodium bicarbonate and sodium hydroxide needed to adjust pH and alkalinity; *Heat Maintenance* calculates heat lost via four major heat-transfer processes, thereby estimating the energy needed to maintain water temperature within culture specifications; *Un-ionized NH<sub>3</sub>* given temperature, salinity, & pH, estimates the amount of total ammonia in the toxic, unionized; *Form Disease* catalogs common diseases of cultured species and estimates the amount of therapeutic agents needed to counter several of the vectors. The Ratchets menu includes two conversion utilities and a list of key references. Among these are *Unit Converter* which converts between a variety of units commonly encountered in aquaculture; and *LW Converter*, which includes conversions for shrimp and fish, such as for shrimp count-per-pound & carapace length, fish conversions include standard length, fork length, and whole width.

#### AN UPGRADE

When asked how this too makes the job easier, Staresinic answers matter-of-factly, “All

of these calculations can be done by anyone who takes the time to research the formulae and program them into an app with a suitable user interface; but I suppose that can be said about any app,” he said. “I think the old AquaCalc’s utility is that it collects a number of useful calculations –e.g., unit conversions, length-weight conversions, un-ionized ammonia concentration, water heating and heat maintenance – under one roof and packages them in a simple interface that aquaculturists can understand, even without reference to the user’s manual.”

The upgrade version is expected by summer 2011. Central to the upgrade is a water map component, Staresinic said.

“Atypical user of the new software generally will not have a deep background in marine carbonate chemistry, yet he or she will be charged with managing pH, alkalinity, and mineral (calcite & aragonite) saturation, all the while avoiding high CO<sub>2</sub> and high NH<sub>3</sub>,” he said, “This is, I believe, one hurdle to advancing sustainable production methods and is addressed in the upgrade.”

The challenge, he said is to present this information to the user in an easy-to-understand graphical way. With that in mind he’s come up with an interactive “water-quality map” that is the center-piece of the new upgrade.

AquaCalc software is available through the Texas Sea Grant website (<http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu/Outreach/Pub%20Catalog/aquaculturtre.html>) for a fee of \$25.



## **AquaCalc at the Texas AgriLife Research Mariculture Laboratory**

“We use it regularly to calculate requirements for sodium bicarbonate to maintain a safe range of alkalinity in our intensive shrimp culture systems. We also use it for calculating various mixtures,” said Josh Wilkenfeld, of the AgriLife Research Mariculture Lab.

The main areas of research conducted at the lab, which is under the Texas A&M umbrella, include super-intensive, zero-exchange shrimp aquaculture, production of algae biomass for biofuel and other valuable bioproducts, shrimp nutrition studies, development of a cultured live bait shrimp industry in the Gulf coast region, and use of halophyte salicornia for treatment of aquaculture effluents.

“AquaCalc helps us do some of the basic calculations that are often needed in any aquaculture operation,” explained Wilkenfeld. Without the software tool, Wilkenfeld said they would spend a lot more time doing calculations by hand, or working out spreadsheets to do the necessary calculations on a repetitive basis.

“We are eagerly awaiting the release of Nick’s updated version of AquaCalc. He has demonstrated the prototype..., and it is a phenomenal piece of original work that I think has no equal. It’s a completely interactive system that shows you what happens with many water quality parameters as a result of taking or not taking certain actions, and how these parameters affect one another.”

## **The New Food Safety Modernization Act**

The new Food Safety Modernization Act is not only for domestic food producers and food handlers, the same rules and requirements are the same for all imports.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sent a U.S. overseas missions cable on Friday to alert the international community to the implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act and detail the impact the bill will have on imports.

The Hagstrom Report, an inside-the-beltway Agriculture newsletter, released a copy of the cable, which contains information about a February 23 briefing in Washington, DC for

diplomats to learn about how the new law will be implemented and a March 29 World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Committee meeting in Geneva.

Clinton emphasized that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will follow all procedures required under the WTO.

She says the new law "mandates significant changes to help improve the safety of the U.S. food supply" by holding all players in the global supply chain accountable for controlling hazards. In the cable Clinton includes talking points and asks diplomats to attend the meetings to learn more about the new law.

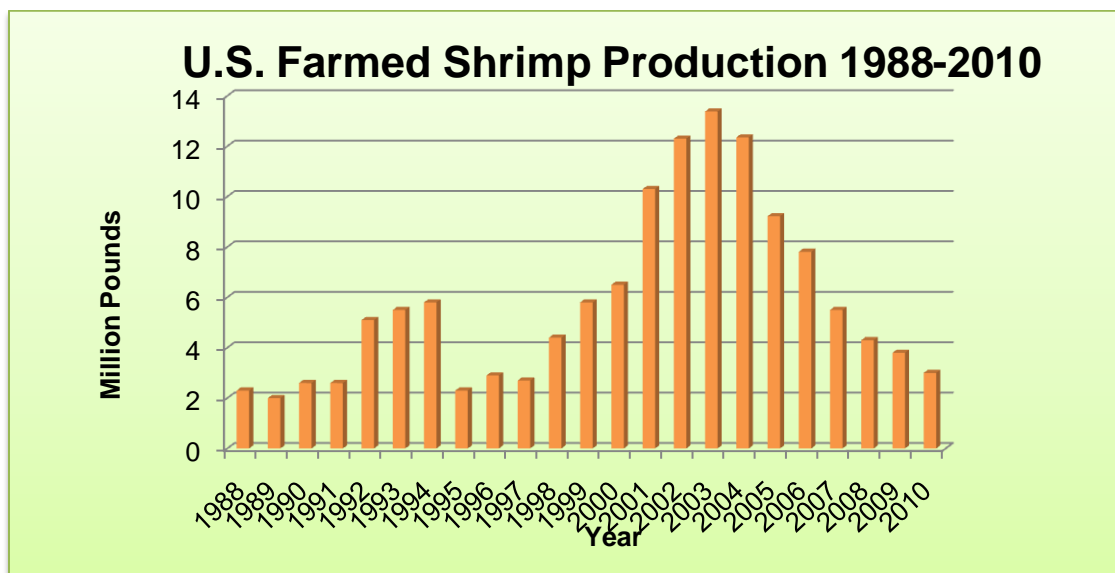


## US Shrimp Farm Production 2010

### With Data From Each Producing State

Compiled by Granvil Treece, Texas A&M University

<u>State</u>	<u>Lbs. Shrimp Harvested</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>PLs stocked</u>
Texas	2,526,648	693	113,349,000
Alabama	248,900	75	8,400,000
Florida	90,368	25	4,000,000
Hawaii	18,000 (est.)		
CNMI (Saipan)	42,000		
Guam	40,000		
South Carolina	7,000	1	
U.S. Totals	about 3,000,000 lbs.	794 ac.	125,749,000 PLs

**NOTES:**

The last remaining farm in Arizona (Desert Sweet Shrimp) closed in 2010, but has found a new investor and plans to have a crop in 2011. Marvesta in Maryland was under re-construction the first nine months in 2010 but will have production in 2011. Natural Shrimp in La Coste, Texas started up again late in 2010 and will have crops in 2011.

**Sources of information:** Craig Collins, Arizona; Dr. Ya-Sheng Juan, TPWD, Brownsville, TX; Dr. David Teichert-Coddington, Greene Prairie Aquafarm, AL.; Mark Godwin, Woods Fisheries, Port St. Joe, Fla.; Dr. Al Stokes, South Carolina; Bob Rosenberry, Shrimp News International, San Diego, Ca. ;Dr. Shaun Moss, USMSFP, Hawaii; Doug Ernst, Natural Shrimp, La Coste, TX.; Mel Catalma @Saipan Aquaculture; Michael Ogo (Guam and CNMI data); and Guy Furman at Marvesta in Maryland.

## Marketing Students from University of Wisconsin? The Rest of the Story

By: Robert Schmid

I'm sure, before the 2011 TAA conference was over, you all heard rumors that we had visitors from Wisconsin among us! Now why in the world would there be students from Wisconsin attending our conference? I asked the same question, and because I knew you would want to know, I went straight to the source for an answer. Here's the rest of the story.

It just so happened, while we were all having a relaxing time, enjoying the fine Karaoke performances at the Neon Moon on Thursday night, I noticed Tom Wedegaertner ( the Wisconsin student's chaperone) sitting all alone at a table, while my wife Cindy, had whisked away the students to the dance floor, to show them a TEXAS good time! I saw and seized my opportunity to get "the rest of the story". Here's the story Mr. Wedegaertner, Director, Cottonseed Research and Marketing, Agricultural Research for Cotton Incorporated (it says all that on his business card) told me. Cotton Incorporated recognized the possibility of additional cottonseed uses if they could produce a gossypol free cottonseed meal. For the past 17+ years, researchers at TAMU have been developing "gossypol free" cotton. Gossypol is an important component in the cotton plant, as it fights off parasites and reduces the need for pesticides. Cottonseed,

a by-product of the cotton industry, is an abundant and inexpensive protein source, but it has always been restricted as a feed ingredient in fish and shrimp diets due to its gossypol toxicity to most aquatic organisms. The research has been long and tedious, but in the end, a cotton plant that produces gossypol in the plant to ward off pests, but not in the seed, was successfully developed. Now, Cotton Incorporated wanted to know what, and where their gossypol free cottonseed could be used. They funded cottonseed meal/aquaculture feeds research at TAMU with promising results. The University of Wisconsin was given a research grant to determine the potential market size and demand for aquaculture feeds in the US. The students from Wisconsin were part of the marketing research team. They knew that TAMU had done the feeds research and they knew there were catfish and other finfish and shrimp grown in Texas. What better place to find all those people in one place than at the Neon Moon. No, no, I mean, at the Texas Aquaculture Association annual conference. And that's why there were a group of marketing students from Wisconsin at the 2011 TAA conference.



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