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Florida Aquaculture Project - 2008-2009
Quarterly Report
December 30th 2008

Name and Address of Submitting Organization:

Bay Shellfish Company
P.O. Box 289
Terra Ceia, FL 34250
(941) 721-3887

Principal Investigator(s) (name and title):

Curt Hemmel
Managing Director – Bay Shellfish Co.

Dr. Ryan Gandy
Director of Research & Development – Bay Shellfish Co.

Title of Proposed Project:

Commercial Farm Production of the Florida Bay Scallop (*Argopecten irradians*, Lamarck 1819), an Alternative Molluscan Aquaculture Species

Cooperating Investigators (name, title and organization)

Jay Leverone, Ph.D
Senior Staff Biologist
Mote Marine Laboratory
1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy
Sarasota, Fl. 304236

Total Project Cost: \$140,000
State of Florida Cost: \$70,000

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The investigation into the production of the bay scallop *Argopecten irradians* continues to proceed on schedule. The report for the third quarter of 2008 detailed the hatchery progress up to the 'setting' of the scallop larvae in mid-September. These larvae have since been raised in the hatchery and were moved to nursery systems for further growth. At the nursery stage, scallops reached an average size of 17.3 mm thus, equating to a growth rate of 1.73 mm/week. Concurrently, the phase one cage construction was completed. The containment system construction suggests a significant difference in costs based on cage type.

The cages, consisting of 4 treatments with 5 replicates each were deployed with 300 scallops per cage (17.3 mm avg. shell width) at Site 1 (Citrus County) and Site 2 (Manatee County). All scallops were free of any observable pathogens or contaminating organisms. They were fed a high amount of cultured algae prior to field planting to ensure optimum nutritional reserves for acclimation to their new environment. During deployment all of the scallops were observed to be alive and filter feeding normally. A video and photographic record has been taken to date. Field placement of these cages marks the completion of 50% of the work for this project.

Over the next quarter (Jan - Mar.) an additional 25% of the projected work will be completed: Scallops from these offshore sites will be checked every 2 weeks and sampled every 4 weeks. These data will determine the growth rate, cage fouling, scallop fouling and containment performance under the offshore conditions.