

Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – June 7, 2006

Notice of Meeting

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services of the Florida Aquaculture Review Council announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: June 7, 2006, 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Division of Aquaculture Conference Room, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 5th Floor, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED: To discuss issues affecting the growth of aquaculture in Florida.

A copy of the agenda may be obtained by contacting: Karen Metcalf, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (850)488-4033.

If special accommodations are needed to attend this meeting because of disability, please contact Karen Metcalf as soon as possible.

Meeting Agenda

FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

Division of Aquaculture Conference Room
1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida
June 7, 2006
9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING March 14, 2006
- III. OLD BUSINESS
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council
 - B. Legislative Update
 - C. 2007-2008 Proposals for Aquaculture Projects
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VI. NEXT MEETING
- VII. ADJOURN

Meeting Minutes

**Minutes
Florida Aquaculture Review Council Meeting
Division of Aquaculture Conference Room
1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 5th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida**

June 7, 2006

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by ARC Chair, Alan Maxwell at 9:00 am.

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present were:

Donald Drawdy	Tropical Fish
Gene Evans	Food Fish
Alan Maxwell, Chair	At-Large
Brad McLane, Vice-Chair	Aquatic Plants
Allen Register	Alligators
Marty Tanner	Agriculture Advisory Council
Sherman Wilhelm	Chair, Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council (AICC)

Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent was:

Dan Solano	Shellfish
Heath Davis	Commercial Fishing

Guests present:

Frank Chapman	University of Florida
Jane Davis	The Living Seas – Walt Disney World
Megan Davis	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Gene Dulac	DeLand Middle School
Ryan Gandy	Mote Aquaculture
Kal Knickerbocker	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
Charisty Lee	Wildwood Middle School
Elisa Livengood	University of Florida
Uford Madden	Florida A&M University
Kevan Main	Mote Aquaculture
Mary Maxwell	Sea Critters
Joshua Santos	Wildwood Middle School
Susan Swartzfager	Wildwood Middle School

II. Minutes

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the ARC meeting of March 14, 2006 as written.

III. Old Business

There was no old business

IV. New Business

A. Florida Oceans Council

Jane Davis, member of the Oceans Council, presented material on the development and work of Florida Oceans Council. The Oceans Council was created as part of the Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Act last year. There are 18 members and the group is jointly chaired the Department of Environmental Protection and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, with DACS serving as the third *ex officio* member. The Council recently completed a research plan (which was distributed to the ARC) based on prioritization of management needs received from the agencies. It was noted that there is a particular need for integrated data management.

The Council has recognized aquaculture-related needs in their meetings and research plan. Part of the Council's charge includes an aquaculture pilot project. This project is more specifically related to stock enhancement. Aquaculture research needs included 1.) demonstration of economically-feasible production and marketing of high-value marine fish species that can be farmed in a land-based recirculating production system, 2.) evaluate the potential benefits and risks of offshore aquaculture in Florida, and 3.) develop and demonstrate recirculating marine aquaculture technology for marine sport fish stock enhancement and restoration.

Most recently, the Governor vetoed the budget that funds the Oceans Council. The aquaculture pilot will still continue, but much of the other work of the council is in jeopardy. The Council website is www.dep.state.fl.us/oceanscouncil. The next meeting will be held June 22-23 in Miami.

B. Legislative Update

During the recently completed legislative session, a budget was passed which included five of the six projects recommended by the ARC for 2006-2007 (the Florida Aquarium withdrew its project). The Governor has signed off on this budget without vetoing the aquaculture projects. These projects are slated to begin July 1. Contracts have been prepared and approved by DACS, distributed to the investigators, and are beginning to be returned to DACS.

C. Net Pen BMPs

The advisory group that has been working on net pen BMPs for the past year has developed a sixth draft. DACS staff feel this is very nearly the final draft and will be submitted for approval soon. The final rule will be folded into the existing BMP manual.

D. USDA Relief Programs

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced an indemnification program as a result of losses from hurricanes Dennis, Katrina and Wilma. The Secretary of Agriculture and/or the President designated a disaster in 36 Florida counties due to these storms. There are roughly 650 certified aquaculture operations in these counties. Funding, \$3.6 million, will be coming to Florida as an Aquaculture Block Grant. There will be an individual cap for this program of \$80,000. The Division of Aquaculture requested input from the ARC on ways to distribute money equitably and fairly to the impacted producers. There are four other programs for assistance related to these storms, but these will be administered through the Farm Service Agency of USDA.

There was concern expressed that if such a program had documentation requirements, farmers may spend many hours on paperwork, making the program unattractive. The ARC will forward their comments to Kal Knickerbocker.

E. ARC Statements of Interest

The ARC received 11 full proposals for projects. Before hearing from the investigators, it was emphasized that the ARC has a reputation to uphold related to the review process. The Commissioner, Legislature, and Governor have come to trust the ARC’s recommendations. ARC members with a conflict of interest were told to abstain from scoring those proposals for which they have a conflict. It was additionally noted that the ARC members are nominated by the Florida Aquaculture Association for their appointment and act independent of DACS. Therefore, they do not have a conflict related to projects submitted by DACS for their review.

Presentations were made to the ARC on nine of the eleven submitted projects (there were no presentations made regarding Atlantic High School or the Florida Aquaculture Association). The projects are listed below.

Project Number	Full Proposal Title	Presenter
01	<i>Educational Training Workshop – “Developing Aquaculture Opportunities in Florida”</i>	No presentation was made
02	<i>Florida Aquaculture Clearinghouse for Educators</i>	Karen Metcalf <i>DACS-Division of Aquaculture</i>
03	<i>Dock/Aquaculture Greenhouse</i>	Dennis Robinson <i>Umatilla Middle School</i>
04	<i>Development of a Nucleus Breeding Center for the Production of Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) Stocks of Litopenaeus setiferus (Atlantic White Shrimp)</i>	Ryan Gandy <i>Mote Marine Laboratory</i>
05	<i>Design and Evaluation of Marine Fish and Live Feeds Recirculating Systems for Inland Aquaculture – Year 2</i>	Kevan Main <i>Mote Marine Laboratory</i>
06	<i>Aquaculture Research Facility</i>	Gene Dulac <i>DeLand Middle School</i>
07	<i>Aquaculture Immersion Excursion: A Teacher Workshop Series for Integrating Aquaculture Education Into the Classroom</i>	Megan Davis <i>Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution</i>
08	<i>Quantitative and Qualitative Study of Two Experimental Small Scale Recirculating Aquaculture Systems: 1)a Freshwater Ornamental Fish and Water Garden Plant Grow Out System, and 2) Marine Ornamental Breeding and Grow Out System</i>	No presentation was made

10	<i>Education Beneath the Surface: Water Quality and Animal Behavior Relationships</i>	Susan Swartzfager, Charisty Lee and Joshua Santos <i>Wildwood Middle School</i>
11	<i>Development of North Florida Aquaculture Program to Enhance Aquaculture Education</i>	Uford Madden <i>Florida A&M University</i>
12	<i>Aquaculture Education for Florida Teachers</i>	Cortney Ohs <i>University of Florida</i>

Following the presentations, there was an extended discussion about the projects submitted. In particular, there was concern expressed about the four projects that all address aquaculture curriculum development. Some members feel that the projects are going in different enough directions that there will be little duplication while others have a problem with supporting duplicative work.

There was a discussion of how the ARC's review process has come to the stage it is at this time. Questions were asked about holding off on scoring and revisiting coordination of the curriculum projects. It was noted that, because of the process announced, the ARC must score projects today. In the end, it was decided that the ARC would score each project as they saw fit. The scores must be submitted by Friday, June 9.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for August via teleconference.

VI. Adjourn

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Submitted by Karen Metcalf