

# Aquaculture Review Council Meeting – March 17, 2009

## Notice of Meeting

The Aquaculture Review Council announces a public meeting to which all persons are invited.

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Division of Aquaculture, Fifth Floor, Conference Room, 1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, 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: Kim Norgren at (850)488-4033.

## Meeting Agenda

### **FLORIDA AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING**

Division of Aquaculture Conference Room  
1203 Governor's Square Boulevard, Fifth Floor  
Tallahassee, Florida

March 17, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

#### **AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. MINUTES OF MEETING      October 7, 2008
- III. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Legislative Update
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Statements of Interest for Aquaculture Projects (2010-2011)
  - B. Electronic Copy of Statements of Interest
- 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, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Tallahassee, Florida**

**March 17, 2009**

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by ARC Vice-Chair, Brad McLane at 11:10 am.

##### **Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present were:**

Gene Evans	Food Fish
Jim Michaels	At-Large
Marty Tanner	Agriculture Advisory Council
Sherman Wilhelm	Chair, Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council (AICC)
Dan Solano	Shellfish
Allen Register	Alligators

##### **Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) members present via Teleconference:**

Brad McLane, Vice-Chair	Aquatic Plants
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##### **Aquaculture Review Council (ARC) member absent were:**

Heath Davis	Commercial Fishing
Art Rawlins	Tropical Fish

##### **Guests present:**

Kevan Main	Mote Marine Laboratory
Megan Davis	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Phyllis McCrane	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
Kal Knickerbocker	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)
Kim Norgren	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

#### **II. Minutes**

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the ARC meeting of October 7, 2008 as written.

#### **III. Old Business**

*A. Legislative Update*

The Legislation is currently in secession though there are currently few bills of substantive importance. Of these, there is a provision to amend the Right to Farm Act and the Non-Residential Farm Building Statutes to exempt farmers from paying local impact fees on equipment and housing equipment. Also, there are sales tax provisions being reviewed.

The Revenue Estimating Committee met last week and the revenue collection continues to be below projection. All the Divisions, including the Division of Aquaculture, were asked to identify an additional 20% in budget cuts for the next fiscal year, 2009-2010. This is in addition to the 4% cut previously reported and the loss of one position, and OPS position funding which were cut during the special session in January. The 20% budget reduction will be coming from the Divisions base budget, which includes salaries, benefits, and expenses. ARC projects and activities are not affected at this time.

The Senate will meet Thursday to review the 20% cuts submitted. Once the revenue is established, the House and the Senate will then divide the funds among the various parts of Government - Education, Health care, Transportation, Corrections, and General Government. Each part will then divide this share among the various departments within that post.

There is some Federal stimulus money coming to the Department of Agriculture. Forestry is set to receive \$900,000 while a pro-rate share of \$50 million will come to Aquaculture for a 2008 feed assistance program. This amount is not yet known. Any stimulus money received will be distributed in a similar manner as the Catfish Feed programs of 2007. Interested farmers will be required to fill out applications and provide copies of feed receipts.

**IV. New Business**

*A. ARC Statements of Interest*

Twenty six statements of interest were received for funding during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Comments related to each project are found in the following table.

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Full Proposal Title</b>	<b>Comments</b>
01	Tropical Fish Aquarium Education Program	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. However, the reviewers would also like to see some type of performance measure, to determine the level of the projects success, included in proposal.
02	Educational Training Workshop: Expanding Aquaculture Awareness in Florida	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. The reviewers, also, requested further details on capital outlay expenditures and on the specific logistics for the workshop. The logistics should include information on the location, duration, and the specific schedule for the meeting.

03	Improved Hatchery Design and Demonstration for Florida Ornamental Production	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. Also, the reviewers requested further details on capital outlay expenditures, specifically the \$150,000 in supplies. It was also recommend that the level of cost sharing be addressed.
04	Increasing Pompano Larval and Postlarval Performance and Survival with Improved Microparticulate Diets	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. Also, the reviewers wanted clarification of the differences between the 2009 project and the proposed 2010 project. Also, it was recommended that the budget be reviewed to be as financially competitive as possible.
05	Debunking the Salt Myth	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
06	Development of Spawning and Larval Rearing Techniques for Ballyhoo and Mojarra, two candidate marine baitfish for Florida Aquaculture	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
07	Understanding the Market for Florida's Wild and Aquacultured Marine Ornamentals: Status, Current Practices and Future Prospects for Development	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
08	Survey of Florida's Small-Scale Ornamentals Aquaculture Production System to Establish Benchmark for Continuous Process Improvement and Share Information on Industry Best Management Practices	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
09	Development of Goggle Eye ( <i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i> ) aquaculture in Florida	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but also requested clarification on the potential economic market for this species.
10	North Florida Aquaculture Program to Enhance and Develop Aquaculture Education in Middle and High School	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.

11	Commercialization of Florida Pompano Production in Inland Recirculating Systems	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but also requested clarification on the timeline of the project as a single-year project. The ARC asks that the level of cost sharing be addressed.
12	Improving Summer Survival of Hard Clams Species	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but asks that if this project receives the SEA Grant Award this proposal be withdrawn to avoid duplication of funding.
13	A Survey to Assess the Quality and Effectiveness of Aquaculture Education Programs in Florida's School System from Middle School through Post-Secondary Level	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
14	Development of Community-based Commercial Cobia Broodstock and Hatchery Demonstration Project and Industry Technology Transfer Program	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
15	Analysis of the Economic and Financial Status of Florida's Wild Caught and Aquacultured Marine Ornamentals Enterprises	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
16	Coral Culture Development and Education Initiative	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
17	Sturgeon Aquaculture Veterinary Infrastructure Development	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but recommends reviewing the cost sharing level in the proposed budget.
18	Ornamental Fish Diseases: New Management Strategies	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. The reviewers also requested that the project address the long term affects of salinity levels on fish. Also, it was noted that salary costs appear to be duplicated in the event that both the Sturgeon study and Ornamental Fish study were accepted. It was requested that should this occur project costs in one study be reduced accordingly.

19	Ecological Risk Assessment and Pest Impact: Effects of Predatory Fish on Ornamental Fish	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. Also, the reviewers recommended reviewing the cost sharing level in the proposed budget.
20	Facilitating Student-based Aquaculture Research via Outdoor classroom Project-Based Instructional Activities	The ARC would like to see a full proposal.
21	Application of Photocatalytic Degradation to Control Compounds that Cause Off-Flavor in Recirculating systems for Food Fish Production	The ARC would like to see a full proposal.
22	Development and growth of goliath grouper under laboratory conditions	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
23	Aquaculture Education Through Applied Research Using a Florida Raised Pleco, <i>Hypostomus plecostomus</i>	The ARC would like to see a full proposal. However, the reviewers requested additional information on the cost of citrus pulp and the economic impact of using citrus pulp as a food ingredient versus the other feed ingredients currently available. It was also recommend that the level of cost sharing be addressed.
24	Investigations into the Viability of Commercial Bay Scallop ( <i>Argopecten irradians</i> , Lamarck 1819), Production	The ARC would like to see a full proposal but also requested verification of the economic data provided for the cost and sales of scallops. Additionally, reviewers requested information on the size of the current market for this species and the feasibility of growout in a bag.
25	Developing improved post-larval production technology for cobia ( <i>Rachicentron canadum</i> ) using stage-specific feeding management regimes	The ARC feels that this project is inappropriate at this time.
26	Identify Key variables to Improve Reproductive Success in Captive Pompano Broodstock	The ARC would like to see a full proposal, but request a full project timeline.

There was a short discussion on the level and/or necessity of “matching” funds. It was noted that many of the proposed projects had little to no cost sharing. As many of these

projects were from investigators submitting for the first time it was suggested, that for those selected, this requirement would be reiterated in the request for a full proposal.

The members also felt that given the economic climate investigators need to be fiscally responsible. To be competitive, they may need to find ways to refine and trim their budget. It was suggested that in the letter requesting full proposals, Investigators be required to provide more detail on expenditures and request they be as fiscally responsible as possible. They should be reminded of the current economic climate and that the competitive nature of these proposals will be intense. To increase their competitiveness the council recommends providing financially fiscal budgets and address levels of cost sharing.

However, it was noted that technology, itself, has become more expensive and the Council was encouraged to focus on to those projects that will move Aquaculture to the next level.

**V. Electronic Copies**

Requests have been made to accommodate Statements of Interest to be submitted through electronic media, such as email. In discussion, it was determined that there would not be a clear chain of possession of the documents and therefore would not be a reliable method for accepting submissions at this time.

**VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting date will be set for the mid-to-late June.

**VII. Adjourn**

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Submitted by Kim Norgren