



## Aquaculture Review Council Seeks Your Input

The Aquaculture Review Council was created in 1984 by the Florida Legislature for the purpose of advising the Commissioner of Agriculture on matters relating to the aquaculture industry. Over the last 19 years, the Council has reviewed millions of dollars of research requests and was instrumental in changing Florida law to enhance the development of aquaculture while protecting the environment. Very few of the Commissioner's 60 advisory councils are as active.

### Aquaculture Review Council

- Alligator Farmer - Allen Register (863-675-0623)
- Aquatic Plant Farmer – Brad McLane (954-472-5120)
- Aquaculture Industry Member At Large – Alan Maxwell (305-367-2672)
- Commercial Fishing Representative – Heath Davis (352-543-9493)
- Food Fish Farmer – Jim Harvey (561-832-7291)
- Shellfish Farmer – Dan Solano (888-252-6735)
- Tropical Fish Farmer – Don Drawdy (963-665-1673)
- State Agricultural Advisory Council – Allison Townsend (813-634-7676)
- Chair of Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council – Sherman Wilhelm (850-488-4033)

The Council is the industry's direct link with the Commissioner. The Commissioner relies on the Council to provide him with the industry's positions on a wide variety of issues. Almost every segment of Florida's agriculture industry has an advisory council and all of these councils are culminated into a State Agricultural Advisory Council to provide the most direct input from the farmer to the Commissioner. The Aquaculture Review Council is only as good as the members who sit on it and the members are only as good as the quality of information given to them by the people they represent. Please contact your Council member or the ARC Chairman Alan Maxwell. They need to hear from you.

The council is comprised of nine members who serve four year terms. The seven industry members are appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture from recommendations made by industry associations.

The Council's basic duties are to: a) formulate and recommend to the Commissioner rules and policies governing the business of aquaculture by studying and evaluating aquacultural issues; b) review and recom-

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## Former Soviet Sturgeon Hatchery Seeks US Partners Aquaculture Review Council

The Georgia Union for Rehabilitation and Restocking of Ichthyofauna (GURRI), led by Marina Khavtasi, is seeking buyers of sturgeon eggs and fingerlings produced at the Restoration Center for Sturgeon in Geguti, Republic of Georgia, of the former USSR.

Funds generated through the sale of excess production will be used to support Center operations. Government funding has been cut off which has stopped their highly successful sturgeon restocking program for the Rioni River and other rivers of western Georgia.

Sturgeon species available include Russian (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*), fringebarbel (*A. nudiventris*), stellate (*A. stellatus*), and giant (*Huso huso*). They are currently working on locating the Baltic sturgeon (*A. sturio*). Marina Khavtasi can be contacted at [xmarina@mail.ru](mailto:xmarina@mail.ru).

The Republic of Georgia is located on the western Black Sea Coast and has a very mild climate along the coast (most of the country is mountainous). With a size slightly larger than South Carolina, the Republic has been working to resolve civil unrest driven by an Abkhaz separatist movement since 1991 and an economic slowdown. However, western

investment is welcomed and the Republic has excellent relations with the United States. For additional information concerning Georgia visit <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5253.htm> or <http://www.georgiaemb.org/Home.asp>.

Mac Graham, Star Prairie Trout Farm, was instrumental in establishing a connection between the Division and the GURRI. Mac has worked in Georgia with the Agricultural Cooperative Development International to provide expertise



on aquaculture facility design and operation. He reported on his work in the Sept/Oct 2001 issue of *Aquaculture Magazine*. That report is available at <http://www.aquaculturemag.com/siteenglish/printed/archives/issues02/02articles/AquacultureRep.pdf>. Mac can be contacted at [spt trout@presenter.com](mailto:spt trout@presenter.com).

For hard copies of these materials, contact Paul Zajicek at 850-488-4033.

mend changes to the state aquaculture plan; c) submit a prioritized list of research projects to the department; d) review and discuss problems that serve as barriers to the growth and development of aquaculture; e) provide input to the department to perform studies, identify needs, research issues, write reports, record actions and meetings of the council; f) receive input from state agencies and public and private institutions on aquaculture research, service, development, and regulatory needs; and g) provide an issue of concern to the Aquaculture Interagency Coordinating Council for resolution. Issues of concern shall include specific facts, the industry hardship, regulatory provisions, questions relative to the issue of concern and suggestions for solving the problem.

The next meeting of the Aquaculture Review Council will be June 19 in Key West at the Pier House Resort. For more information or an agenda, contact Karen Metcalf at 850-488-4033.

## Spring Viremia of Carp Update

By Roy P.E. Yanong, DVM  
UF-Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory

Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC) was discovered last summer at a North Carolina koi facility. SVC is a virulent virus that kills carp and goldfish. The koi farm has been quarantine since last June and USDA recently announced they will pay indemnification for destruction of affected fish (indemnification means monetary payment for a percentage of the product value). A SVC fact sheet is available at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VM106>.

USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) is considering SVC regulations that impact the importation of species susceptible to the disease. Importation requirements may follow the International Office of

Epizootics (OIE) guidelines which require health certificates and laboratory test results. If necessary, proof of SVC-free status may be required from the country-of-origin's competent authority and a SVC surveillance program may be implemented. Proposed regulations will be open for public comment. Producers should beware that interstate movement of live fish is not under USDA jurisdiction and state-by-state regulations may be developed. The OIE SVC health code is available at [http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/fcode/A\\_00029.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/fcode/A_00029.htm).

For additional information contact: Roy Yanong, 813-671-5230 extension 104; Denise Petty, Division of Animal Industry, 863-519-8663; or Otis Miller, Jr., National Aquaculture Coordinator, USDA-APHIS, 301-734-6188.

# New Diagnostic Tests for Aquaculture Paul Zajicek Recognized

By Denise Petty, DVM  
Aquaculture Specialist  
Division of Animal Industry

The Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory has added two cell lines for viral isolation to its stock of fish cell lines.

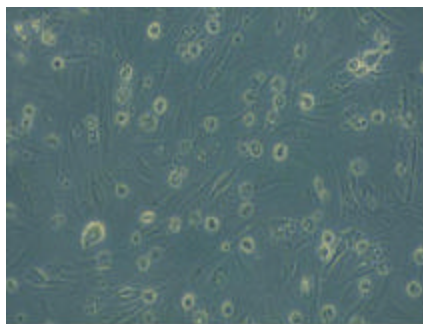
One cell line is the koi fin cell line (KF-1) for isolating Koi Herpesvirus (KHV). Koi Herpesvirus is an emerging disease that affects koi (*Cyprinus carpio*) and can result in mortality as high as 90%. The first outbreak of KHV

in the U.S. occurred in the mid-Atlantic region in 1998. In 1999, several outbreaks occurred in California. More cases around the U.S.



have been reported, as recently as this year. KHV has also been reported in Israel, the United Kingdom, and continental Europe. There are only two techniques for diagnosing KHV, virus isolation and PCR (polymerase chain reaction). The Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is the only lab in the state with the KF-1 cell line.

The other cell line is the white sturgeon spleen cell line (WSS-2), which can be used to grow white sturgeon iridovirus (WSIV) and several of the herpesviruses which affect white and other sturgeon species. White sturgeon iridovirus first appeared in juvenile sturgeon at several California farms in 1988 and resulted in up to



80% mortality. Disease due to WSIV has since been observed in Oregon and Idaho. Two herpesviruses have been found in cultured and wild sturgeon in California and Oregon, and both resulted in significant mortality. The addition of this cell line enhances the aquaculture

diagnostic capability of the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory as sturgeon culture grows in Florida.

To facilitate aquaculture diagnostic testing, contact Dr. Denise Petty at the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 407-846-5200 x.234 or 407-908-0562. Koi Herpesvirus killed carp image courtesy *OFI Journal*. WSIV in WSS-2 cells image courtesy USFWS-Idaho Fish Health Center.

The National Aquaculture Association (NAA) recognized Paul Zajicek with the McCraren Award at the Aquaculture America '03 in Louisville. During the presentation Dr. Randy McMillan, NAA President, noted, "Paul has worked diligently with the NAA on non-indigenous and aquatic nuisance species providing much of our association's insights into these issues."



The McCraren Award was established after the death of Joe McCraren, NAA's first Executive Director. Mr. McCraren was a well-known and admired former employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who worked tirelessly to establish the Association.

Paul began working with the Department's Division of Marketing in 1987. He was recognized in 1996 by Southeastern Fisheries Association with the Aylesworth Award for enhancing the growth of Florida's seafood and aquaculture industries. Paul provides technical assistance to the aquaculture community and Division's BMP compliance staff.



## BMP Notes

The Aquaculture BMP manual is a "living" document under constant review and evaluation. New technology, management practices, and environmental issues continue to challenge the BMP program to provide common sense environmental regulation that balances aquafarming risks and rewards, environmental impacts, and on-farm implementation costs.

The Division is currently investigating important topics that industry, environmental community, or other regulatory agencies have asked to be included in the Aquaculture BMP program. These topics include alligator farming, hard clam grow out and harvesting, marine net pens, constructed wetland development, and water conservation. Public input is critical to BMP development.

If you have ideas or questions regarding these topics, or if you are interested in providing input, reviewing conceptual ideas, or helping to formulate new Best Management Practices please contact Kal Knickerbocker, Environmental Administrator, 850-488-4033 or [knicke@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:knicke@doacs.state.fl.us).



J. Seward Johnson Marine Education Conference Center

## International Sustainable Marine Fish Culture Conference and Workshop

October 9 - 10, 2003  
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution  
Fort Pierce, Florida



Harbor Branch Aquaculture Development Park

The goal of the conference and workshop is to bring together researchers, industry, and other stakeholders to identify and address constraints currently limiting marine fish production in the United States.

Topics for Conference and Breakout Workshop Sessions:

- Industry Status and Future Directions
- Development of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems
- Culture and Production of Offshore Marine Species
- New Technologies for Controlled Reproduction
- Genetic Improvement Through Use of Biotechnology
- Marketing Marine Aquaculture Species
- Culture and Production of Euryhaline Species
- Integrated Health Management
- Nutrition and Feeding Strategies

The meeting will be held at the J. Seward Johnson Marine Education Conference Center of Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Fort Pierce, Florida. Social activities and tours will be conducted throughout HBOI's Aquaculture Development Park. Accommodations are available on-campus or at nearby hotels.

For information contact:

Mr. Kenneth Riley, Director of Aquaculture Education  
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution  
5600 US 1 North, Fort Pierce, Florida 34946  
(772) 465-2400 ext. 464, kriley@hboi.edu  
Conference Website: [www.aquaculture-online.org/conference](http://www.aquaculture-online.org/conference)

Sponsored by:



## Annual Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference June 16-19, 2003 Pier House Resort, Key West Florida

For conference agenda and registration visit  
[www.FloridaAquaculture.com](http://www.FloridaAquaculture.com) or call Carrie Jenkins at 850-488-4033.

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