

## 3/9/04 MDA Aquaculture Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

C. W. 3/10/04

MDA (Dr. Arnoldi)

1. Advisory committees established by MDA normally report to the Director of MDA. The Aquaculture Advisory Committee reports to Dr. Arnoldi, who acts on the Director's behalf.
2. With the loss of Doug Hoort as the aquaculture representative for MDA, and due to state budget cuts, the MDA is currently under a hiring freeze. Dr. Arnoldi will act as aquaculture representative until Dr. Hoort's position is replaced. According to Dr. Arnoldi, budget projections are unlikely to change through 04 and 05. Potentially, budget constraints will remain until 07.
3. Dr. Arnoldi expressed that the MDA is attempting to handle all essential elements concerning the Aquaculture Industry in Michigan. Issues not being addressed should be brought to her attention.
4. According to Dr. Arnoldi, Dr. Faisal, MSU, had discussed the possibility that a Masters or PhD student may be potentially available to act as Aquaculture Coordinator, with the possibility of continuing on fulltime with MDA in the future.

DNR (Gary Whelan)

1. 450,000 coho (approximately 45% of this year's supply) were lost at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery on Friday 3/5/04 due to pump failure. Special permits were obtained from DEQ for burial.
2. Nearly all brook trout tested for BKD at the Marquette State Fish Hatchery tested negative. This success is likely due to increased focus on biosecurity and vaccination. All fish (just brook trout?) raised on open water sources are now vaccinated for BKD.
3. Reports suggest that furunculosis and cold water disease is rampant this year.
4. Whirling disease and LMB virus testing on Michigan waters will be coupled with ecosystem assessments.
5. LMB virus tests so far showed positive for 14 of 30 lakes tested. Evidence suggests that LMB virus is correlated with anglers and/or bait. MDNR is in review of these findings. Presently no control measures have been established. MDNR will likely focus on importation of bait and LMB. Mr. Whelan stated that, at present (year 04), control measures aimed towards Michigan aquaculture facilities are not necessary.
6. MDNR has approval to modify their health inspections from 60 fish per lot annually, to 30 fish per lot quarterly. He feels this will provide a more active approach to fish health issues.
7. Legislation towards GMO's have passed. MDNR has no problem with GMO's providing proper biosecurity and permitting. They do, however, have a problem with GMO's in non biosecure facilities (e.g. pond in a flood plain).

8. MDNR is presently dealing with MDEQ requirements for waste disposal. Mainly issues pertaining to use of septic haulers. MDEQ has stated that fish waste is considered a class A pathogen, which requires tight restrictions for disposal such as land application. THIS IS BOUND TO BE AN ISSUE AFFECTING THE INDUSTRY IN THE FUTURE. Don Garling, MSU will review potential GAMP's in existence for handling fish waste. Exemptions for agriculture wastes should also be reviewed.

#### NCRAC (T. Batterson)

1. \$400,000 grants are in place for continued research on nutrition (HSB and YP) and MT (sex hormone for Tilapia).
2. MT, LMB nutrition, White Paper for Marketing, Regional Aquaculture Extension and Extension Specialist were selected as a future research priority.
3. New Animal Drug Application for AQUI-S (anesthetic for salmonids) designated as a priority issue.
4. It is believed that the USDA is currently spending more for aquaculture products (all forms e.g. finfish, shellfish etc.) than any other single species used in aquaculture. This suggests that aquaculture is a very high priority for USDA.
5. Aquaculture in the US is remaining relatively flat and not experiencing the dramatic increase occurring in other countries. Potential factors why include labor costs, environmental regulations, and miss labeling by foreign supplies. Miss labeling (e.g. Zander labeled as YP), while against the law, appears to be common. The Department of Commerce is supposedly responsible for regulating such activities.
6. The NCR supplies only about 3% of the US aquaculture production.

#### MSU (Dr. Garling)

1. MSU is developing a web page for NCRAC listing all regional state aquaculture contacts, fish health/transport requirements, and approved aquaculture species based on responses of contacts surveyed from the NCR and adjoining states. At present, survey responses have been relatively low. The web page will be posted on NCRAC, estimated in 4-5 weeks.
2. Frequent requests are coming in from school systems in the state for small scale aquaculture systems and studies. Such organizations who plan to sell the fish they grow should contact MDA for potential permit requirements.

#### MAA (Chris Weeks)

1. Current primary industry concerns are:
  - a. Replacement for the MDA aquaculture coordinator position resulting from Dr. Hoort's leaving MDA.
  - b. NPDES permit fees.
  - c. EPA effluent regulations.
  - d. Coordinated fish health inspections to occur in the first week of December rather

than January or March.

2. Based on information provided above (see MDA), the potential of MDA finding a permanent replacement for Dr. Hoort does not appear to going to happen through 05. Dr. Arnoldi will be the quarterback for aquaculture related matters until further notice.
3. NPDES permit fees were implemented by MDEQ, who is not represented within the Aquaculture Advisory Committee. MDEQ is also the agency responsible for monitoring and compliance of upcoming EPA regulations.
4. The industry's request for coordinated health inspection in the first week of December were verbally agreed upon by both Dr. Faisal and Dr. Arnoldi. Dr. Arnoldi requests notification of health inspection dates prior to December so that MDA can schedule inspections appropriately.

#### Michigan Farm Bureau (Rob Anderson)

1. Main concerns of Farm Bureau are water use rights and NPDES permits.

#### Review of discussions from previous meetings

1. Industry coordination of MDA inspections (see above)
2. Training (to be worked out between Dr's Arnoldi and Faisal)

#### Accomplishments

1. MOU between MDA and MDNR
  - a. The MOU is completed and should be reviewed by the industry.
  - b. MDA and MDNR need to develop SOP's based on the MOU for certain issues that may cross jurisdictions (e.g. importation permits). Representatives from both agencies agree this must be done but feel that it may take some time to develop SOP's due to present workload. **INDUSTRY INPUT PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT OF SOP'S** would be very beneficial for the industry.

#### Future Meetings

1. Vogler Proposal – In depth disease discussions (C. Weeks to discuss D. Vogler prior to next meeting).
2. USDA speaker potentially will be scheduled for next meeting.
3. Next meeting scheduled for May 11, 2004.