

USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

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The Committee met on October 27,2019 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island, from 12:30 PM to 5:00PM. There were 15 members and 37 guests present. We reviewed resolutions, made introductions, and presented announcements, as requested.

Presentations & Reports

Title:

Aquaculture 101: Marine Finfish Aquaculture in the Northeastern U.S.

George Nardi, InnovaSea Systems

George discussed different fish species and culture methods of land-based systems and coastal/off shore production. George emphasized the importance of technical development and matching those with market opportunities. George shared the keys to success of aquaculture are juvenile quality and managing system water quality. George spoke on health issues and the importance of robust facility biosecurity and appropriate quarantine. Biggest health issues for these species are insidious parasites and dissolved oxygen issues.

Aquaculture 101: European Sea Bass Culture using Recirculating Aquaculture Systems,

Eric Pedersen, President & CEO, Ideal Fish

Eric shared the history and growth of his company, Ideal Fish, which grows European Sea Bass. European sea bass are a nonnative fish species which is a popular food fish and can be grown well in recirculating aquaculture systems. Eric shared the production cycle of his fish. He imports juveniles from Europe, quarantines these animals and then moves them to the grow-out area. Whole fish leave the facility on ice. The benefit of the domestic grow out of these animals provides a fresher product to consumers. Eric attributed his success to direct sales of his product versus using a distribution network. Eric shared that Ideal Fish is looking forward to the release of a smoked product hitting shelves this December.

Aquaculture 101: American Unagi— Eel Aquaculture in Maine

Sara Rademaker, Founder, American Unagi

Sara described the range of aquaculture practices from extensive to intensive production methods. American Unagi sources their animals from domestic collectors that collect wild elvers. The elvers come to the farm and complete grow-out in under 2 years. Sara shared why these eels are suited for recirculating aquaculture because they grow well in high densities and are a very adaptable species.

Aquaculture 101: Emerging Aquatic Pathogens — Tilapia Lake Virus

Kathleen Hartman, USDA APHIS

Kathleen shared the various detections of OIE listed and emerging pathogens that have occurred within the last year. Many of the detections have been linked to imports of species. Lessons learned from the past year include the need for import controls and the importance of implementing the commercial aquaculture health program standards (CAHPS).

NOAA Update

Kevin Madley, NOAA, Aquaculture Coordinator for the Greater Atlantic Region
Kevin gave an overview of marine aquaculture within the United States and its importance toward addressing the seafood deficit. He talked about NOAA's support of industry and programs they have in place including research and development for marine hatcheries. He talked about the potential for aquaculture in the U.S. in comparison to other countries, in particular underutilized resources and capacity.

Committee Update for adapting BlueBook

Bill Keleher, President, Kennebec River Biosciences

Bill updated the committee on funding regarding updating the Bluebook revisions. The ad hoc Bluebook committee is in the process of submitting a final report on their findings. It is expected that a plan will be developed for moving forward with changes to the Bluebook. Funding was obtained from AFWA through a grant and will support an administrative position to assist.

Committee Business:

Four resolutions were brought forth to the committee and all were discussed. Three resolutions were unanimously passed, and one was unanimously rejected.