

1st Quarterly Report to the Legislature

Sept. 30, 2015

Aquaculture and Fisheries Program

Prepared by R. Lochmann, Interim Department Chair and Center Director, and A. Kelly,
Associate Director of the Center

Overview: The main activities this quarter focused on making a smooth transition from the former leadership to the current leadership, maintaining our academic, research and extension activities, and beginning to define new priorities and roles for the Center. R. Lochmann has engaged in a series of meetings with administrators to facilitate the transition to her new position, and attended the 1890's Morrill Act meeting in Washington D.C., and the UAPB Alumni meeting in Atlanta this summer. On the UAPB campus, The new Dean - Dr. Ed Buckner - is meeting with individual faculty and staff to address their concerns, and group meetings were held with Extension personnel, and with the full Department including all faculty and staff.

Academic activities: Despite the loss of several key faculty, all Fall classes in our Department are being taught by qualified personnel who are already on staff. However, this will necessitate the payment of overload for faculty whose teaching appointments were exceeded. Faculty are working to engage students in enrichment activities in the lab and field, in addition to their academic training. Some students are receiving academic credit for participating in inspections in the fish disease lab.

A new proposal submitted by R. Lochmann for Title III funding was approved. This was critical to maintaining financial support for our existing PhD students and our Statistics Professor. However, it will be necessary to transition to external grant funding to support future PhD students.

The University is transitioning to a new Assessment model, and new programs are being implemented to facilitate tracking of students. Much of this is preparation for the accreditation review of UAPB scheduled for 2016.

Aquatic Sciences Day (a recruitment event for high school students) was held at the UAPB fish station Sep. 24, with 7 schools and 174 attendees.

Research activities: Faculty, staff and students are actively involved in research in key areas of Aquaculture and Natural Fisheries supported by base funding and extramural sources (> 20 projects). A Departmental Research committee was formed, with the purpose of stimulating and supporting more Extramural grant procurement. Research priorities are being collected from all tenured faculty with research appointments, as well as key stakeholder groups to guide future activity. New MS level assistantships (from internal funds) will be awarded to faculty based on an internal proposal review process.

Extension activities: Much effort has focused on preparation of the Lonoke lab to gain designation as an APHIS approved laboratory (see separate report attached). Full diagnostics and certification capabilities will be maintained at the UAPB lab until the Lonoke lab is approved, so that there is no lapse in critical services to industry. UAPB Aquaculture Extension agents all over the state continue to conduct farm visits and provide information to producers and to the public. The Extension personnel are actively engaged in 25 research projects, actively interact with high schools to set-up and troubleshoot aquaculture systems in schools, teach fish identification and fishing techniques to Arkansas 4-H'ers, and coach the UAPB Collegiate Fishing team. We actively engage with U of A Extension Specialist with regard to farm pond problems, water quality, and stocking recommendations.

Professional Development: Faculty, staff and students are actively engaged in activities with state organizations (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Catfish Farmers of Arkansas, Arkansas Bait and Ornamental Fish Growers Association), as well as national and international professional organizations such as the World Aquaculture Society and the American Fisheries Society. A number of faculty hold key leadership positions in these organizations. On campus, student leadership is developed through participation in the Aquaculture/Fisheries Club (AFC), which has one set of officers representing the United States Aquaculture Society, and another representing the American Fisheries Society.

Personnel: A new part-time recruiter was hired to replace the former recruiter. We are reviewing applications for a new Water Quality Professor, as well as several administrative support positions. Several temporary positions have been filled to support the Aquaculture Research Station, and three new permanent positions are being advertized for Station support. Job descriptions are being developed for other open faculty positions.

Visitors to the Center this quarter:

Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture, and Cynthia Edwards, Deputy Director, July 10, 2015

Gene Kim, National Aquaculture Program Leader, Sep. 29, 2015

Further Information:

Please contact Rebecca Lochmann (lochmannr@uapb.edu; ph. 870-575-8124) or Anita Kelly (kellya@uapb.edu; 501-676-3124) for further information about the Department or Center.

Lonoke lab update -Sept. 28 , 2015

Answers (in bold beneath each question)

1. Can you give an update on the renovations at the UAPB lab in Lonoke?

The renovations are moving along, but not at the pace anticipated. Due to the destruction of a hood while moving it, a new hood needed to be ordered.

***The hood was scheduled to ship on 9/25 and should be in Lonoke within 5 business days.**

2. Are all the renovations for the labs done? If not, what is your best estimate of when they will be completed?

The lab renovations are not yet complete. We are waiting for the arrival of the hood for the cell culture area. This is estimated to be in mid-September. We have contacted the company to ask if the hood could be expedited, but have not heard yet if it can. Once the hood is in we will have the wall built to complete the room.

*** We have determined that the hood can be put into the cell culture room through the doorway. The wall has been built, sheet rock installed, and mudded. Painting of the new wall and installation of the door to the cell culture room was finished on Sept 23, 2015**

3. Has the equipment been moved into the labs? If not, what is your best estimate for when it will be completed?

Not all the equipment has been moved to the lab. Once the hood is in place we will move all the sensitive equipment from the lab. This will be done within 1 day of hood installation.

***Due to the fact we are currently in the Fall Inspection seasons and actively doing inspections in the Pine Bluff laboratory, it will not be feasible to move the equipment as quickly as described. The best plan of action is to purchase 4 new incubators for the Lonoke Lab. The new incubators will enable us to finish the inspections already begun at the Pine Bluff Lab to be completed at the Pine Bluff Lab. We can begin the inspections in Lonoke once all the equipment needed is in place.**

We still need to purchase approximately \$35,000 worth of equipment to fully equip the laboratory. Waiting on new funding to order all these items.

4. Can you give an update on the status of the certification process?

The SOPs have been approved, and APHIS is ready to do the inspection of the lab once the renovations are complete.

***Tentative schedule for the inspection will be the week of Oct 26-30. Once inspection is complete, and the lab obtains approval, the remaining inspections will be conducted in Lonoke.**