

Final Quarterly Report to the Legislature

July 6, 2017

Aquaculture and Fisheries Program

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Overview: The Department and Center are engaging in multiple academic, research and extension activities to address Center goals. We are developing a new 5-year strategic plan to address our continuing and new goals, and will seek stakeholder input to fortify the plan.

Research activities: We have a new Departmental research committee that includes faculty and students, and interfaces with higher-level research committees across campus. We are planning additional events to stay current on research funding and collaborative research opportunities. Faculty, staff and students continue to attend workshops and professional conferences and to publish their work. Research priorities from stakeholder groups within the areas of Aquaculture and Natural Fisheries are sought through various means including personal communication, webinars and conferences.

Extension activities: the APHIS-approved fish health lab in Lonoke continues to meet industry needs for Extension. However, additional office space is needed as more personnel have been hired. Resources to restore the research capacity of the lab still need to be secured. A new Extension aquaculture specialist in baitfish and sportfish production (to be located in Pine Bluff) and an Extension aquaculture specialist (Lonoke) will start work in the fall. UAPB Aquaculture Extension Specialists throughout Arkansas continue to conduct farm visits, conduct applied research, and provide information to producers and the public.

Professional Development: Faculty, staff and students served on Boards of producer and professional organizations. All personnel are being offered opportunities for professional development beyond the standard conferences that we attend annually.

Personnel: We are still searching for a professor of aquatic habitat management and restoration, and have begun interviews for a professor of natural resource economics. Applications for a professor of aquaculture position are being screened. One additional MS-level staff member will be hired for the Lonoke lab.

Further Information:

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