

## Fourth Quarterly Report to the Legislature

July 5, 2016

### **Aquaculture and Fisheries Program**

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**Overview:** The Department and Center continue to pursue a variety of academic, research and extension activities to address Center goals. Faculty, staff and students are participating in numerous enrichment and recruitment activities for high school students interested in aquaculture and fisheries. An Interim Director and Interim Associate Director were appointed for the Lonoke Fish Health lab. An invitation-only viewing of an inspection at the Lonoke fish health lab was held on Mar. 29, 2016. A larger Open House including a ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for July 14, 2016.

**Research activities:** Preparations for seasonal research activities highlighted this quarter. Results of grant proposal submission earlier in the year have been received or are expected soon. Meetings and workshops on funding sources and grantsmanship are being attended regularly. 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:** Industry has expressed satisfaction with the new capabilities at the APHIS-certified fish health lab in Lonoke. Current plans are to maintain the APHIS status of the Pine Bluff lab as well, to increase the overall inspections and diagnostics capacity of the Center. However, there is a need to maintain research capacity also at the fish health labs. Funding sources must be identified to restore the research capabilities at the Lonoke lab. UAPB Aquaculture Extension Specialists all over the state continue to conduct farm visits, conduct applied research, and provide information to producers and the public.

**Professional Development:** Faculty, staff and students served on professional Boards and participated in other leadership activities. In conjunction with new positions and responsibilities, faculty and staff are pursuing opportunities to develop additional leadership capabilities. We are exploring opportunities for sabbatical leave and other forms of professional enrichment.

**Personnel:** Significant time is being invested in identifying and recruiting qualified professionals to fill open faculty positions. A new Water Quality Professor will begin work in mid-July, and a new Economics Professor is anticipated to begin August 1. We are currently advertising for a Professor of Fish Health and will soon begin advertising for an Extension Fish Production faculty position. Job descriptions are being developed or refined for other open faculty and staff positions.

#### **Further Information:**

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