

First Quarterly Report to the Legislature (Second Quarter)

Oct. 4, 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. Two new faculty were hired and are actively teaching and conducting research, while searches and interviews continue for other open positions. An official open house with a ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted July 14, 2016 at the Lonoke fish health lab.

Research activities: Faculty continue to write grants and conduct research, and new faculty are being included as collaborators to integrate them into our program. We anticipate that a new fish health Professor will be hired before the end of the year, and the Pine Bluff fish health lab will be the center for basic and applied fish health research. 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: the APHIS-certified fish health lab in Lonoke continues to meet industry needs for Extension. However, there is still a need to restore the lost research capacity at the Lonoke facility. Funding sources must be identified to accomplish this goal. Review of applications for a new Extension aquaculture specialist in baitfish and sportfish production to be located on the Pine Bluff campus will begin soon. 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 Boards of producer and professional organizations. The Interim Director and Associate Director attended a leadership training workshop 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, international exchanges, and other forms of professional enrichment.

Personnel: In addition to the new faculty positions mentioned above, we are advertizing for a Professor of aquatic habitat management and restoration. Job descriptions are being developed or refined for other open faculty and staff positions.

Further Information:

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