

## Quarterly Report to the Legislature

Dec. 22, 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. One new faculty was hired and she will begin working Jan. 1, 2017. Searches and interviews continue for other open positions. The UAPB Chancellor, SAFHS Dean, and the Director and Associate Director of the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center visited fish farms to reinforce our willingness and ability to address farmer's needs.

**Research activities:** Faculty are actively writing grant proposals and publications. New faculty are being included as collaborators to integrate them into our program. Our new fish health Professor starts in early 2017. Her major focus will be research, as the Pine Bluff fish health lab will be the center for basic and applied fish health research. Professional workshops and meetings 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. We are still seeking funding to help restore the research capacity that was sacrificed in gaining the APHIS certification. The search for a new Extension aquaculture specialist in baitfish and sportfish production (to be located in Pine Bluff) is underway. An additional Extension specialist position is now being advertized - this person will be located in Lonoke. 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 continue to pursue leadership development 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 faculty positions mentioned above, we will soon begin interviewing candidates for Professor of aquatic habitat management and restoration, and will begin searching for a Professor of Natural Resource Economics soon. New support staff will also be added in early 2017.

#### **Further Information:**

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