

FHS NEWSLETTER is posted on the website – go to the Newsletter link on:
<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Reminder: An archive of these updates is posted on the website with the password: fhs

FHS NEWS

The official link to the FHS website is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs>

2008 ANNUAL FHS MEETING – see attached CE course descriptions: Real-time workshop, EM workshop, pre-conf CE

Due Date for Abstracts to FHS Meeting is May 1, 2008.

Abstract submitted online at: www.upei.ca/fhs-afs2008/

A special session on ISAV will focus on strain variation – additional information is provided in the attached: **ISA Special Session Announcem.doc**

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS GO TO THE WEBSITE:

<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/meeting.htm>

2008 WESTERN FISH DISEASE WORKSHOP AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSION

June 23-25, 2008. Ocean Shores, WA. For more information and to register for the workshop go to: www.nwifc.org/western08

We will release another announcement when we get closer to some of the deadlines.

2008 DISEASES OF WARMWATER FISH COURSE

June 2-13, 2008

This course is open to students, veterinarians, fisheries biologists, aquaculturists, and professional aquarists.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(Early Registration Fee Deadline-- April 11, 2008):

Please register on-line via the course web page.

COURSE LOCATIONS:

Week 1

University of Florida (UF), IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory

<http://tal.ifas.ufl.edu/> in Ruskin, Florida, USA

Week 2

UF, The Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience

<http://www.whitney.ufl.edu/> in St. Augustine, Florida, USA

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Reservation information is available on the course web site. Please reserve a room in both Ruskin and St. Augustine.

For full information go to:

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ame/wwf/index.html>

JOBS

FACULTY POSITION IN AQUACULTURE EPIDEMIOLOGY.

The College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University, invites applications for a tenure track assistant/associate professor position in Epidemiology with emphasis in health of farm-raised catfish.

The farm-raised catfish industry has \$270M farm-gate income and a \$1B overall economic impact in Mississippi. MSU-CVM has the largest veterinary freshwater aquaculture program among US colleges of veterinary medicine and the second largest such program in the world. The successful candidate will join a team of other tenure track faculty focused on applied aquaculture research and diagnostics.

It is expected that this position will allocate 60% time to research activities, with an expectation of acquiring extramural support, and 40% time to teaching in the DVM or graduate curriculum.

Qualifications include a DVM and Ph.D. in Epidemiology. Evidence of scholarship in farmed catfish health is required. This position is held in the Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine, home to 35 faculty including those in food animal medicine/surgery, diagnostic veterinary medicine (through the Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory System), public health and population medicine, epidemiology and food safety, theriogenology, and field services.

The Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine provides an integrated emphasis in agricultural veterinary medicine, food safety, and veterinary public health. Strong communication skills and knowledge of the farmed catfish industry in Mississippi are essential.

Collegiality is a required attribute, and the successful candidate will work with faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. An excellent working relationship with MSU faculty and USDA-ARS scientists located at the Mississippi Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, MS is expected. Travel to the Mississippi Delta Research and Extension Center on a weekly basis is expected, as is overnight travel.

This position will be based in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the Starkville, MS campus. Serving as the premier professional school at MSU, the fully accredited College of Veterinary Medicine supports its 76 student class with 95 faculty, who work in a modern 360,000 square foot facility.

Salary and rank for this position will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Review of applications will begin March 15, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants are invited to submit a letter of application describing their interest and professional goals, curriculum vitae, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers for 3 references to Dr. William Epperson, P.O. Box 6100, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State, MS 39762-6100 (Epperson@cvm.msstate.edu).

The full Job Description is accessible at <https://www.jobs.msstate.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1206375912215>

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH LIAISON – see attached Science Liaison Recruitment Notice.doc

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Washington, DC

RESOURCES

PNFHPC MEETING MINUTES – see attached PNFHPC_Feb-2008.pdf

INVASIVE SPECIES NEWSLETTER – see attached Invasive species in a nutshell NEWS

ALASKA DISEASE GUIDE - <http://csadmin.adfg.state.ak.us/Forms/otolithvol5num1.pdf>

The ADFG fish pathology labs just published a field guide to common diseases in wild and cultured fishes in Alaska that can be seen advertised on the following website for any interested FHS members. The booklet is free for the asking.

INDUSTRY NEWS

PROBIOTICS REDUCE VIBRIOSIS IN FARMED SHRIMP -

<http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/6492/probiotics-reduce-vibriosis-in-farmed-shrimp>

ISA IN CHILE -

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/27/world/americas/27salmon.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

MARINE HARVEST TO LAY OFF 1,000 CHILE WORKERS

Hit hard by an ongoing outbreak of Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA), Marine Harvest, the world's largest farmed salmon company, has decided to drastically reduce its operations in Chile.

On Tuesday, the Norwegian-owned company informed union members that between March and June it will shut down 13 production centers (eight sea-based and five fresh water facilities). Marine Harvest will also close its Teupa and Chinquihue plants. The later, located in the Region X capital of Puerto Montt, employs some 640 people. In total, the closures will result in an estimated 1,000 lost jobs, roughly 25 percent of the company's total workforce in Chile.

As a result of the cutbacks, Marine Harvest expects to lower production in Chile by 40 percent, meaning it will likely produce some 50,000 tons of less of farmed salmon this year. The company currently accounts for 20 percent of Chile's total salmon production. Overall, Chilean salmon production is expected to drop by 8 percent this year because of the Marine Harvest closures.

Not surprisingly, the announced downsizing has caused concern among the Chilean salmon industry's estimated 53,000 workers, who worry that with the country's ISA problem far from being resolved, the upcoming Marine Harvest layoffs could be just the tip of the iceberg.

"This news is critical, disastrous... Because today we're talking about Marine Harvest, but tomorrow we could be talking about any of the other companies making these types of decisions. We'll be talking about a lot more people than those that are being laid off by Marine Harvest," Javier Ugarte, president of the National Confederation of Salmon Industry Workers (CONATRASAL), told the Patagonia Times.

So far the government hasn't taken the issue seriously enough, according to Ugarte, who in recent months has raised his concerns about ISA-related layoffs with both the labor minister and the Chamber of Deputies' Fishing and Aquaculture Commission.

"We think the government should step in immediately and tackle the situation by providing a subsidy for those people who are being directly affected by this situation. We think the government should create the subsidy in order to offset

the economic repercussions this will have in workers' pockets," said the CONATRASAL president.

Marine Harvest's announcement came just days after the release of its most recent quarterly earnings report. In the final three months of 2007, the report revealed, the company saw its overall earnings drop from US\$221 million in 2006 to just US\$103 million, due primarily to a drop in salmon prices. Production itself dropped during the October-December period by 10 percent (PT, Feb. 19).

Both the volume and price cuts can be explained in large part by Chile's so-called "biological situation." First detected in Chilean waters last June, ISA – a highly contagious virus that can be lethal to fish but does not affect humans – continues to plague Region X fish farms.

As of last week, the Chilean government's National Fishing Service (SERNAPESCA) had confirmed outbreaks of the disease on 14 Region X salmon farms. Eleven of those farms belong to Marine Harvest. SERNAPESCA lists 19 other productions centers (14 owned by Marine Harvest) as "suspicious."

Despite efforts by SERNAPESCA and by the salmon companies themselves to control the disease, the government's official outbreak list continues to expand little by little, suggesting that Chile's ISA woes are far from over.

"I think it will be very difficult to control the disease 100 percent between now and say, the end of 2008. What we need to do is learn to live with the virus, because the virus came to Chile and is here to stay," said Ugarte.

Living with the virus, he went on to say, means taking the same kind of extreme measures that were taken in countries like Norway and Canada, where salmon companies dealt with similar ISA outbreaks by eliminating as much as 80 percent of their stocks.

"I'm talking about taking the necessary sanitary measures. We need to try to disinfect everything that needs disinfecting. We need to burn everything that needs burning. That's what I'm talking about," said Ugarte.

By Benjamin Witte (benwitte@santiagotimes.cl)