



MoAA News

Linking the Missouri Aquaculture Community

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USDA proposes import regulations for Spring Viremia of Carp

USDA APHIS is establishing regulations to restrict the importation into the United States of live fish, fertilized eggs, and gametes of fish species that are susceptible to spring viremia of carp, a serious contagious viral disease of carp. Cases of spring viremia of carp confirmed in the United States in 2002 and 2004, and since eradicated, have been linked to the unregulated importation of fish infected with the virus. This action is targeted at international shipments only. The

complete details are available online by searching for keyword "APHIS-2006-0107" at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Comments should be received on or before October 30, 2006 since the interim rule will become effective September 29, 2006. Comments may be submitted online or by mail: Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the "Agency" box select "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" from the agency drop-down menu, then click on "Submit". In the Docket ID column, select APHIS-2006-0107 to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: Please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0107, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2006-0107.

For further information contact: Dr. Peter L. Merrill, Aquaculture Specialist, National Center for Import and Export, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 39, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-0649; or Dr. Jill B. Rolland, Fishery Biologist, National Center for Animal Health Programs, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 46, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231; (301) 734-7727.

Asian carp symposium held in Illinois

"The invasive Asian carps in North America: a forum to understand the biology and manage the problem" was held August 22-23, 2006 in Peoria, Illinois. The attendance exceeded expectations with almost 200 people attending. The crowd consisted mostly of individuals from federal and state conservation agencies. The meeting included 28 presentations on a variety of carp topics plus a boat trip on the Illinois River to see the carp situation.



Many presenters shared findings from behavioral and population studies that were undertaken to better understand bighead and silver carp so control methods can be developed. However, the results of several were 1) that individual fish are not predictable in their behavior and 2) that spawning success is highly variable and unpredictable. Aquaculture was represented in presentations made by Dr. Carole Engle from UAPB and Dr. Anita Kelly from SIU. Dr. Engle shared about efforts that are underway in Arkansas to educate producers, minimize escapement, reduce disease outbreaks, and more. Dr. Kelly presented a summary of several snail control studies and stressed the need to find an effective alternative to black carp since the problem with trematode infestations is growing. The meeting website <http://wwwaux.cerc.cr.usgs.gov/MICRA/Asian%20Carp%20Symposium.htm> has abstracts of the presentations that were made and soon should include the slides that were used in each.

Prawn festival to be held in Dixon

The third annual Shrimpfest will be held in Dixon, Missouri Saturday, September 9 beginning at 10 am. In addition to harvesting the shrimp pond, there will be a DJ and a number of food and craft vendors. More details on the event plus photos from previous years are available at <http://showmeshrimpfarms.com/>.

To get to Shrimpfest from Dixon, follow Highway C / Highway 133 west 2 miles to Cypress Road. Turn south on Cypress and go 0.1 miles. Just over the railroad tracks, turn left and go 0.2 miles to 15750 Conway Road.

Congratulations to Show-Me Shrimp Farms owner Paul Smith for being published in the August issue of *Rural Missouri*. Unfortunately, the story was not in one of the feature columns so was not included in the online edition <http://www.ruralmissouri.org/rmfeatures.html>.



Mississippi catfish producers doing well

This is a portion of an article that appeared in the Delta Farm Press. The entire article is available at <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/060821-catfish-prices/>.

Mississippi's farm-raised catfish farmers have had their best hatchery season in 30 years and are seeing their best market prices since 1995. Jim Steeby, aquaculture specialist with Mississippi State University's Extension Service, said warm temperatures in April were ideal for the final maturing period. "Fish started spawning by mid-April and were nearly finished by the first week in June, which is about three weeks early. Farmers were able to stock fry ponds earlier and have the entire summer for the fish to grow. Instead of a 5-inch fingerling, farmers should harvest sizes closer to 6 inches. That will mean the fish will be more valuable going into the grow-out ponds, so farmers can get more for each fish," Steeby said.

Terry Hanson, associate professor of agricultural economics with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, said prices from the processor to the farmer are up about 7 cents per pound over last year. The market situation is much better than five years ago when prices were at all-time lows. "Farmers are getting about 79 to 82 cents per pound. The average over the last 20 years is about 70 cents per pound, and below 65 cents if you just look at the last five years. With the inflation factor, current price levels are not as good as prices 20 years ago, but catfish farmers have become more efficient. They have overcome inflationary effects by producing more fish," Hanson said. "Historically speaking, catfish is a relatively new industry, but it seems like every 10 years the prices bottom out. Interestingly, that seems to happen in years that end in a two — 1982, 1992 and 2002 produced rock-bottom prices."

Since 2001, Mississippi acreage has decreased about 13,000 acres, primarily in Humphreys County, the heart of catfish country and where the oldest ponds were located. Rather than investing in pond maintenance, farmers removed older ponds from production. Mississippi's catfish acreage in recent years has been stable at 100,000 acres.

Hanson said farmers have reduced their inventory of fish to the point that fish are relatively scarce, and now, processors are having difficulties keeping enough fish on hand to operate their plants efficiently. "There will be a lot of fingerlings available this fall and spring, and prices will encourage farmers to fully stock ponds. Consolidation of smaller farms is also a trend we are seeing," he said. "Prices may remain strong until 2008."

Upcoming Events

September 9

Missouri Department of Ag Annual Ag Golf Classic
Sycamore Creek Golf Course
Osage Beach, MO
573-751-1199

September 9

Shrimpfest 2006
Show-Me Shrimp Farms
Dixon, MO
<http://www.showmeshrimpfarms.com/> or
417-664-2307

October 5

Aquaculture/Fisheries Field Day
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
<http://www.uaex.edu/aqfi/news/events/fieldday/Flyer.pdf>
or 870-575-8138

October 24

NCRAC Board of Directors Semi-Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL

December 1-2

Livestock Symposium
Kirksville Middle School
Kirksville, MO
<http://missourilivestock.com/>

December 8-9

US Freshwater Prawn & Shrimp Growers
Association meeting
Radisson Hotel at Opryland
Nashville, TN
usprawn growers@yahoo.com or
662-390-3528

December 10-12

Governor's Conference on Agriculture
Tan-Tar-A Resort
Osage Beach, MO