

Aquafest Australia 2002 National Aquaculture Conference and Trade Exhibition

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OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a forum for communication between members of the Australian aquaculture community
2. Develop a conference program that is relevant, topical, challenging and informative
3. Provide a face-to-face forum for aquaculture equipment and service providers to meet the aquaculture community
4. Provide an opportunity for the public promotion of aquaculture products

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY:

Aquafest 2002 was a highly successful continuation of the tradition of biennial national aquaculture conferences organised and run by the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council (TAC). Aquafest 2002 provided the Australian aquaculture community with the usual unparalleled opportunity to gather *en mass* to listen, discuss and debate the issues at the top of the Australian aquaculture agenda. This was to be the last of a long tradition of TAC-run events, as it was agreed that FRDC was unlikely to support a continuation of these successful conferences if they were to remain based in Hobart. As such, the baton was passed to a consortium of the TAC, National Aquaculture Council and the World Aquaculture Society to transform “Aquafest” into “Australasian Aquaculture 2004” (and beyond).

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

- Aquafest 2002 attracted 302 delegates from all Australian states and territories, and from Canada, Italy, Japan, and New Zealand.
- The Aquafest 2002 program consisted of 81 oral presentations (keynote addresses) and proffered papers, and 15 scientific posters.
- Aquafest 2002 attracted 32 trade and service exhibitors
- There were 6 additional workshops associated with the Aquafest program
- Speakers, delegates and trade exhibitors availed themselves of numerous opportunities to speak to the media regarding the commercial, social and environmental

KEYWORDS: Aquaculture, industry development, conference, trade exhibition.

BACKGROUND

The Tasmanian Aquaculture Council has staged an international aquaculture conference and trade exhibition every two years since 1993, having taken over management of this event from the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry Water and Environment in that year. Aquafest 2002 was the fifth conference and trade display organized by the Council. The conference theme was "Meeting the Challenge", ranging across the whole spectrum of marine farming.

Whilst salmon and oyster production comprise the mainstay of Tasmania aquaculture, the conference has always attracted many papers relevant to other aquaculture species – including emerging species.

The government business of regulation of aquaculture becomes ever more complex and extensive, and we addressed regulatory aspects of aquaculture both from a government perspective (what is needed) and industry (what is necessary).

The business aspects of aquaculture received attention as well as the more technical issues of production, research and risk management. There was also a focus on worldwide consumer and marketing trends.

Principal sponsors were given opportunity to contribute to the form and content of the conference program.

Aquafest was held at Wrest Point Convention Centre in Hobart from 19-22 September 2002. Wrest Point made a substantial commitment to this event, by contribute discounting facilities.

The Tasmanian Aquaculture Council represents the whole of the Tasmanian Aquaculture Industry, as well as holding a senior position amongst other State based Aquaculture Associations, and sponsored the event with administrative oversight and a commitment to underwriting liabilities incurred.

OBJECTIVES

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METHODS

The conference was arranged around the following major subject areas:

- Business practices
- Distribution, consumer demand and marketing
- Environmental management
- Health and nutrition
- Production techniques
- Quality assurance programs
- Research, development and extension
- Risk assessment and management
- Seafood safety

Keynote speakers were sought in these areas and included international authorities. A general call for papers was issued in January 2002. Ancillary subjects were included as offered. Conference topics were presented in four concurrent streams, arranged as the program was

finalised. As the program developed, appropriate workshops and/or facilitated discussion groups were organised to run before and after the conference proper.

The Conference also concentrated on marketing and consumer trends and we enlisted the support of Seafood Services Australia in these respects.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Aquafest 2002 attracted a total of 302 delegates, as shown in Table 1:

Table 1 Delegate breakdown for Aquafest 2002

Country	state	Delegates
AUSTRALIA		
	ACT	14
	NSW	31
	NT	5
	QLD	15
	SA	42
	TAS	130
	VIC	27
	WA	11
	No State Given	1
CANADA		1
ITALY		2
JAPAN		1
NEW ZEALAND		16
No Country Given		6

The Aquafest 2002 program consisted of 81 keynote addresses and proffered papers (Appendix 3), and 15 scientific posters and attracted 32 Australian trade and service exhibitors.

Aquafest 2002 traded at a profit of \$31,000 from total receipts of \$263,000. The following should be noted as the underpinning reasons for this result:

- The large amount of time and expertise freely donated to the conference by the organising committee
- The expertise and attention to detail of Beth Riddiford, Mike Annand and their staff at Conference Wise Pty Ltd.
- The generosity of Wrest Point Convention Centre, who provided their superb facilities for Aquafest 2002 at a substantially reduced cost.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

This was the last of a long tradition of popular and successful national aquaculture conferences convened by the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council.

As FRDC support was deemed important to the success of similar events, and FRDC had indicated it would withdraw its support for further, Hobart-based national conferences in the near term, it was decided that the next in this series of conferences would be held on the mainland, and would be convened by a consortium comprising the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council, The National Aquaculture Council and the World Aquaculture Society.

This first of this new initiative, to be run under the name “Australasian Aquaculture”, will be held in Sydney in September 2004.

CONCLUSIONS

The series of national aquaculture conferences run since 1986 by the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council has provided the Australian Aquaculture community with a much needed forum to gather and debate issues influencing the future of this wonderful industry.

It is hoped that the new style for these conferences, dictated by the FRDC, will continue to provide the industry with this vital service.

APPENDIX 1: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

It is not anticipated that any intellectual property leading to project income will be generated from this project.

APPENDIX 2: STAFF

Tom Lewis	Tasmanian Aquaculture Council
Geoff Pickard	Tasmanian Aquaculture Council
Barry Ryan	Tasmanian Aquaculture Council
Staff	Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council
Staff	ConventionWise Pty Ltd

Appendix 3 Aquafest 2002 Program

AQUAFEST

Provisional Conference Program

Tuesday 17th to Thursday 19th September 2002

09.00 - 1700	“Microalgal Identification for Marine Industries”	Pre-conference workshop - 17th to 19th September at UTas School of Plant Science. Extra individuals may join the Thursday workshop as a 1-day course on monitoring and management of blooms. Facilitators: Gustaff HallaeGraff, David O'Sullivan and Judith-Anne Marshall.
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Thursday 19th September 2002

14.00	Registration desk opens
18.00 – 18.30	Opening of Trade Exhibition Exhibition area.
18.00 – 20.00	Welcome Function Exhibition area.
17.00	Registration desk closes

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2002

08.00	Registration desk opens
09.00 – 09.10	Geoff Pickard Chairman, Tasmanian Aquaculture Council Welcome
09.10 – 09.40	Official Opening Senator Ian McDonald Federal Minister for Fisheries “The Federal Government's role in the progression of aquaculture”
09.40 – 10.00	. Patrick Hone Fisheries Research & Development Corporation. Platinum Sponsors
10.30 – 11.10	Morning tea
11.10 – 11.20	Bruce Zippel <i>Launch of the National Aquaculture Council's 2002 Yearbook</i>
11.20 – 11.50	Brian Jeffriess <i>“The National Aquaculture Action Agenda”</i>
11.50 – 12.35	Scott Champion (NZ) <i>“Supply chain theory and practice: Hurdles, benefits and future developments”</i>
12.35 – 13.00	Stephen Haller <i>“Global trends in aquaculture and/or new technologies”</i>
13.00 – 14.15	Lunch
14.15 – 15.00	Lorne Clayton (USA) <i>“Meeting the challenges of aquaculture development”</i>
15.00 – 15.30	Richard McCulloch <i>“Diversity of investment in the Aquaculture Industry”</i>
15.30 – 16.10	Afternoon tea
16.10 – 16.35	John Sumner <i>“Risk Assessment of aquaculture products”</i>
16.35 – 17.00	Eva-Maria Bernoth <i>“Aquaplan: what have we achieved, and where are we heading?”</i>
17.30	Registration Desk closes

Saturday 21st September 2002

	Plenary Hall	Concurrent Session	Concurrent Session
08.30	Registration desk opens		
09.00 – 09.20	FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY Barrie Gardner (UK) “Food Industry under attack”	EDUCATION Steve Harrison <i>“Feedback from Workshop on Education”</i>	MICROALGAE Ray Brown <i>“Biotxin monitoring in Australia – future directions?”</i>
09.20 – 09.40		Mike Stockdale <i>“Implementing the Seafood Industry training package: Spencer TAFE’s perspective”</i>	Judith-Anne Marshall “<u>Noctiluca</u> Threat to Tasmanian salmonid aquaculture”
09.40 - 10.00		Ian B Nielsen <i>“To investigate vocational education and on farm training in aquaculture in other developed countries – from his Churchill Fellowship Report 2001”</i>	Susan Blackburn <i>“Microalgae as aquaculture feeds: strain selection and production technologies”</i>
10.00 – 10.40	Morning tea		
10.40 - 11.00	Tom Ross <i>“Risk assessments in the seafood industry: towards Safety and Quality”</i>	GENETICS Russell Lyons <i>“Genetic mapping of quantative trait loci for production traits of the Kuruma Prawn <u>Penaeus japonicus</u>: progressive update”</i>	REGULATION Bernie Walrut <i>“An overview of the South Australian Aquaculture Act 2001”</i>
11.00 – 11.40	Allan Bremner <i>“Quality Chain Management in Aquaculture”</i>	Peter Thompson <i>“Selective improvement of Pacific oysters in Australia”</i>	Britta Schaffelke <i>“Commonwealth regulation of land- based aquaculture facilities adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority”</i>
11.40 – 12.00	Peter Nichols <i>“Aquacultured Australian seafood – A better source of good oil than wild caught seafood”</i>	Nicholas G Elliott <i>“Genetic change in unselected hatchery populations – Atlantic salmon and abalone”</i>	Bernie Walrut <i>“Absolute ownership of fish – a myth or reality”</i>
12.00 – 12.20	Tom Lewis <i>“High Pressure Processing: its potential for aquaculture”</i>	RESEARCH POLICY Peter Rothlisberg <i>“CSIRO’s research directions & investment for future years”</i>	Maurene Horder <i>“Marine safety – National standard for commercial vessels”</i>
12.20 – 14.00	Lunch		
14.00 – 14.20	SALMON & TROUT M Sajjadi <i>“Effect of phytate and phytase on Atlantic salmon performance”</i>	Patrick Hone <i>“Rationalisation of R&D effort – The pro view”</i>	NEW/EMERGING SPECIES Robert J. van Barneveld <i>“Development of spiny lobster enhancement and aquaculture systems in Australia and New Zealand”</i>
14.20 – 14.40	Rhys Hauler <i>“Performance of Atlantic salmon under Tasmanian summer water temperatures”</i>	Wayne Knibb <i>“Rationalisation of R&D effort – The contra view”</i>	Duika Burges Watson <i>“Seaweed prospects: lessons from maritime Canada and Maine, USA”</i>
14.40 – 15.00	Vicki Wadley <i>“Industry perspective from growers of Tasmanian Atlantic salmon and Tasmanian ocean trout”</i>	Barry Ryan <i>“Australian Shellfish Industries Pty Ltd – A model for commercialisation of intellectual property”</i>	Tiffany Wardley “Changing the colour of seahorses (<u>Hippocampus abdominalis</u>) to better suit markets”
15.00 – 15.40	Afternoon tea		
15.40 – 16.00	Barrie Gardner (UK) “Marketing salmon and developing new products for consumers”	ENVIRONMENT Andrew Bissett <i>“Temporal changes in sedimentary microbial communities underlying salmon farms”</i>	Zabih Pajand (Iran) <i>“Determination of stocking density for <u>Nereis diversicolor</u> under culture conditions and comparison with that in Lagoon estuary of the Caspian Sea”</i>
16.00 – 16.40	SCALLOPS Russell Mincher (NZ) “Challenger Scallop Enhancement Co Ltd: Development of a scallop re-seeding programme in New Zealand”	Jean Cannon <i>“Managing risks through integrated safety, quality and environmental assurance”</i>	Ricky Gimin <i>“Induction of spawning and larval rearing of the Mangrove Clam, <u>Polymesoda (Geloína) Erosa Solander (1786)(Bivalvia: Corbiculidae)</u>”</i>
16.40 – 17.00	PRAWNS Martin Breen “Applying ESD to Australian prawn farming - action not words”	Malene Felsing <i>“Fate of finfish aquaculture waste – the importance of wild fish in nutrient export”</i>	Miho Minamikawa (NZ) <i>“Isolation and chacterisation of Ca2+- dependent Lectin-like Proteins from the Flat Oyster, <u>Tiostrea chilensis</u>”</i>
17.00 – 17.20	Chris Robertson “Sustainable prawn farming technology development”		

Sunday 22nd September 2002

	Plenary Hall	Concurrent Session		Concurrent Session
08.30	Registration desk opens			
09.00 – 09.20	DISEASE Stephen Colquitt “Managing the disease risks in imported fish and fish products: a policy perspective”	GENERAL Gay Marsden “Women in aquaculture”		FEEDS AND FEEDING Joe Kearns (USA) “Extrusion Cooking of Aquatic Feeds with Emphasis on Salmon Feeds”
09.20 – 09.40	David Morehead “A bug in the system – nodavirus”	Robert Bronstein “The importance of data collection in the aquaculture industry”		
09.40 – 10.00	Rick Butler “In vitro models of parasitic diseases”	Tristan Jane Richards “The Tasmanian Rock Lobster industry electronic commerce project”		Malcolm Brown “Evaluating the nutritional requirements of striped trumpeter (<i>Latris lineata</i>) larvae”
10.00 – 10.40	Morning tea			
10.40 – 10.50	AQUAFIN CRC Peter Montague Introduction	10.40 – 11.00	Sulaiman Almatar (Kuwait) “Progress in the culture development of Silver Pomfret, <i>Pampus argenteus</i> in Kuwait”	Chris Carter “Nutritional physiology of fish at high temperatures”
10.50 – 11.20	Brian Jeffriess “Aquaculture – The wider issues”	11.00 – 11.20	ENVIRONMENT Peter Rawlinson “Increasing water use efficiency through integrated agri-aquaculture”	Sagiv Kolkovski “Fish larvae diets: Replacing imported <i>Artemia</i> – preliminary results of an FRDC research project”
11.20 – 11.40	Steven Clarke “Progress and future challenges for tuna R&D”	11.20 – 11.40	Stephen Madigan “Monitoring finfish farming impacts in South Australia – Tuna environmental monitoring program”	John Purser “Optimising food delivery and food intake: What are the options in fish culture systems?”
11.40 – 12.00	John Volkman “Finfish aquaculture and the Australian environment”	11.40 – 12.00	Colin Shepherd “Environmental monitoring of salmon farms in Tasmania: an overview”	Brett Glencross “Replacing the fish oil component of aquaculture diets with plant oils”
12.00 – 12.20	Barbara Nowak “The Health Program of Aquafin CRC”	12.00 – 12.20	Adam Davey “Aquaculture environmental monitoring”	Geoff Bayly “Tuna pelleted feed – A commercialisation trial”
12.20 – 14.00	Lunch			
14.00 – 14.20	Stephen Battaglene “Recent progress in the development of new species for marine finfish farming in Southern Australia”	14.00 – 14.20	Koroush Haddadi “Water quality assessment in earthen ponds and growth and survival rate of <i>Acipenser stellatus</i> fingerlings”	Louise Ward “Feed development studies in southern rock lobster, <i>J. edwardsii</i> ”
14.20 – 14.40	PLANNING Darby Ross “Marine farming planning in Tasmania – an update”	Catriona MacLeod “Sediment profile imaging (SPI) at SCUBA-accessible depths – a simple approach for detection of organic enrichment near finfish net-pens. (Comparison of results between Canada and Australia)”		Arthur Ritar “Larval quality could affect the success of rearing southern rock lobster <i>Jasus edwardsii</i> ”
14.40 – 15.00	Dan Machiini “Allocation of water for aquaculture in Western Australia”	Ramalingam Marichamy (India) “Marine resources and environmental management”		RECIRCULATION Jens Ole Olesen (Denmark) “Technical developments in recirculation aquaculture – with reference to bio-reactor technology and production economics”
15.45 – 17.00	Farewell function			
17.30	Registration Desk closes			