



RAC

Results

Cooperative State Research,
Education and Extension Service
(CSREES)

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Southern
Regional Aquaculture Center
(SRAC)

The Southern Regional Aquaculture Center's Publication, Video and Computer Software Project

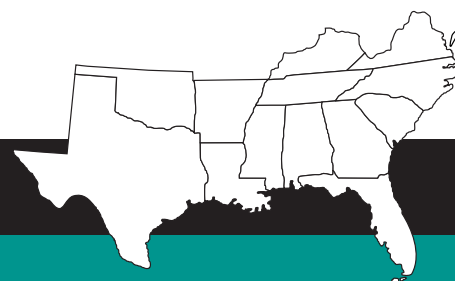
James T. Davis and Michael P. Masser

Challenge

Aquaculture is one of the most rapidly expanding agricultural industries in the world, and currently produces about 20 percent of the world's seafood supply. Most aquaculture production in the United States takes place in the southeast region, where more than 100 species of fish, shellfish, aquatic reptiles and plants are cultured for food or ornamental purposes. The total farm value of southeastern aquaculture is more than 1 billion dollars. The need for information to sustain aquaculture development has increased dramatically over the past 20 years.



Providing high-quality educational materials for the
United States aquaculture industry



Southern Regional Aquaculture Center (SRAC)

Response

Extension and research scientists in the southeastern U. S. initiated a project through the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center (SRAC) to produce research-based fact sheets, videos and other educational materials to support aquaculture production and marketing in the region. Every publication contains factual information to help producers, processors, consumers or investors. Subject matter has included biology and life history of specific species, culture techniques and systems, nutrition, water quality and effluent management, disease treatment, off-flavor management, consumer education, and much more. Some publications are the first to present research on a topic in an Extension outreach format. Other publications present new information derived from SRAC-supported research projects. "How-to" videos demonstrate field and laboratory techniques. In the past 10 years, more than 75 scientists in the 13 states and two territories of the Southern Region have contributed to these publications and videos. Each publication is thoroughly reviewed by producers, administrators and scientists for accuracy and style before publishing.



Impact



The SRAC publishing program uses a regional pool of expertise to develop materials in specific subject areas. These materials are then made available to U.S. citizens through the network of state Extension specialists and county agents. This process has made more efficient use of personnel and funds at the state level, and has resulted in high-quality educational materials that are readily available to anyone.

More than 150 publications and 20 videos have been produced in the 10-year period. The publications have been requested at a rate exceeding 300 per day. All publications are placed on the World Wide Web and on compact disk to make the information more readily available throughout the U. S. and the world. Educators, consumers, producers and potential producers have all benefitted from this educational information.

For more information search the SRAC web site at <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/srac> and contact your state Extension fisheries/aquaculture specialist.

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