

Aquatic Livestock Committee Report

2018 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 10, 2018



The Aquatic Livestock Committee met on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. during the 2018 NIAA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, with approximately 11 people present. Mr. Todd Low served as Chair.

The Aquatic Livestock Committee session focused on seafood sustainability and traceability. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the relationship between sustainability and traceability:

Mr. Brian Sterling - Founder & President, SCS Consulting, presented on “Seafood Traceability & Transparency: What best practices can we apply to improve business performance?”

Mr. Sterling’s work in seafood traceability has direct application to today’s challenges. His observations on the status of the current industry are very accurate – 1) Commercial improvement efforts focus on managing growth and supply chain complexity; 2) Lack of uniform traceability requirements; 3) Industry attitudes think traceability will raise costs and lower efficiency; and 4) Electronic data gathering, storage and retrieval is inconsistent. There is a great opportunity for improvement.

Dr. Greg Thoma – University of Arkansas, College of Engineering, presented on “An Overview of Aquaculture through the lens of Environmental Sustainability”
Live Cycle Assessments set the foundation for traceability efforts. The two frameworks are closely related as they differentiate an organization and are tools to improve processes inside the operation and outside related activities.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - Traceability is an organization initiative v. technology deployment.
 - Sustainability metrics development is an added benefit from traceability.
 - Both sustainability and traceability can help differentiate an organization.

General Discussion:

Aquatic Livestock Committee Session adjourned at 3pm.