

Date: December 14, 2001

WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mission & Structure

Recommended by Executive Committee

Background The 1988 Wisconsin Aquaculture State Plan recommended that DATCP appoint an interagency aquaculture advisory council. The recommendation called for the membership of the council to be comprised primarily from industry but include university faculty and DNR. The council's purpose at that time was identified to meet periodically to advise the Secretary of DATCP and other agencies about industry problems and concerns, to review DNR and DATCP regulations, and to review and advise on university research. The Council was formed in 1990 and has operated since following this general purpose.

DATCP has organized quarterly meetings for nearly 10 years as a means for the industry, agencies, and the university system to identify ways to move the industry forward.

Since the Aquaculture Plan was developed, the industry has grown from an estimated \$1-3 million in sales to an estimated \$10.5 million in 2000. The industry has also diversified and evolved to a point where it has grown and strengthened its private industry association—the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association.

By working together in a neutral forum many issues have come before the Council and many positive changes have been initiated as a result. However, many issues are unresolved and changes in industry and in government policy continue the need for the Council to exist.

While the agenda of the Council, and the time and energy of the industry, tend to be dominated by natural resource and fish health policies and regulation, there are technical and scientific issues that require the Council's attention. This sentiment is held by industry persons as well as agency and university persons.

DNR Secretary Bazzell has appointed a new DNR workgroup for purposes of providing the industry with a forum for early stage input into policy and rulemaking that affects aquaculture. This workgroup is intended to improve working relationships on natural resource regulatory matters between DNR and the aquaculture industry. This workgroup will begin meeting in July and it has the potential for improved resolution of natural resources issues affecting commercial aquaculture. DATCP Secretary Harsdorf also pledged continued commitment to assist aquaculture's growth in Wisconsin.

These changes in the industry and agency authorities and approaches suggest that the Council should re-examine its mission, structure and approach. Aquaculture in Wisconsin continues to need a forum to address major policy, regulatory, research, and education related issues. The following suggestions for changes to mission, structure, and operations are proposed:

1. **Revised Mission:**

The Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council (WAIAC) mission is to actively build partnerships to enhance the responsible development of aquaculture for the benefit of private and public fisheries. It does so by serving:

- a. as a forum for the aquaculture industry to work with state and federal agencies and university staff to identify critical issues affecting it's ability to grow in an economically and environmentally sound manner.
- b. to make recommendations to agency leaders, policy makers, and research/educators for policy and regulatory changes, research projects, business and marketing initiatives, and educational programs that address the critical issues facing the industry.
- c. to facilitate coordination and build partnerships among public agencies, private organizations, producers, the scientific community and educators in order to build a stronger, more profitable aquaculture industry.

2. Principles of Operation:

- a. WAIAC members are appointed by the DATCP Secretary for staggered 3-year terms.
- b. WAIAC consists of no more than 15 industry members, not including ex-officio members who represent the relevant agencies and organizations. Industry members are appointed to be representative of the entire aquaculture industry.
- c. WAIAC meets quarterly or as needed and members are expected to attend all meetings.
- d. WAIAC operates in an open meeting environment and members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings for educational purposes.
- e. It provides an open forum for agenda items to be identified and discussed by WAIAC members.
- f. It satisfies its mission through the use of scientific and technical information open debate.
- g. WAIAC does not engage in lobbying.
- h. WAIAC informs interested persons of its recommendations.
- i. WAIAC serves as an educational forum for persons involved in or considering entering aquaculture and works with the industry to sponsor the annual aquaculture conference and special workshops when appropriate. Each WAIAC meeting will attempt to have an educational agenda item.
- j. DATCP serves as the convener of WAIAC meetings and appoints a coordinator to staff WAIAC.
- k. WAIAC operates under Roberts Rules of Order.
- l. WAIAC will make its recommendation on issues and programs through resolutions approved by vote of the industry members.

3. Structure

<u>Agency Representation</u> (Ex-Officio)	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Non-Agency</u> (Ex-Officio)
DATCP	Bait	UW-Madison
DNR	Trout-Food	UW-Milwaukee
DOC	Trout-Stocking	UW-Stevens Point
Fish and Wildlife	Perch	N. Aquac. Demo Facility
WDPI	Mixed-Food	Sea Grant
	Mixed-Stocking	WTCS
	Tribal Hatchery	

Agencies and non-agencies will recommend their agency/organization representation.

4. Committee Structure

It is recommended that WAIAC streamline its committee structure from the present 15 committees to the following 6 standing committees with the specified functions. The Coordinator or his or her designee will serve on all committees. Nominations for the Executive Committee will be made by the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association and from other Council members. The WAA will nominate its chair and president to serve on the Executive Committee.

- a. **Executive Committee** (5 industry members, an ex-officio from a scientific organization and the Coordinator).

The Executive Committee will address issues between quarterly meetings, identify quarterly meeting agenda items, appoint standing committee members and appoint special committees, and report actions to WAIAC.

- b. **Regulatory/Policy Committee** (5 industry members, an ex-officio member and the Coordinator)

The Regulatory/Policy Committee identifies natural resources and fish health issues, recommends industry actions to address issues, responds to DNR and DATCP regulations, works with members of DNR work group to provide input and resolve natural resource and environmental regulatory and policy issues, and recommends environmental management practices to industry.

- c. **Research and Education Committee** (5 industry members, 3 university scientists, 2 educators, and the Coordinator)

The Research and Education Committee identifies research projects and funding sources that address critical issues and needs for the industry and identifies educational program and outreach needs to serve aquaculture-including new and existing operators, plans the aquaculture conference in consultation with WAA, and identifies special workshops that address topical issues affecting aquaculture. The Committee will consider recommendations for education and outreach programs to public schools, FFA, technical colleges and university/extension.

- d. **Scientific Advisory Committee** (3 rotating ex-officio scientists from the research and education committee)

The Scientific Advisory Committee will at the request of the Executive Committee review technical reports, research reports, data and other information as needed to address current and future issues affecting aquaculture in Wisconsin

- e. **Business Development Committee** (5 industry members, 3 ex-officio members including the Department of Commerce, and the Coordinator)

Identify business development needs of aquaculture, including business survey and industry data needs, marketing initiatives or programs, and business climate issues affecting aquaculture, and recommend actions or initiatives that address those needs.

f. **Nominating Committee** (3 members appointed by the Executive Committee).

The function of the nominating committee will be to recommend nominees to the Executive Committee for standing committee membership and be subject to Executive Committee approval.

These Committees provide the detailed analysis of issues and develop recommendations to be considered by WAIAC.

The WAA will partner with the other functions related to marketing, conference planning, hall of fame awards, state fair participation, industry image, perch etc.

WAA will present all resolutions to the Council. WAA is a private trade association representing the interests of its members. The WAA will have members on the WAIAC and the association needs to take the initiative to both ensure that its interests are met and that follow-up actions are taken to the satisfaction of its members. The WAIAC and the WAA will collaborate on the annual conference and on other initiatives that are mutually defined and agreed upon.

Comparative Structures and Functions of Organizations

<u>WAIAC</u>	↔	<u>DNR Work Group</u>	↔	<u>WAA</u>
Broad industry and agency representation and coordination		Industry representation		Member/ industry representation
Public forum for identifying critical issues and needs		Forum for addressing DNR policy/regulatory issues		private trade assoc. function
Goal: responsible industry		Responsible natural resource use		member/ growth industry Benefits

Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council

“Building Partnerships for the Enhancement of Private and Public Aquaculture”

