

SC ANS Update

I have no substantial news to report from the coastal/marine perspective on ANS in South Carolina. I previously mentioned that the work we had started on the survey of invasive invertebrates in the ACE Basin NERR had been stopped, but it looks like that may not be the last word after all.....we just might possibly be able to pick it up again next spring.

Here's what I've gathered regarding shrimp viruses from asking around about our nonindigenous shrimp permitting activity:

In the 2008 growing season, only two farms were permitted, with a total of only 2 acres in *P. vannamei* production. This is a substantial reduction from what has occurred in the past decade or so. There was also one permit granted to a research institution to hold *P. vannamei* for experimental purposes. That permit was conditioned upon careful biosecurity restrictions. Farms were also required to have a disaster contingency plan and an approved operations protocol that would minimize chances of escapement of animals or transmission of disease to the wild (e.g. certified SPF seed PLs, no initial water exchange for some period after stocking, etc.).

Regarding the question of whether or not there are concerns about shrimp viruses, I learned that there are apparently very few. All permits require importation of certified SPF seed and a period (I'm not sure how long) of no water discharge to be certain there is no viral problems with the stocked animals. There have been no recent outbreaks of viral disease in the state. Diagnostic reports were negative for viruses and other shrimp diseases in wild-caught *P. setiferus* broodstock that were used by our Department in experiments at their mariculture facility in Bluffton.

I hope that helps with the discussion of the issue in Shreveport.

David

p.s. here is a comment of Craig Browdy, formerly our lead shrimp culture scientist, who's now gone to work for a private company:

I do not think we have done any testing of product over the past few years. There have been no outbreaks in state that I know of. We tested all of the broodstock collected for the setiferus project and you should have all of the diagnostic reports in the folder for the bait project. ... In general, management has improved in the global shrimp industry as producers who cannot control viral outbreaks are at a huge competitive disadvantage at a time when margins are shrinking and the business is less forgiving. This has led to a trend towards consolidation and improved management. Final result less virus in imported product. One must still be on the lookout for gross signs which are easily detectable in frozen product like red chromatophores and especially unusually small sized shrimp from emergency harvest.