

# Aquaculture Technology

## Executive Summary

The Aquaculture Technology program was developed to introduce and encourage aquaculture in the county and region and to teach the innovative, practical and economically viability of applied aquatic sciences; this program mission is to be accomplished:

- ✓ By combining curriculum courses with hands-on practical training
- ✓ By supporting the development of aquaculture business and research
- ✓ By partnering with other institutions to foster the growth of aquaculture

Aquaculture is the farming and husbandry of aquatic organisms.

The concepts, principles and history for conducting this program along with descriptions of faculty, students, resources and budgets are found in Section 1 beginning on page 3.

To accomplish this mission the definition of aquaculture was expanded to include the farming of organisms for seafood, and for resource enhancement. The definition of husbandry was expanded to include aquatic organisms for recreation, education and marine science. And marine biotechnology was included because of the bio-active compounds produced by marine organisms which cannot be lab synthesized making it imperative to culture these organisms for extraction of the compounds. These four basic areas encompass the definition and embody the skills taught in the program. Beginning on page 13, Section 2 describes the curriculum, course work, innovations and teaching modalities used to meet program goals.

Outcomes are identified and developed with input from advisory board, industry partners and industry history. Administrative, program and program learning outcomes are assessed by combining survey instruments and institutional effectiveness data. Results are determined and used in a system of continuous improvement with the goal of improving learning for students and improving program performance over the long term. Section 3, beginning on page 17 describes the outcome process in detail.

The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats or SWOTs to the program are discussed in a formal setting by a group of industry partners and students. The group is officially moderated and results presented to the program coordinator for analysis. Recommendations from these results add significantly to the process of continuous improvement and strategies for change. The SWOT analysis and need for change is described with recommendations in Section 4, beginning on page 19.

Future issues are examined in Section 5, found on page 22, to study the changes which are not currently needed but which may be needed in the future. Trends are identified in the industry that may or may not require program changes. The overall goal of future issues is to regularly assess, prepare for and maintain the future effectiveness of the program.

## Acknowledgement

I would like to thank all who participated in the collection and assessment of information and in the development of this program review document. Without the help of our advisory committees, industry partners, colleagues and students this document would merely be an exercise in manuscript preparation. However, because of all their input it is a useful tool to be used to carry the Aquaculture Technology program forward on a path of certain continuous improvement.

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