



Impact Statements System

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'Aquaculture Diagnostics, Pond, and Aquatic Environment Management'

Statement

- **Title** : Aquaculture Diagnostics, Pond, and Aquatic Environment Management
- **Brief Title** : [Aquatic Environment Management](#)
- **Author** : Burtle, Gary
- **Year** : 2006
- **State Issue** : Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability
- **County** : Tift
- **Group** : Animal & Dairy Science
- **Scope** : State

Summary

The freshwater environment in Georgia includes lakes, ponds, streams, and swamps on private lands that utilize the Cooperative Extension Service for technical assistance and problem solving. Over 1,400 requests for assistance and calls were answered during 2006. Estimated total impact of this activity exceeded \$3,000,000 in 2006.

Situation

The freshwater environment in Georgia includes lakes, ponds, streams, and swamps on private lands that utilize the Cooperative Extension Service for technical assistance and problem solving. In addition, city and county governments and private corporations request aquatic environment management assistance. In 2006, drought and declining water volume of ponds caused an increase in requests for assistance from private pond owners. Fish kills, aquatic vegetation control, pollution abatement, and fish population management are the major issues brought to the Extension Service for solutions. Heavy metal poisoning traced to imported seafood in the Atlanta area is an example of an aquaculture related issue brought to the Cooperative Extension Service. Georgia producers and the extension agents who assist those producers need rapid response to aquaculture problems. Management of aquatic environments involves specialized knowledge that requires specialist support for the county delivery system. These clients do not receive technical assistance from the GA Department of Natural Resources since that agency has concentrated on its regulatory responsibilities. New aquatic weed control methods have been recently approved and that technology needs to be delivered through the Cooperative Extension Service to the local users.

Response

Personal contacts with producers, county agents, and agents of the Department of Natural Resources were made to diagnose aquaculture problems and recommend specific cures. Case studies and sample submissions were received at Tifton in order to address aquatic problems. The Distance Diagnostic System was used, when possible, to increase the efficiency of case submission and response. Workshops were held to educate County Extension Agents about fish diseases, culture methods for catfish, freshwater shrimp, sportfish pond management, and aquatic weed control.

Impact

Over 1,400 requests for assistance and calls were answered during 2006. Aquatic herbicide applicator training was conducted for Cooperative Extension Agents, Department of Natural Resources Officers, and Commercial Applicators at five locations around the state. Over 100 participants renewed their license training requirement. Value of the information requested varied from less than \$100 to over \$104,000 for single cases. Estimated total impact of this

activity exceeded \$3,000,000 in 2006.

Program Function(s)

- Extension

Program Area(s)

- Agriculture & Natural Resources

Topic(s)

- Aquaculture

Keyword(s)

- Fish Production

Funding Source(s)

- Smith Lever Act Funds
- State Appropriated Funds
- County Funds
- Federal Grants
- Private Grants
- Private Gifts

Collaborator(s)

CAES Collaborator(s)

- Shelton , James L.

Non-CAES Collaborator(s)

- Duncan, Pat

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