



### Impact Statements System

## Viewing Impact Statement

# 'Diagnosing Aquaculture Disease and Water Quality Cases and Aquatic Environment Management'

## Statement

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- **Title** : Diagnosing Aquaculture Disease and Water Quality Cases and Aquatic Environment Management
- **Brief Title** : [Diagnosing Aquaculture Disease](#)
- **Author** : Burtle, Gary
- **Year** : 2007
- **State Issue** : Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability
- **County** : Tift
- **Group** : Animal & Dairy Science
- **Scope** : State

### Summary

Assistance was provided to county agents, fish farmers, local governments, and public agencies in order to diagnose aquaculture, pond, and water quality problems and to recommend solutions for management. Through personal contacts and workshops, over 7,000 people were assisted in the past year.

### Situation

Aquaculture of catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, koi carp, freshwater shrimp, and other aquatic species in Georgia involves more than \$15,000,000 each year, about 10% of which is involved in disease or water quality problems. Over 70,000 freshwater ponds have been constructed in Georgia on private and public lands and are in need of aquatic environment assistance. As the drought continues, new problems are developing and Georgia citizens are seeking advice on management options from the Cooperative Extension Service. Private consultants are also asking for assistance in the form of training and advice, especially in the area of aquatic plant control. Fish kills, aquatic vegetation control, pollution abatement, and fish population management are the major issues brought to the Extension Service for solutions. For example, an emergency label for Reward aquatic herbicide was requested for the 10,000 acres of hydrilla infestation in Lake Seminole to support the efforts of the Syngenta Chemical Company and the US Army Corps of Engineers. This label exemption would have an effect on the use of Reward herbicide in thousands of acres of private and public waters in Georgia. Georgia producers and the extension agents who assist those producers need rapid response to aquaculture problems. By using the Distance Diagnostics System, digital images, and site visits when needed, accurate diagnosis of disease and water quality problems can be provided in a short time, sometimes as short as a few minutes.

### Response

Aquaculture of catfish, largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, koi carp, freshwater shrimp, and other aquatic species in Georgia involves more than \$15,000,000 each year, about 10% of which is involved in disease or water quality problems. Over 70,000 freshwater ponds have been constructed in Georgia on private and public lands and are in need of aquatic environment assistance. As the drought continues, new problems are developing and Georgia citizens are seeking advice on management options from the Cooperative Extension Service. Private consultants are also asking for assistance in the form of training and advice, especially in the area of aquatic plant control. Fish kills, aquatic vegetation control, pollution abatement, and fish population management are the major issues brought to the Extension Service for solutions. For example, an emergency label for Reward aquatic herbicide was requested for the

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### Impact

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. Workshops were held to educate County Extension Agents, herbicide applicators, private consultants, and private pond owners about fish diseases, culture methods for catfish, freshwater shrimp, sportfish pond management, and aquatic weed control.

### Program Function(s)

- Extension

### Program Area(s)

- Agriculture & Natural Resources

### Topic(s)

- Aquaculture

### Keyword(s)

- Fish Production

### Funding Source(s)

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

### Collaborator(s)

#### CAES Collaborator(s)

(None)

#### Non-CAES Collaborator(s)

- Faculty, Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory, Tifton
- Pat Duncan, Ft. Valley State University
- Jay Shelton, Warnell School of Forest Resources, UGA

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