

# North Carolina Prawn Industry Update- 2006

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## Prawn Industry Statistics

- 2005, 2 producers, 5 acres
- 2006, 8 producers, 23 acres
- Farms located in central and eastern NC
- Feed purchased in bulk, saved \$
- Most sold product locally
  - Pond side, Farmers market, Restaurants, Contract
- Sales price \$7/lb-\$10/lb depending...\$8/lb avg.
- \*All sold out of product within 48 hours post harvest- fresh on-ice, some frozen

\*One producer held product for contract sales

## Nursery Expansion

- Expansion from 2005 trial (125,000 juveniles.)
- Met 2006 production goals to supply local industry - 310,000 juveniles
- Followed Extension recommendations
  - Stocking, feeding, etc.
- Worked closely with hatcheries- very important!



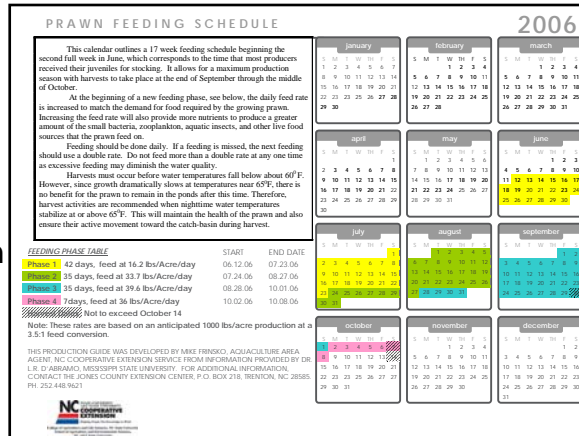
## Nursery Expansion

- Water quality maintained = no struggle = few mortalities
- All juveniles were graded and counted
- Juveniles were stocked at about .25-.40 g
- Producers encouraged to participate in weighing and counting process
- Assisted with stocking



# Production Overview

- 7 farms followed Extension recommended pond designs
  - 2 acre size
  - External harvest basins
- 16-18 week production season
- All fed 32% sinking catfish feed and used substrate, at recommended rates
- Bulk feed purchase saved \$\$\$



# Production Overview

## Comparison of Yields/Acre/2 Acre Pond

- 1) 1065
- 2) 993 -Ponds 1-4 older, 1-5, fertilized 2-4 weeks prior to stocking
- 3) 850
- 4) 710
- 5) 700 -Training harvest, 3 weeks early
- 6) 650 -New/unstable bloom, water chem. unbalanced at stocking, -High pH = Acute morts. due to water loss = intense algal bloom, used dye
- 7) 600 -Low initial feed + 6 mature/1000+ BG fingerlings at harvest
- 8) 575 -New/unstable bloom, water chem. unbalanced at stocking, -High pH = Acute morts 3 times + Chronic high pH 1time
- 9) 400 -Standpipe failure = unknown losses
- 10) 325 -Shallow "fish" pond, 4 weeks chronic pH>9.5 = chronic/acute losses from intense algal blooms/aquatic weeds
- 11) 150 -New/unstable bloom, water chem. unbalanced at stocking, -High pH = Acute morts 3 times + Chronic high pH 1time

## Avoid Stress Events



## Producer Highlights- DJ&W “King” Prawn Farm

- Continued media attention (marketing): UNC-TV story numerous pond-side interviews, Rep. Etheridge visit, newspaper, cable access



Pond Expansion to 8 acres for 2007

## Producer Highlights- DJ&W “King” Prawn Farm

- Constructed pack-house with freezer and cold storage
- Focus on volume contracts
- Note farmer assistance at harvest



## Producer Highlights- Thompson Prawn Farm



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## Producer Highlights- Thompson Prawn Farm



## Producer Highlights- Carolina's "Best" Freshwater Prawn Farm



## Producer Highlights- Relyea's "Crazy Claws" Prawn Farm



## Producer Highlights- Relyea's "Crazy Claws" Prawn Farm



## Producer Highlights- Relyea's "Crazy Claws" Prawn Farm



## Producer Highlights- Tom Hollowell



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## Producer Highlights- Cedar Lane Prawn Farm

- Levee and catch basin challenges
- Tremendous Community support
- Innovative “stake-less” substrate support
- Uses Air-O<sub>2</sub> aerators
- SCUBA for opening drain

## Producer Highlights- Castle Hayne Fisheries

Sales to Thompson  
Prawn Farm

Plans to re-contour pond

Will re-design catch basin  
to meet unique tidal and  
water-table demands



## Take Home Message

- Market, Market, Market
- Advance pond prep- can't wait till stocking
- Market, Market, Market
- Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate
- Market, Market, logo, media,
- Collective purchase of feed/equipment, etc.
- Media, TV, cable access, radio, newspapers, etc.
- Market, Farmers Markets, Restaurants, Internet
- ...Oh, and above all, Market and advance pond prep is very important!