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National Sea Grant Law Center Awarded Grants for Aquaculture Projects

Staff Report

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National Sea Grant Law Center Awarded Grants for Aquaculture Projects

NOAA awards UM center \$310,000 to research and develop legal solutions for industry challenges

OCTOBER 9, 2019 BY **STAFF REPORT**

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The National Sea Grant Law Center at the UM School of Law has been awarded more than \$300,000 to lead two aquaculture projects. Photo by Michael Chambers/New Hampshire Sea Grant

OXFORD, Miss. – The National Sea Grant Law Center at the **University of Mississippi School of Law** will advance the sustainability of aquaculture, thanks to recent grants of more than \$300,000.

The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** awarded \$16 million in grants for 42 projects nationwide through the National Sea Grant Program. The **NSGLC** received \$310,000 for two separate projects.

The projects were chosen from 136 proposals and require a 50 percent match of nonfederal funds, said Stephanie Ottis, NSGLC director.

"We are very excited about these opportunities to conduct legal research and facilitate national conversations to address crucial law and policy issues facing the aquaculture industry today," Ottis said.

The first project led by the NSGLC, supported by \$212,977 in federal funds, is the development of model law or guidance for state use in the sale of seaweed as food.

Through initial research, the center and its partners identified a lack of federal framework for the regulation of seaweed as a food source, leaving states unsure of how to structure regulatory approaches. As a result, the growth of seaweed aquaculture has been impeded.



The NSGLC aims to develop collaboration among states, improve stakeholder understanding of regulatory options and guide the states concerning implementation of policy. The center and its research partners will identify regulatory models for the sale of seaweed in its whole form as food, work with stakeholders and develop an open discussion on preferred policy options and develop a model law or regulation.

Aquaculture involves the farming of seafood and other organisms for widespread consumption. The U.S. imports 85 percent of its seafood, leading to a \$14 billion trade deficit.

To meet the growing demand for seafood, NOAA and its sea grant partners are working to grow

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Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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Ole Miss In the News

Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to

aquaculture in the U.S. in a regulated and sustainable way.

"Seaweed has been recognized as a vital food source for the future, and currently Asian countries are far outpacing the U.S. market," said Catherine Janasie, research counsel for the NSGLC. "Not having a federal framework for the sale of seaweed in its whole form as a food source is an impediment to the growth of the industry in the U.S.

"This project is a vital step in getting states together to collaboratively develop a regulatory path forward for the seaweed industry."

The second project, supported by \$97,129 in federal funds, will examine the advancement of offshore aquaculture in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. In its proposal, the center identified the lack of federal framework for long-term authorization of aquaculture operations, which includes the physical occupation of space in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

"Regardless of the type of aquaculture practiced, from using fixed cages to raise finfish to culturing algae suspended from ropes or floating racks, aquaculturists need a legal right to occupy a given area of the ocean," Otts said.

Permits issued by federal agencies do not address tenure, meaning the legal right to farm in a specified area over a period of time long enough to develop a viable business is lacking. The NSGLC will assess the debate regarding offshore tenure for aquaculture and host a collaborative workshop involving stakeholders to discuss policy preferences, legal frameworks and needs.



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