

Aquaculture America 2026



Bringing all Players to the Table

February 16-19, 2026

Paris Las Vegas

Las Vegas, Nevada USA

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION OF



NATIONAL
Aquaculture
ASSOCIATION

ASA
Aquaculture Suppliers Association

Associate Sponsors

Aquacultural Engineering Society
Aquaculture Association of Canada
Global Seafood Alliance
International Association of Aquaculture Economics and Management
Latin American Chapter WAS
US Trout Farmers Association
Zebrafish Husbandry Association



Premier sponsors

SyAqua
CHINA • INDIA • INDONESIA • MALAYSIA • THAILAND • USA

BLUE AQUA



MERCK
Animal Health

zeigler
nutrition through innovation

Hosted by:

California Aquaculture Association

AQUACULTURE AMERICA RETURNS TO LAS VEGAS

AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026 returns to one of the favorite entertainment spots in the world for the only major national aquaculture conference and exposition held in the U.S. The U.S. Aquaculture Society (formerly U.S. Chapter of WAS) joins with National Aquaculture Association and the Aquaculture Suppliers Association to produce the annual Aquaculture America meetings.

These sponsors are joined by the annual meetings of Aquacultural Engineering Society, US Trout Farmers Association, and many more associations to make Aquaculture America 2026 the one meeting in the U.S. that you don't want to miss!

BEYOND THE CONFERENCE

Las Vegas offers many attractions and great fun. Aquaculture America 2026 is the place to learn about the latest in aquaculture, see the newest technology in the trade show and have a great time in the many fantastic restaurants, bars and entertainment sites in Las Vegas.

A CRITICAL TRADE SHOW FOR AQUACULTURISTS!

AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026 will have the largest aquaculture trade show in the Western Hemisphere and one of the largest anywhere in the world with nearly 150 booths! This is your opportunity to inspect the latest in products and services for the aquaculture industry. It is the place to visit current suppliers and make new contacts. To keep ahead and to keep profits building, you need to keep pace with the technological advancements in the industry - and AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026 is the place to do it!

Aquaculture America is known for the high quality of its Producer Program organized by NAA. AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026 will continue to expand the size and scope of the producer program to address all of the issues facing producers in the U.S. as well as around the world. Topics Include:

- Federal Agency Town Hall Meeting
- Aquatic Animal Health
- Environmental Issues
- Offshore Aquaculture
- Farm Energy Cost Reduction
- Aquatic Animal Drug Approvals
- Regulatory Costs
- Start Up Aquaculture
- Marketing and Promotion
- Science and Public Policy
- Women in Aquaculture
- Federal Regulation Reform
- New Technologies

YOUR FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

- Only pre-registered attendees are guaranteed materials
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- Admission to all sessions, seminars and the trade show.
- Admission to the Receptions.
- Conference bag and Show Directory.
- Refreshment Breaks and Cash Bar Happy Hour
- Students receive the full registration package plus the Student Reception.
- To qualify for the student rate, a copy of your student I.D. is required.



TECHNICAL PROGRAM COVERS THE LATEST RESEARCH

The U.S. Aquaculture Society will put together an extensive technical program featuring special sessions, contributed papers and workshops on all of the species and issues facing aquaculturists around the country and throughout the world. Sample topics:

Biotechnology/Biogenetics

Crustacean genetics/selection/genomics
Finfish genetics/selection/genomics
Genetically modified organisms
Shellfish genetics/selection/genomics

Conservation/Management/
Stock Enhancement
Conservation/restoration aquaculture
Stock enhancement

Crustaceans

Species
Crawfish
L. vannamei
Macrobrachium sp.
Shrimp husbandry/production

Economics/Marketing

Aquaculture economics
Certification
Consumer perceptions of farm-raised seafood
Marketing
Organic aquaculture
Risk management

Engineering

Aquaponics
Bioflocs
Biofouling
Biofuels
Effluent waste management
Recirculating aquaculture system technology
System modelling

Finfish

Species
Baitfish
Catfish/catfish hybrids
Flatfish
Gar/paddlefish/bowfin
Largemouth bass
Marine fish
Mullet
Percids
Salmonids
Striped bass/striped bass hybrids
Sturgeon
Tilapia
Tuna
Zebrafish
Finfish husbandry/production

Food Safety

Seafood/health-related
Shellfish safety

Health/Disease

Aquaculture drugs
Aquatic animal veterinary medicine
Biofilms
Biosecurity
Crustacean bacterial diseases
Crustacean fungal diseases
Crustacean parasitic diseases
Finfish bacterial diseases
Finfish fungal diseases
Finfish parasitic diseases
Immunology/stress
Mucosal health
Physiology
Preventative medicine strategies
Shellfish bacterial diseases
Shellfish fungal diseases
Shellfish parasitic diseases
Vaccines
Viral diseases
Welfare

Nutrition

Alternative feeds
Crustacean nutrition
Feed ingredients
Finfish nutrition
Fish oil
Live feeds
Pond fertilization
Prebiotics/probiotics
Shellfish nutrition

Other Sessions

Aquaculture education
Aquaculture through the years, how I got here!
Aquaculture without Frontiers
Disaster relief
Ecology/environment
Endangered species
Extension/technology transfer
History of aquaculture
Indigenous Aquaculture
International Development
Invasive species
Ocean acidification

Outreach

Wireless/automated technologies in aquaculture

Other Species

Algae
Alligator
Amphibians
Eels
Ornamentals
Sea Urchins

Regulations/Policies/Permitting

Reproduction

Broodstock propagation/management
Crustacean reproduction
Finfish reproduction
Hatchery technology
Larval culture
Shellfish reproduction

Shellfish

Species
Abalone
Freshwater mussels
Mussels/clams/geoducks
Oysters
Pearl oysters
Scallops
Tridacna
Shellfish husbandry/production
Business Tools and the Economics of Shellfish Aquaculture

Systems

Cage culture
In-pond raceways/split-ponds
Integrated multi trophic aquaculture
Non-traditional aquaculture
Offshore aquaculture
Pond culture
Raceway culture
Recirculating aquaculture
Recreational/ornamental pond management
Robotics in Aquaculture
Small scale aquaculture
Survey Design, Implementation, and Analysis in Aquaculture
Urban aquaculture

Water Quality/Chemistry

Algal blooms
Instrumentation
Management
Methodology
Nitrogen waste management
Toxins/contaminants

CALL FOR PAPERS – DEADLINE: September 28, 2025

AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026 encourages the submission of high quality oral and poster presentations. We strongly encourage authors to consider poster presentations because poster sessions will be an integral part of the program. Papers submitted for “oral presentation only” may not be accepted as oral presentations due to the limited number of available time slots. **All abstracts must be in English – the official language of the conference.**

Each oral presenter shall be entitled to no more than 12 minutes for a presentation, plus 3 minutes for questions. Authors of studies involving proprietary products or formulations should present this information in workshops or the trade show. Oral presentations should use Power Point. Slides, overhead projectors and video players will not be available or allowed.

All presenters are required to pay their own registration accommodation and travel expenses.

AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026 cannot subsidize registration fees, travel or hotel costs.

No Abstract Book will be printed – the Abstract Book will be published on the conference website www.was.org

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS

Expanded Abstract Format - Please refer to the sample.

- 1. TITLE OF PAPER:** The abstract title is printed in CAPITAL LETTERS, with the exception of scientific names which should be Upper/lower case and *italicized* (see example). Scientific names should not be preceded or followed by commas or parentheses or other markings.
- 2. AUTHOR(S):** The first name should be the presenting author. Use * after the presenting author. Type in upper/lower case.
- 3. ADDRESS AND EMAIL:** Type only the presenting author's institution, address and email. Type in upper/lower case.
- 4. MAXIMUM LENGTH:** One Page
- 5. PAGE SIZE:** Standard 8.5 x 11 inch paper (portrait)
- 6. MARGINS:** 1-inch margin throughout (left/right/top/bottom)
- 7. SPACING:** Single spaced
- 8. PARAGRAPHS:** Paragraphs should be separated by a blank line and should not be indented.
- 9. FONTS:** Character fonts should be 12 point type.
- 10. FIGURES & TABLES:** Figures and tables are highly recommended. They should be reduced to the appropriate size for a one page abstract and should be clearly readable at the reduced size in black print only. The reduced figures and tables should be included in the abstract in camera-ready form.

1 inch margin (2.54 cm)

EVALUATION OF JUVENILE AUSTRALIAN RED CLAW CRAYFISH *Cherax quadricarinatus* FED PRACTICAL DIETS WITH AND WITHOUT SUPPLEMENTAL LECITHIN AND/OR CHOLESTEROL

Laura A. Muzinic*, Kenneth R. Thompson, Tracey Christian, Carl D. Webster, Lukas Manomaitis, and David B. Rouse

Aquaculture Research Center
Kentucky State University
Frankfort, KY 40601
lmuzinic@csr.net

Red claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) are one of more than a hundred species of Australian freshwater crayfish. However, because of its rapid growth rate, ease of spawning, wide tolerance, and dissolved oxygen tolerance, and lack of a larval stage, red claw may be the best candidate for aquaculture in the United States. Red claw are only being investigated as an aquaculture species in the country and no specific information exists on their nutritional requirements and practical diet formulations. Many crustaceans require lecithin and cholesterol to be added to their diet, these two nutrients are usually added; however, lecithin and cholesterol are very expensive. Since diet costs can be as much as 10% of the total expenses for an aquaculture enterprise, it is imperative that the least expensive diet be formulated that meets the nutrient requirements of the species. The present study was conducted to determine if cholesterol and/or lecithin needs to be added to a practical diet for red claw crayfish.

An 8-week feeding trial was conducted in a recirculating system with newly-hatched juvenile (0.5 g and weight of 0.2 g) red claw, each stocked in a 100 L plastic mesh culture units. Individual units were placed within fiberglass tanks, each having an overflow water line. Water was recirculated through biological and mechanical filters. Water temperature was maintained at 27-29°C and light was provided by overhead fluorescent ceiling fixtures on a 12 hour light:dark cycle. Ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, oxygen, temperature, alkalinity, chlorophyll were measured three times per week. The goal of the study was to examine the effects of growth performance of newly-hatched juvenile red claw when fed four practical diets with or without cholesterol and lecithin. Other practical diets included menhaden fish meal, soybean meal, shrimp meal, wheat flour, vitamin and mineral mix, pellet binder, cod liver oil, and corn oil (Table 1).

After 8 weeks, red claw crayfish fed a practical diet without cholesterol (Diet 3) had significantly ($P < 0.05$) lower final weight, percentage weight gain, and specific growth rate (SGR) compared to crayfish fed all other diets (Table 2). These results indicate that a practical diet containing 2% cod liver oil and 1% corn oil and having no lecithin appears to be sufficient and that lecithin may not be necessary for juvenile red claw diets.

1 inch margin (2.54 cm)

8.5 inches wide (21.6 cm)

11 inches long (27.94 cm)

1 inch margin (2.54 cm)

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT ONLINE

**Submit your abstract via the internet at the meeting website.
Follow the complete instructions on the website for online submission.**

www.was.org

**If you are unable to submit your abstract online, contact the Conference Manager
for alternative methods at:**

worldaqua@was.org



ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

Aquaculture America 2026

February 16-19, 2026 – Las Vegas, Nevada

Return address for payments in USD:
Aquaculture America 2026
Conference Manager
P.O. Box 2302
Valley Center, CA 92082 USA
Email: worldaqua@was.org

Online registration is preferred at www.was.org OR fax or mail both sides with payment. Use one form per person.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION	
BADGE INFORMATION: (As you want your name badge to read – No titles, please)	
First Name _____	SURNAME (FAMILY NAME) _____
Company or Institution _____ (Limited to 40 Letters & Spaces)	
City _____	State/Prov _____ Country _____

MAILING INFORMATION: Email _____ (<i>please</i> include email address)	
Postal Address _____	
City _____	State / Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____
Phone _____ (Include country and city code)	Fax _____ (Include country and city code) Title: (circle one) Dr. Mr. Ms. Mrs.

REGISTRATION FEES: In order to receive the discount rates as listed below, this form and payment must be received by the date listed. See brochure for what is included in registration fees.

TYPE OF REGISTRATION	Register by January 24, 2026	Register by February 8, 2026	Register after February 8, 2026	* To qualify for Member Rate you <u>must</u> complete the Association Memberships section on the reverse side. • • • • • Trade Show is <u>included</u> in the Full Conference Registration Rate. TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE US\$ _____
FULL CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW In order to receive the Pre-Registration discount rate, this form and payment must be received by the date above				
ASSOCIATION MEMBER RATE* <input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 545	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 595	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 695	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 360	
STUDENT MEMBER RATE* Include copy of Student I.D. <input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 295	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 295	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 295	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 360	
Non-Member Rate <input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 640	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 690	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 790	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 425	
Student Non-Member Rate Include copy of Student I.D. You can join WAS on the reverse side and use the Member Rate. <input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 365	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 365	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 365	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 425	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse Rate Name _____ <input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 395	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 495	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 595	<input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 595	

TRADE SHOW PASS Good for 3 days admission to exhibits only – February 17, 18, 19	(Trade show pass is included with the Full Conference Registration) <input type="checkbox"/> US\$ 50	TOTAL TRADE SHOW PASS US\$ _____
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MEMBERSHIP DUES – Enter amount from Membership Application on other side if applicable.	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DUES US\$ _____
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Do not mail registration after Feb. 10, 2026 or fax after Feb. 15. After Feb 15, bring this form with you to register at the show.	→ TOTAL AMOUNT US\$ _____
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Registration Confirmation and Receipt will be emailed after processing.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellation of registration must be received - in writing - no later than January 16, 2026. Refunds for registration fees will be subject to a 20% handling fee. Refunds are processed after the conference. No refund will be made for cancellations received after January 16, 2026 or for "no shows". After January 16, 2026, no refunds will be made for professional or personal emergencies, flight cancellations, denied visa, weather related cancellation or other travel emergencies. Fees for memberships are non-refundable.

PAYMENT METHOD: All fees must be paid to the order of AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026.

For bank transfer details, contact us.

<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<input type="checkbox"/> Diners Club
Card # _____	Sec Code _____	Expiration Date _____			
Name on Card _____	Date _____	Signature _____			
Credit Card Billing Address _____					

REGISTRATION FORM - SIDE 2

Name _____

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS: Please check all boxes for associations for which you are a current member. Membership in any of those associations qualifies you for the Member Rate* on the Registration Fees. You can join an association at any time before registering to qualify for the Member Rate.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African Chapter, WAS | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Seafood Alliance | <input type="checkbox"/> US Aquaculture Society, WAS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquacultural Engineering Society | <input type="checkbox"/> IAAEM | <input type="checkbox"/> US Trout Farmers Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquaculture Association of Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea Chapter, WAS | <input type="checkbox"/> World Aquaculture Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-Pacific Chapter, WAS | <input type="checkbox"/> Latin American and Caribbean Chapter, WAS | <input type="checkbox"/> Zebrafish Husbandry Association |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European Aquaculture Society | <input type="checkbox"/> National Aquaculture Association | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Culture Section - AFS | <input type="checkbox"/> National Shellfisheries Association | |

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

☐ NEW APPLICATION

☐ RENEWAL

WORLD AQUACULTURE SOCIETY (WAS) APPLICATION www.was.org

For details on the different types of memberships and options, please contact the WAS home office at

Tel: +1-225-347-5408 Fax: +1-225-347-5408 Email: judya@was.org

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: (Indicate only one)

- ☐ **Individual** (USD 90/yr) Applies to an individual only
- ☐ **Full Student** (USD 45/yr) Has all benefits and rights of regular membership including voting for all candidates on the ballot (Copy of Student ID or Signature of Professor required)
- ☐ **Comp Student** (No charge) Has all benefits of regular membership but voting only allowed is for the Student Director and not for the full ballot. (Copy of Student ID or Signature of Professor required)
- ☐ **Sustaining** (USD 155/yr) Applies to any one individual from a company
- ☐ **Corporate** (USD 295/yr) Allows all employees of one company to attend meeting at Member Rate
- ☐ **Lifetime** (USD 1400 with one chapter) Applies to an individual only

**Discounted rates available for individuals in countries based on World Bank List of Low Income Economies. Must sign-up on website only for this category.

Fees for memberships are non-refundable.

CHAPTER OPTIONS:

*One chapter included in membership.
Mark the chapter you choose.*

- ☐ **African Chapter**
- ☐ **Asian Pacific**
- ☐ **Korea**
- ☐ **Latin American/Caribbean**
- ☐ **United States (USAS)**
- ☐ **None** (deduct USD 5)

You can add extra Chapters for USD 5

Total Amount for WAS Membership USD _____
Please enter this amount under "Membership Dues" section on opposite side of this form.

NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION (NAA)

For details on the different types of memberships and options, please contact the NAA home office at:

Tel: +1-850-216-2400 Fax: +1-850-216-2480 Email: naa@thenaa.net Web: thenaa.net

Individual Memberships: Individuals, growers, partnerships and corporations who engage in the practice of and who derive a portion of their income from aquaculture. Silver, Gold and Platinum members also derive income from aquaculture, but wish to increase their support of the NAA.

_____ Individual: \$250

_____ Silver: \$1,000 to \$2,499

_____ Gold: \$2,500 to \$4,999

_____ Platinum: \$5,000 and above

Total Amount for NAA Membership

USD _____

Fees for memberships are non-refundable.

Please enter this amount under "Membership Dues" section on opposite side of this form.

**For membership in other associations, please contact them directly.
If you need a phone number, contact the Conference Manager worldaqua@was.org.**

TRAVEL / HOTELS

HOTELS

We have arranged for fantastic rates at the Paris, Bally's and Planet Hollywood Hotels in Las Vegas. The meeting will be in the Paris Convention Center. Bally's is attached to Paris and Planet Hollywood is next to Paris Hotel. You can reserve your room by phone or on their website.

Check the conference website for details.

EXPANDED PRODUCER PROGRAM

Aquaculture America is known for the high quality of its Producer Program organized by NAA. AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2026 will continue to expand the size and scope of the producer program to address all of the issues facing producers in the U.S. as well as around the world. Topics include:

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- Regulatory Costs
- Start Up Aquaculture
- Marketing and Promotion
- Science and Public Policy
- Women in Aquaculture



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Aquaculture America 2026

Conference Management Office

P.O. Box 2302

Valley Center, CA 92082

Email: worldaqua11@was.org

REGISTER EARLY AND \$AVE!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Monday, February 16

Exhibit Set-up	10:00 - 6:00
Registration Open	12:00 - 6:00
Welcome Reception.....	6:00 - 8:00

Tuesday, February 17

Registration Open	7:30 - 5:00
Opening Ceremonies & Plenary Session .	8:30 - 10:00
Refreshment Break	10:00 - 11:00
Sessions.....	11:00 - 12:30
Trade Show Open.....	10:30 - 6:30
Lunch (on your own).....	12:30 - 1:30
Sessions.....	1:30 - 5:30
Happy Hour & Posters	5:30 - 6:30
Student Reception & NSA Auction ...	7:00 - 9:00

Wednesday, February 18

Registration Open	7:30 - 5:00
Sessions.....	8:30 - 10:00
Trade Show Open.....	10:00 - 6:30
Refreshment Break	10:00 - 10:30
Sessions.....	10:30 - 12:30
Lunch (on your own).....	12:30 - 1:30
Sessions.....	1:30 - 5:30
Happy Hour & Posters	5:30 - 6:30
NAA Auction.....	6:30 - 8:00

Thursday, February 19

Registration Open	7:30 - 5:00
Sessions.....	8:30 - 10:00
Trade Show Open.....	10:00 - 1:30
Refreshment Break	10:00 - 11:00
Sessions.....	11:00 - 12:30
Lunch (on your own).....	12:30 - 1:30
NSA Members Luncheon	12:30 - 2:00
Sessions.....	1:30 - 3:00
Exhibit Move-out	1:30 - 7:00
Refreshment Break	3:00 - 3:30
Sessions.....	3:30 - 5:30
Presidents Reception	6:30 - 8:30

