



# AQUACULTURE CRSP 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

## ANALYSIS OF CRITICAL POINTS IN AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION AFFECTING PARTICIPATION AND LEVEL OF BENEFITS TO WOMEN, YOUTH, AND DISADVANTAGED STAKEHOLDERS

*Eleventh Work Plan, Aquaculture and Human Health Impacts Research 3 (11AHHR3)  
Final Abstract*

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### ABSTRACT

Preliminary work with the predominant form of aquaculture in Sinaloa, Mexico (shrimp culture) to improve management practices and increase direct benefits to local communities indicated that women and other marginalized stakeholders play a key role in this industry and must be included in participatory, community-based efforts to implement Best Management Practices. Other efforts to increase aquaculture production, particularly in the case of freshwater fish and local species of bivalves, suggested that women would be primary target groups for these efforts given their roles as producers, fishers, and vendors. Additionally, Sinaloa like many other regions in the world is dealing with issues associated with urbanization, globalization, and impacts of the growing drug trade. There are large numbers of young, unemployed youth and a high level of physically challenged individuals due to locally high rates of birth defects, HIV/AIDS, cancer, vehicular accidents, and drug-related violence. It is clear that many stakeholders from these groups already participate in aquaculture or wish to do so, but confront challenges to entering or increasing their participation in this activity. This work is designed to better understand key obstacles (technical, social, and economic) to increased participation and develop simple and immediately applicable strategies to encourage more aquaculture production among these groups. For example, a key deliverable will be a feasibility study and plan to guide the physically disabled in establishing tilapia culture. Research is being carried out with women's oyster cultivating cooperatives, women working with impoundment tilapia culture, seafood vendors, women fishers, and two groups of physically challenged, rural adults who are currently engaged in manufacturing occupations who now wish to cultivate tilapia. The latter operate an NGO called PROJIMO that engages in community-based work to address the needs of the rural handicapped. To date, extensive literature research, field investigations, interviews, site observations and studies have been conducted. Multidisciplinary teams including specialists from the University of Sinaloa, University of Rhode Island, University of Hawaii Hilo, NGOs such as Conservation International, CIAD, and government agencies are responsible for this research. Four workshops have been held to plan the work, define research methodologies, present preliminary results and analyze findings have been held. A draft of the case study has been produced and is now under review. It is expected that work will be completed by March 2005. The women's groups and PROJIMO have also participated in the Cross-sectoral and International Extension Exchange and Learning (11AHHR1) to share their experience working with extension to their respective stakeholder groups and to learn from the aquaculture extension agents.