

## AQUACULTURE COMMUNIQUE'S

### The Formation and History of the World Mariculture Society, 1969-1986

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#### Abstract

On January 20, 1986, at the annual meeting of the World Mariculture Society in Reno, Nevada, Dr. Guido Persoone, President, announced that the name of the World Mariculture Society would be changed to World Aquaculture Society. Eighty-eight percent of voting members favored the change. What follows, then, is an historical account of the World Mariculture Society, 1969-1986. We have used as references archives promulgated in the Proceedings and Journals, newsletter materials, and our own first hand knowledge.

A mariculture subcommittee was authorized by the Estuarine Technical Coordinating Committee (E.T.C.C.) of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission<sup>3</sup> at its meeting in San Antonio, Texas, USA in October of 1968. E.T.C.C. chairman Theodore B. Ford asked Terrance Leary to serve as subcommittee chairman. The purpose of the subcommittee was to informally coordinate mariculture activities among the Gulf of Mexico states.

The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission<sup>4</sup> along with the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company agreed to serve as hosts for a meeting to be held at the Commission's Marine Research Laboratory on Grand Terre Island, Louisiana, USA January 31-February 2, 1969. An invitation list was compiled to include those persons in

the Gulf and South Atlantic areas with an interest in mariculture. A total of 45 persons attended. The two-day meeting had no formal agenda. People at random stood up in the audience to discuss their research programs or their private enterprises in mariculture. At the time of the meeting there was strong interest in shrimp (*Penaeus* spp.) and pompano (*Trachinotus carolinus*) farming. The underlying theme of the meeting was this: "We need to meet again because so many of us are interested in mariculture," and "let us keep it simple." "We need to keep things shirt-sleeves informal and not get too structured." It was emphasized that the coterie wanted to have strong involvement from the fish farmers and others from the private sector. This feeling was re-emphasized when Frank M. Ritchie of the Louisiana Land and Exploration Company was later selected as the second Honorary Life Member (Table 1).

In accordance with the wishes of those in attendance at the Grand Terre meeting, Chairman Leary appointed a four-man steering committee to assist in guidance of future meetings. The committee members

<sup>1</sup> Charter member 1970, President 1975, Honorary Life Member 1978.

<sup>2</sup> Charter member 1970, President 1981.

<sup>3</sup> Presently Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

<sup>4</sup> Presently Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

were appointed to represent a geographical cross-section as well as the various interests in mariculture. The members were: Theodore B. Ford, crustacean culture, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission; Gordon Gunter, molluscan culture, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory; Samuel R. Monroe, Jr., fish culture, Aqua-Mar Culture Corporation; Harold Webber, general mariculture, Groton Associates; and Terrance Leary, E.T.C.C., Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The steering committee was faced with three avenues of direction: to continue as a subcommittee with regional interest, to join a mariculture association forming in Florida, or to form a new professional society inviting the group in Florida to participate. The steering committee recommended the latter course of action.

Gordon Gunter offered the facilities of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, USA for the second major organizational meeting held on September 9, 1969. A letter of invitation was sent to all on the mailing list and others with interest in mariculture. The steering committee met on September 8 at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and drafted a preliminary charter and set of bylaws to be presented at the meeting the following day. The charter and bylaws generally followed those of the American Fisheries Society. Samuel Monroe, a veterinarian interested in pompano farming in Florida, suggested that the society be incorporated in Florida, because "I know a lawyer who will give us a good price." The next day, September 9, a total of 44 people attended the general session. This was an especially good turnout, because a few days before, Hurricane Camille had devastated much of the Gulf Coast around Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and many highways were barely passable. A name had to be chosen for our new Society. Gordon Gunter stated, "There are enough international societies around, we'll call ourselves the World Mariculture Society." This was a statement and not in the

TABLE 1. *World Mariculture Society Honorary Life Membership, 1970-1986.*<sup>a</sup>

G. Robert Lunz, Jr., 1969 <sup>b</sup>	Division of Fish and Game
Frank M. Ritchie, 1969 <sup>b</sup>	Dept. of Land and Natural Resources Area and Sand Island
H. S. Swingle, 1972 <sup>b</sup>	Honolulu, HI 97819, USA
S. W. Ling, 1974	Harold L. Goodwin, 1979
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations	6212 Verne Street, Bethesda, MD 20034, USA
T. V. R. Pillay, 1976	Jon M. Lindbergh, 1980
74 Via Eupoli, Casalpaccio	% DøMSEA Farms, Inc. 6720 Old Belfair Highway
00124 Rome, Italy	Bremerton, WA 98310, USA
Gordon Gunter, 1976	John Hughes, 1980
P.O. Box AG	State Lobster Hatchery and Research Station
Ocean Springs, MS 39564, USA	Box 394
Victor Loosanoff, 1976	Vineyard Haven, MA 02568, USA
17 Los Gerros Drive	H. R. Rabanal, 1982
Greenbray, CA 94904, USA	P.O. Box 1184 M.C.C., Makati
Lauren Donaldson, 1977	Metro Manila, Philippines
204 Fish Center	Shimon Tal, 1983
University of Washington	Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries Division
Seattle, WA 98195, USA	Bamidgeh, Nir-David, Israel 19150
Paul Galstoff, 1977 <sup>b</sup>	James Shelbourne, 1986
James W. Avault, Jr., 1978	Fildraw
Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries	Billasalla Isle of Man
Louisiana State University	British Isles
Baton Rouge, LA 78083, USA	
Peter Korringa, 1978 <sup>b</sup>	
Takuji Fujimura, 1979	
Anuenue Fisheries Research Center	

<sup>a</sup> Addresses are at the time Honorary Life Membership received.

<sup>b</sup> Deceased.

form of a motion, but the name had such great appeal to all present that we moved on to the next order of business. It is interesting to note that what started out as a collection of Gulf Coast mariculturists suddenly took on a world outlook. The word "mariculture" was appropriate because most present were interested in marine species. G. Robert Lunz, Jr. was recognized for his pioneering research in shrimp farming at

