

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASTACOLOGY QUARTERLY
SPRING 1985 NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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SPECIAL THANKS TO PAST-PRESIDENT, STELLAN KARLSSON, FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

IAA SYMPOSIUM VI- AUGUST 13-15, 1984 UNIVERSITY OF LUND, SWEDEN
CONGRATULATIONS TO PER BRINCK AND COMMITTEE FOR AN OUTSTANDING MEETING. FOR THOSE OF YOU UNABLE TO ENJOY THE SESSIONS IN PERSON, COPIES OF THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMME WHICH INCLUDES 27 PAGES OF ABSTRACTS AND MATERIAL ON CRAYFISH AQUACULTURE IN THE SOVIET UNION THAT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE PROCEEDINGS ARE FOR SALE FOR \$10.00US, WHICH INCLUDES THE POSTAGE AND HANDLING. ORDER YOUR COPY FROM THE SIXTH IAA SYMPOSIUM, ECOLOGY BLDG. S-223 62 LUND, SWEDEN

IAA SYMPOSIUM VII AUGUST 11-13, 1986 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA
PLAN TO ARRIVE SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 1986 FOR AN EVENING RECEPTION. CONSIDER STAYING OVER THE WEEKEND FOR INTERPROVINCIAL AND LOCAL POST-SYMPOSIUM EXCURSIONS. YOU MAY WISH TO DEPART FROM POINTS WEST IN CANADA SUCH AS CALGARY, ALBERTA (IF YOU REGISTER FOR DR. MCMAHON'S TOUR) OR VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (IF YOU PRIVATELY ARRANGE TO GO ON TO EXPO'86) OR POINTS EAST, SUCH AS THUNDERBAY, ONTARIO (IF YOU REGISTER FOR DR. MOMOT'S TOUR). DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN THE IAA SUMMER QUARTERLY. COSTS CANNOT BE FIXED UNTIL JULY 1, 1985 BUT ARE EXPECTED TO BE SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS MEETINGS FOR REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION.

IAA SYMPOSIUM VIII 1988
JAMES PAYNE, CHAIRMAN OF THE SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE, INVITES YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LOCATION OF THE 1988 SYMPOSIUM. UNDER CONSIDERATION AT PRESENT ARE LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND AND SPAIN. R.W. HUTCHINGS OF THE FRESHWATER AUSTRALIAN CRAYFISH TRADERS CO. HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ORGANIZING A FUTURE MEETING IN AUSTRALIA. POTENTIAL HOSTS SHOULD SUBMIT AN OUTLINE TO JIM.

MEMBERSHIP
MANY OF YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE IAA AT THE LUND SYMPOSIUM; A FEW HAVE PAID THEIR DUES (\$20.00 US) BY MAIL SINCE, BUT THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS ARE GENTLY REMINDED THAT THEIR DUES ARE OUTSTANDING. PAYMENT NOW WILL ENTITLE YOU TO SEVEN MORE NEWSLETTERS WITH SPECIAL FEATURES IN EACH. WE HAVE 42 NEW MEMBERS WHOSE NAMES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW ROSTER TO BE SENT TO ALL CURRENT MEMBERS WITH THE IAA FALL QUARTERLY.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS:

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO JAY HUNER, LARRY DE LA BRETONNE AND JAMES PAYNE FOR THEIR REPORTS WHICH ARE ATTACHED.

ALL OF YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE ITEMS OF MEMBERS' TRAVELS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC., LOCAL CRAYFISH NEWS, EXCERPTS FROM RELATED INTEREST ORGANIZATIONAL NEWSLETTERS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, SHORT RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS AND LITERATURE. WE RELY ON YOUR INPUT FOR PERTINENT ARTICLES FOR THE IAA ISSUES.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

A LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPLANTATIONS COMMITTEE IS ATTACHED.

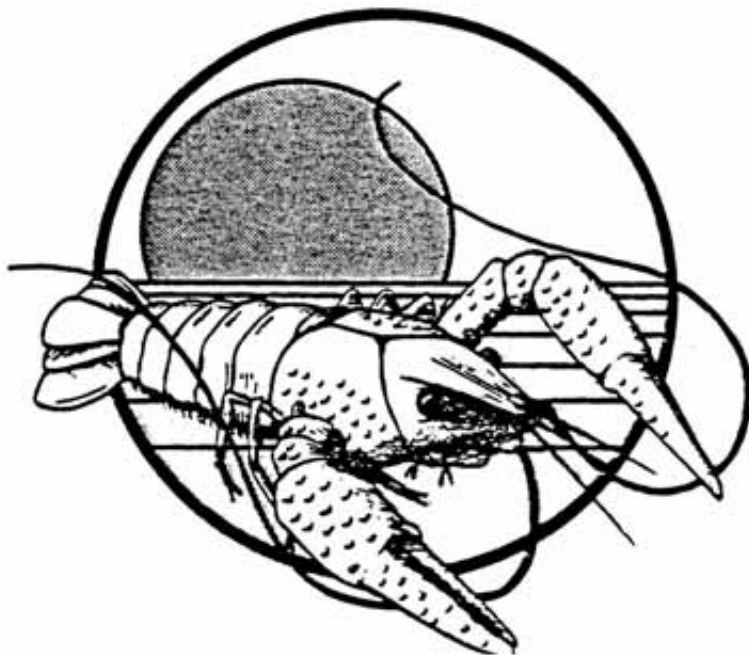
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE DESIGN, UTILITY AND COSTS OF AN AUTOMATIC CRAYFISH PEELER? PLEASE SEND SAME TO DR. R.D. HAMILTON AT THE FRESHWATER INSTITUTE, 501 UNIVERSITY CRES., WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA, R3T 2N6.

MEETINGS:

SIX IAA MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, ATTENDED THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGY MEETINGS IN DENVER, COLORADO DECEMBER 27-30, 1984. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN BALTIMORE AND WILL INCLUDE A SESSION ON CRAYFISH BIOLOGY AND AN IAA MIXER RECEPTION.

THE LOUISIANA CRAWFISH FARMERS' ASSOCIATION HOSTED THE SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CRAWFISH TASTING AND TRADE SHOW ON MARCH 9-10, 1985 AT LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA. NUMEROUS ASPECTS OF THE CRAWFISH AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY WERE ON DISPLAY, RANGING FROM TRAPS AND BOATS TO PREPARED DISHES AND PROCESSING PROCEDURES. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA, LOUISIANA STATE, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, THE LOUISIANA CRAWFISH PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WERE ON HAND TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE. HUNDREDS ATTENDED THE TWO-DAY EVENT AND LEARNED MUCH ABOUT THIS DEVELOPING INDUSTRY. PLANS FOR A THIRD ARE UNDERWAY. INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION



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Focus on freshwater crayfish at Swedish meeting



Dr. Per-Olav Larsson, manager of Saltvikens Fiskodling, shows large rainbow trout reared in salt water tanks during a field trip for crayfish symposium participants. The power plant seen in the background supplies heated water.

Crayfish scientists met from August 12 to 15 in Lund, Sweden, for the Sixth International Symposium of Astacology. Sponsors were the International Association of Astacology (IAA) and the University of Lund. Among the 180 participants from 18 countries at the symposium was *FFI* correspondent DR. JAY V. HUNER, who sent us this report.

THE CHOICE of southern Sweden for the International Association of Astacology meeting was especially appropriate. Sweden is one of the major European consumers of freshwater crayfish, producing about 200 metric tons domestically and importing about 2000 tons annually, mostly from Turkey.

Great festivities and gala parties are associated with the Swedish crayfish session which begins on August 12 and ends on October 31. But a cold summer in Sweden, resulted in a slow growth rate this past spring and summer and a very poor domestic harvest. Prices were therefore very high, emphasizing the need for restoration of stocks from disease depleted waters and development of aquaculture.

There were six paper sessions, a poster session, a

meeting of the Transplantation Committee, a disease workshop, and a field trip during the three-day meeting.

The field trip took participants to the inland crayfish and prawn hatchery facilities at Blentorp of Simontorps Akvatiska Avelslaboratorium AB and Simontorps Aquaculture AB, and the coastal marine and freshwater aquaculture site at the Saltvikens nuclear power plant near Malmö. The farming company operating the facility is Saltvikens Fiskodling HB.

Disease are always of great concern to aquaculturists. There are three families of freshwater crayfishes, the Cambaridae native to North America, Japan and Korea, the Astacidae native to Europe and the Pacific North-west of North America, and the Parastacidae native to the southern hemisphere, but not Africa.

The crayfish fungal pathogen *Aphanomyces astaci* is a virulent pathogen to European astacids and the southern hemisphere parastacids. North America astacids and cambarids show a high degree of resistance. Retail prices of one US dollar each for crayfish in Europe result from destruction of native stocks by the crayfish plague.

Dr. Kenneth Soderhall of the University of Uppsala, Sweden, an international authority on crayfish plague, emphasized three points at the symposium. First, Australian species of crayfishes have no known resistance to the crayfish plague so that anyone contemplating culture of such species as *Cherax tenuimanus* (marron) or *Cherax destructor* (yabbie) in areas in Europe or North America where the plague exists should exercise great caution.

Second, several incidences of mass crayfish plague mortalities have been recorded in Swedish populations of signal crayfish despite their known resistance to the plague. These seem to have been associated with stress problems.

Finally, both the signal crayfish and striped crayfish are plague vectors, carrying it in an arrested state and being able to infect the native European crayfishes.

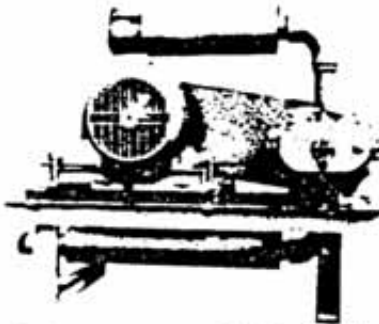
This problem is the apparent explanation for the first recorded outbreaks of the crayfish plague in England. The decimation of exploitable white-footed crayfish populations in several English rivers was attributed to transplantations of signal crayfish, which now number over 170, in presentations made by Professor Roger Lowery of London Polytechnic College, Professor Valerie Smith of University Marine Biological Station, Isle of Cumbrae, and Dr. J. Hogger of the Thames Water Authority, Reading.

The question of transplantation is one fraught with controversy in aquaculture circles.

Simply put, aquaculture species are generally able to survive in natural habitats and can easily escape from

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Dr. Horton H. Hobbs Jr., the well-known American entomologist, delivered the Sture Abrahamson lecture to open the crayfish symposium.

most systems. Thus, most successful efforts to culture species outside their native ranges results in transplantsations. These are invariably permanent and often have negative impacts not previously anticipated.

The spread of the crayfish plague by successful transplantsations of striped and signal crayfishes is one example. The IAA has a Transplantsation Committee which met to discuss this. I heard a description of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee (EIFAC-UN-FAO) protocol on transplantsations of exotic species including freshwater crayfishes made by Dr. Kai Weisman of the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (Helsinki). It moved to recommend acceptance of this protocol with appropriate modification to the executive committee of the IAA.

Acceptance of the protocol will place IAA in accord with the European Community. A session of transplantsations will be held at the next IAA meeting in 1986.

The status of red swamp crayfish transplantsations was discussed. This prolific species has been successfully introduced into the western USA, the Pacific (Hawaii and Japan), Asia (mainland China), Latin America (Costa Rica and Brazil), the Caribbean (Dominican Republic), Europe (Spain) and Africa (Uganda, Kenya and Zambia). Conference participants were told of two relatively new introductions.

Outgoing president Stellan Karlsson announced that the red swamp crayfish is now successfully introduced in southern Sweden. Transplantsation Committee Chairman Jay Hueter noted that the blue mutant of the red swamp crayfish is now reaching the USA from Thailand suggesting that a transplantsation, if not present, is imminent.

Commercialisation of red swamp crayfish introductions in Spain was discussed by Andres Habsburg-Lorena from Spain and Albert Gaude, director of the Crayfish Research Center at the University of South-western Louisiana at Lafayette.

According to Mr. Lorena, production has fallen to 700 tons in 1984 from 3000 tons in 1983. This was caused by a drought that reduced rice production in the Seville region by over 60 per cent. Mr. Gaude elaborated on the association of the crayfish and the rice fields. The crayfish live both in natural areas and rice fields and are, by law, considered to the property of fishermen. Farmers do not profit from the crayfish and they damage water control structures through burrowing activities. But the dramatic fall in production has driven prices up and reinforced their value to Spain which had previously imported many crayfish from Turkey via France.

Both Mr. Lorena and Mr. Gaude are advocates of aquaculture for crayfish in Spain. Mr. Lorena noted

that production of about 375 kg per ha would be profitable. This compares with average production of 700-1000 kg/ha in Louisiana under similar climatic conditions.

Crayfish are now cultured on a commercial basis by establishing sustaining populations. This is most highly developed in the USA primarily in Louisiana where 40,000 ha of earthen ponds are devoted to production of red swamp crayfish.

Researchers from Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge) including Dr. James W. Avault, Jr., Robert P. Romaine, and Ronald Thuse, discussed various aspects of red swamp crayfish culture.

Dr. Avault briefly outlined the steps of rice/crayfish polyculture. Rice fields are planted in rice in March of the first year and, after flooding for weed control in April-May, they are stocked with red swamp crayfish. These burrow and reproduce during the summer. Ponds are drained in August for rice harvest and are refilled in October when young crayfish emerge from burrows. They consume decomposing vegetation, detritus, and assorted animal-life. Crayfish reach harvestable sizes in 2% to 4% months and are captured with traps. Date of pond draining depends on the relative value of rice and crayfish. If crayfish are more valuable than rice, harvesting continues into May. If not, it ends in mid-late March.

Dr. Avault also noted that

multiple cropping where channel catfish and freshwater prawns are grown during the summer in rice/crayfish ponds looks very promising in experimental studies. If perfected, this would permit farmers to greatly increase efficiency and income.

Information about red swamp crayfish population dynamics and interactions with the less abundant but equally large white river crayfish (*Procambarus acutus*) was presented in a poster authored by G. Lutz and Dr. Romaine. They found that red swamp crayfish were more prolific but grew more slowly especially in the cool winter months. Another poster authored by S. Cange, C. Burns, D. Pavel, and Drs. Romaine and Avault dealt with testing of 18 artificial crayfish baits. This is of considerable interest in Louisiana where over 15,000 tons of bait are used to trap crayfish each year. Effective artificial baits developed by the group have a grain base with fish meal and fish oil added as attractants. These compete favourably with frozen rough fish in price and effectiveness and are much easier to handle and store.

Several interesting papers discussed various aspects of cultivation of noble crayfish. Despite reduced numbers these persist in popularity among European consumers. Based on current understanding of crayfish plague pathology, restocking of natural waters following plague episodes can be effective as long as the plague is not reintroduced by infected crayfish or contaminated fishing gear.

L. Westin, Laboratory for Experimental Aquaculture, Sigtuna, Sweden, discussed studies of the effect of eyestalk removal on moulting and photoperiod/temperature manipulation on reproduction and growth in adult noble crayfish. Bilateral eyestalk removal increased moulting frequency but resulted in death after two to four moults.

There were not many papers dealing with signal crayfish culture but congress participants were able to

visit the Simontorps crayfish hatchery and also see crayfish culture ponds at the Saltvikens aquaculture facility.

Simontorps has the capacity to produce in excess of several hundred thousand free swimming signal crayfish young each year. Because these crayfish are to be stocked in natural or man-made waters, genetic heterogeneity is desirable. To this end, adult crayfish are captured from Simontorps managed waters all over Southern Sweden in September.

Only well-developed females and males are stocked in large mating/spawning vats. Mating commences at temperatures under 10 deg. C in October. Spawning takes place soon after. Females carrying healthy eggs beneath their abdomens are removed in November and placed in small, communal troughs with corrugated ceramic roof tiles for cover. They incubate eggs at 4 deg. C over the winter into the spring.

Temperatures rise over 15 deg. C in May and hatching takes place soon after. Young remain with the mother through two moults and are capable of free living after about two to three weeks. They are, at that time, sold for stocking at prices around 50 US cents each.

Average crayfish production at high latitudes rarely exceeds 100 kg/ha and is usually far below this. Simontorps staff have developed a unique system which they believe will greatly increase production of signal crayfish. Long narrow

ponds, 5 m wide by 75 m long by 1 m deep have a V-shaped profile that maximises surface to volume ratios and provides maximum amounts of bank space for the crayfish.

Four such ponds have been recently built and stocked at the Saltvikens HB power plant site. Stocking rates of adults are four per sq. m and perpetuating populations should develop.

Signal crayfish are well suited for Saltvikens as freshwater is at a premium there. The site is coastal and is designed primarily for production of large rainbow trout in salt water tanks where water is warmed by waste heat from the power plant. Freshwater can be warmed easily but is of poor quality because of the coastal location of the site. But signal crayfish function quite well even in brackish waters with salinities of 10 to 20, per cent sea water strength.

The IAA is a loosely organised association of astacologists. Meetings are held every two to three years but interim meetings are often held both in North America and Europe.

The next regular meeting will be held in Canada, probably Winnipeg, in August 1986.

Membership fee is US\$20 for the interim period between congresses. The quarterly newsletter is very informative. Enquiries about membership and the newsletter should be directed to:

Sharon Leonard, Secretary-Treasurer, International Association of Astacology, Freshwater Institute, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2T 2N6.

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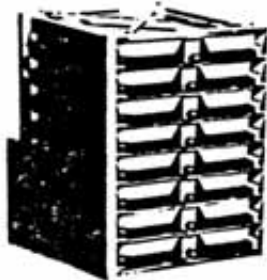
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LOUISIANA CRAWFISH INDUSTRY OUTLOOK, 1984-1985

Larry de la Brette, Aquaculture Specialist
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

The 1983-1984 Louisiana crawfish season could be considered a disaster by all segments of the crawfish industry. Record crawfish production from the previous year carried late into the 1983 season with plants peeling crawfish as late as August. Cheap tail meat prices and a good recreational catch allowed potential buyers to stock frozen tail meat and it depressed early sales of crawfish in the fall of 1983.

Crawfish prices in November were low and they declined to a low of 40¢ per lb. in December as cold weather and rain decreased demand for crawfish. Ponds had good early crawfish production because of the large unharvested hold-over crop from the previous season. New ponds were late in producing young-of-the-year.

As the winter progressed, cold overcast days and cold fronts kept water temperatures low, and reduced growth and the crawfish catch. As temperatures increased buyers held down prices in anticipation of good crawfish production in the Atchafalaya Basin. In the early spring the market was larger than the supply of crawfish, but supply was controlled by the wholesalers, who resisted increasing prices.

In April and May, normally strong production months, many farmers fished their ponds Thursday through Saturday only to accommodate weekend markets. Marketing strategies changed as farmers began retailing more crawfish at pond sites. Larger crawfish were sold live and smaller crawfish were sold to peeling plants. In May, the Basin began to produce and crawfish prices fell. Many pond farmers could not sell their smaller crawfish and drained their ponds in disgust over the market situation.

Tail meat prices were very low (\$3-3.50 per lb.) and although tail meat volume was high, processor profits were low or money was lost "dumping" meat on the market. The only group to benefit from the past crawfish production season was the consumer! Retail prices declined through the season and the supply was controlled. The average price for live crawfish in Henderson, LA was 38¢ per pound. Live crawfish were as low as 20¢ per pound in June.

The outlook for the 1984-1985 crawfish season is such that prices will be low because of unpredictable crawfish production in November and December and also because of the reluctance of buyers to begin handling crawfish early in the season. Supplies of frozen tail meat will be gone by October and a demand should exist for tail meat. The greatest problem will be the reluctance of retailers to handle crawfish in the cold months of late winter. Prices drop in the market place during cold months to stimulate sales and this often results in prices continuing to decline from that point through the remainder of the season. Three good production years from the Atchafalaya Basin has glutted the market and this has made many people believe there is an unlimited supply of crawfish, or people reason that they will wait until the Basin "comes in" before buying crawfish.

One can expect a price reduction and market glut of crawfish when twice the amount of crawfish is dumped on the market in a small period of time. This situation is worse if early season prices for pond-raised crawfish are determined by what "could" happen in the Basin 4-6 months later. It may take a season in which Basin crawfish are in limited supply to make buyers realize the importance of a steady, reliable early season supply of pond-raised crawfish valued at a reasonable price. Because of the low prices in 1982-1983 and 1983-1984, ponds were not fished hard for the past two crawfish seasons and overpopulation and stunting of crawfish will occur in some ponds.



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Page three

Quality control will be important to insure a fair price as grading is started in the industry for both live crawfish and tail meat. The most notable activity should be increased marketing outside of Louisiana. But, as many "old timers" are aware, we have had a sequence of over production occur in the past, but in lean Basin years we return our market strategies to the local markets because higher than "normal" seasonal prices. This practice almost negates the marketing thrust to non-traditional and out-of-state markets and it puts us back to a regional industry. As a result, new contact buyers in outside markets do not want to handle crawfish the next time Louisiana has high production.

On a positive note, the huge production in 1982-1983 and 1983-1984 expanded the market in northern Louisiana with Alexandria, LA prices 10-15¢ per lb. higher than southern Louisiana, and Shreveport and Monroe prices 20-25¢ higher. In addition, the low price of live crawfish and tail meat expanded many new markets out of Louisiana.

The industry is rapidly changing with discussions on international markets, contracts, bookings, trade show, institutional sales, prepared foods, brine-frozen crawfish and special packaging. Farmers must remember, however, that this expansion is not possible if we do not increase production efficiency, production per acre, profits per acre, and decrease the cost of production.

Bredene, November 26, 1984.

Mr. James F. PAYNE
Secretary-Treasurer
International Association of
Astacology (IAA)
Department of Biology
Memphis State University
Memphis, TN 38152
USA

Dear Mr. Payne,

To better reflect the activities of the society the name of the EUROPEAN MARICULTURE SOCIETY (EMS) will be changed to EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE SOCIETY (EAS) from 1985 on (see enclosed press release).

Presently the society is preparing a EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE TRADE DIRECTORY (EATD). The publication will be a multi-lingual reference guide listing suppliers of aquaculture products, equipment, feedstuffs, services, sources of aquaculture information and aquaculture research centers and organizations.

The directory is to be published in 1985 and will be widely distributed. For your convenience we enclose the detailed information on the directory and on how to obtain an entry in it.

We also enclose a press release on the EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE SOCIETY and its activities and would appreciate it if you would be kind enough to publish this information in your journal.

Thanking you beforehand for taking our request into consideration and looking forward to your answer, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Ir. E. JASPERS
Secretary-Treasurer

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

January 9, 1985

Professor Pierre J. Laurent, President
International Association of Astacology
I. N. R. A.
F-74203 Innon les Bains
France

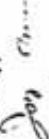
Dear Professor Laurent:

I have received your memorandum of 11/12/1984 concerning various aspects of the IAA organization. I would be pleased to serve as Chairman of our Transplantation Committee if that is the wish of the IAA Board. I should like to propose various individuals for membership based on their expressed interest in serving as well as past service on the committee. The number exceeds the nine you reference in your memorandum but it is not certain that all will agree to serve. Thus, the final number may be less than nine and twelve, including myself, is a manageable number.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Nagnus Appelberg | Sweden |
| Nagnus Furst | Sweden |
| Andres Habsburgo-Lorena | Spain |
| Norton H. Hobbs, Jr. | USA |
| John Hopper | UK |
| Walter Knebel | Canada |
| Noel Morrissy | Australia |
| Tommy Oelstrom | Sweden |
| Reinhard Spitz | Austria |
| A. Tey | France |
| Ezri Westman | Finland |

I look forward to active participation in IAA affairs and thank you for offering me the opportunity to contribute my efforts to promote our association.

Sincerely,


Jay K. Hauer
Professor



Some Notes on Crayfish In Louisiana - May 1985

1. New Crayfish Culture Book

Jay Muner of Southern University and Robert Romaine, James W. Avault, Jr., and L. W. de la Bretonne, Jr. of Louisiana State University are editors of a book on crayfish culture emphasizing Procambarus clarkii. Publisher is AVI Publishing Company, Westport, Connecticut, USA. Projected publication date is spring or summer 1986. Chapters dealing with European and Australian crayfish culture will be included.

2. New Aquaculture Book

Jay Muner of Southern University and E. Evan Brown of the University of Georgia have edited a book entitled "Aquaculture in the United States". Published by AVI Publishing Company, Westport, Connecticut, the book sells for \$59.00 (US) and includes chapters on freshwater crayfish, homarid lobsters, freshwater prawns, penaeid shrimps, other crustacean species, oysters, mussels, clams, abalones, and water quality. A brief appendix deals with brine shrimp. James W. Avault, Jr. of Louisiana State University and Jay Muner authored the crayfish chapter.

3. Awards

Jay Muner of Southern University in Baton Rouge recently received the Chancellor's Research Achievement Award which was initiated this year. He was recognized for his contributions in the area of crayfish studies.

4. Crayfish Season

The Louisiana crayfish season (Nov.84-Jun.85) has seen considerable controversy. Production will probably be around 25 million kg largely because of poor production in the Atchafalaya Basin. While crawfish were abundant in the 42,500 ha of culture ponds, low prices discouraged farmers from harvesting at maximum levels. It is hoped that a major order for crayfish meat from a national food service company (about 10% of the total crop in terms of live crayfish) will help to stabilize supply and demand next season. No major expansion in ponds is expected this year.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


5. Crayfish Promotion

The Louisiana Crawfish Farmers' Association sponsored the Second Annual International Crawfish Tasting and Trade Fair in Lafayette, Louisiana 9-10 March 1985. The event attracted over 8,000 visitors with as many from distant states and several countries. Crayfish were prepared in many different ways and their value as a food item was emphasized appropriately. The Louisiana Crawfish Farmers' Association is the largest group of organized crayfish culturists in the world with several hundred members. The Association's quarterly publication, Crawfish Tales, has a mailing list in excess of 1000 names. Inquiries about subscriptions to Crawfish Tales or membership in LCFA should be directed to: Louisiana Crawfish Farmers' Association, P.O. Box 91544, Lafayette, Louisiana 70509 USA.

6. New Crayfish Culture Bulletin

Robert Romaine and L. W. de la Bretonne, Jr. are co-editors of a crayfish culture bulletin dealing with the red swamp crayfish, Procambarus clarkii. The bulletin is being written for the S-168 Warm Water Aquaculture Committee which is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture through its research experiment stations at various state universities in the southern USA. Romaine and de la Bretonne are located at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The bulletin should be published by autumn 1985. Further inquiries should be directed to Dr. Romaine care of: Fisheries-249 Ag Center, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803 USA.

Information provided by:


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14 May 1985



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