

2007 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work

Improving Disease Status for Baitfish Production and Marketing

V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

- 311 50% Animal Diseases
- 312 25% External Parasites and Pests of Animals
- 313 25% Internal Parasites in Animals

V(C). Planned Program (Situation and Scope)

1. Situation and priorities

Baitfish diseases impact fish survival and restrict market opportunities. To maintain profitability and access to markets, it is critical for these industries to understand and eradicate important diseases and to demonstrate specific disease free status to trading partners. Priorities • To improve detection methods for important diseases • To improve farm biosecurity and disease prevention • To eradicate diseases of regulatory of fish health concern • To help farmers demonstrate pathogen free status to improve marketing opportunities.

V(D). Planned Program (Assumptions and Goals)

1. Assumptions made for the Program

That industry will continue to feel that certification of disease status is a beneficial marketing tool. That industry will agree attributes are needed for certification. That we will be able to establish and maintain the desired disease status.

2. Ultimate goal(s) of this Program

National recognition of the safety of Arkansas baitfish, reduced disease-related trade restrictions, and a reduction on reliance upon wild caught baitfish.

V(F). Planned Program (Activity)

1. Activity for the Program

Research will be conducted to • Improve diagnostic tests for important pathogens (viral, parasitic, and bacterial) • Improve understanding of the epidemiology of important pathogens • Discover new pathogens responsible for fish losses • Improve methods to eradicate pathogens from afflicted farms.