

Minutes for the 41st UJNR Aquaculture Panel Meeting

The 41st Joint Meeting of the United States - Japan Natural Resources Panel on Aquaculture (UJNR) was conducted from October 8–13, 2013 in Sapporo and Hakodate on Hokkaido Island and December 9-13, 2013 in Yokohama and Miyako on Honshu Island. The Scientific Symposium was held in Hokkaido Citizens Activities Promotion Center (HCAP Center) “KADERU 2.7” in Sapporo on October 9th and 10th. The Scientific Symposium was held under the auspices of Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency (FRA), and the symposium theme was “Advanced Aquaculture Technologies” which was the year three theme of the Eighth Three-Year Plan. The field trip began on October 11th, with a trip to Chitose Field Station and Salmon Park of FRA in Chitose city and next to Hokkaido Research Organization, Mariculture Fisheries Research Institute, in Muroran-city. On the morning of October 12th the Panel toured an aquaculture facility of Hokkaido Aquaculture Corporation in Date-city, the Barfin Flounder (Matsukawa) Hatchery Station. The group then visited Usujiri Fisheries Station of Hokkaido University and a kelp farming operation. With the exception of the business meeting, the 41st Joint Meeting came to an end the evening of October 12th in Hakodate-city, with participants departing early October 13th.

The Business Meeting was held in International Conference Room of National Research Institute of Fisheries Science in Yokohama on December 10th. Business meeting attendees also made a trip to Miyako Laboratory of Tohoku National Fisheries Research Institute in FRA on December 11th. The Business Meeting and the additional short trip ended on December 12th in Tokyo, with participants departing December 13th.

1. Opening Remarks:

Japan Panel Chair: Katsuma Hanafusa, U. S. Panel Chair: Michael Rust

After officially declaring the opening of the meeting, Japan Panel Chair Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa welcomed the U.S Panel members and expressed his pleasure at having the Business Meeting. He reported that the symposium held in Hokkaido was a very substantial meeting with recent scientific presentations and active discussions, and the field tour after the symposium seemed to be attractive for the participants.

Although the Japan Panel was unable to meet Dr. Rust and Dr. Rubino in Hokkaido, they were glad to invite the U.S. Panel members to the Business Meeting in Yokohama and short trip in Miyako. He emphasized that the 41st Joint Meeting was the last year in the 8th Three-Year Plan which will be followed by the next Three-Year Plan. He observed that a new Plan would be proposed and discussed at the Meeting later along with a new initiative based on the 40th Joint Meeting. Finally, he highlighted the optional short trip to Miyako Laboratory which was reconstructed recently from the destruction by Tsunami and the Great Earthquake disasters in 2011.

Dr. Rust expressed regret that he, Dr. Rubino, and Dr. Serfling were unable to participate in the 41st science symposium due to the unexpected lapse in US federal appropriations. He thanked the Japan Panel for going on with the symposium and field tour. It would have been difficult and costly to postpone for the US scientists in attendance. He expressed his gratitude towards the Japan Panel for their flexibility in accommodating a separate Business Meeting, and the pleasure of the U.S. Panel to attend the 41st Business Meeting in Yokohama. He is especially looking forward to returning to Miyako, a lab that he visited many years ago, and learned much about rockfish aquaculture and stock enhancement.

He thanked the Japan Panel for organizing an exceptional symposium and field tour, and for their leadership and hospitality. Most of the US scientists on the delegation are young and at the start of their careers. For many this was their first trip to Japan but he suspects it will not be the last. He reported that the U.S. attendees were very impressed by the symposium presentations and field tour sites, and greatly enjoyed the vibrant discussion and interaction with the Japan Panel members. He expressed great pleasure in the scientific exchange that occurred, and the many connections that were developed between U.S. and Japan Panel members that will lead to fruitful collaborations.

2. Introduction of Panel Members, Participants and Observers:

Katsuma Hanafusa and Michael Rust

Mr. Hanafusa introduced Japan Panel Vice-Chair Dr. Kazumasa Ikuta, and asked the Japan panel members to introduce themselves.

Dr. Michael Rust introduced panel member Dr. Michael Rubino, the Director of the NOAA Office of Aquaculture and reintroduced Marie Fujitani, who is serving in the NOAA Office of Aquaculture as a Sea Grant Fellow. He expressed regret from US Panel Vice-Chair Dr. Paul Olin.

3. Adoption of Business Meeting and Symposium Agenda: Shigeru Itakura

Dr. Shigeru Itakura, who is the secretariat general, reviewed the 41st UJNR Business Meeting Agenda, and the optional short trip itinerary and asked the assembled delegates for their approval. The agendas and itinerary were approved and adopted by all parties.

4. Reports on the U. S. Japan Aquaculture Scientist and Literature Exchange:

Masayuki Minakawa and Michael Rubino

Dr. Masayuki Minakawa, who is a secretariat member of the Japan panel reported that two research collaboration started in 2012 and one collaboration in long term research exchanges led by the Japan Panel had occurred in the past years. Dr. Minakawa also observed that 34 scientists traveled to the U. S. for collaborative research, symposia and workshops. Dr. Minakawa then provided the U.S. Panel with new technical reports published by the Japanese Prefectural Fisheries Research Institutes and mentioned that the annotated bibliography was available at the symposium and will be included in the proceedings.

Dr. Rubino thanked the Japan Panel for the technical reports and reporting on the collaborations. It is difficult for the US panel to collect similar information. Dr. Rubino reported that they are hoping to work this year to identify additional mechanisms to fund US-Japan exchanges so scientists can learn Japanese and visit Japan to collaborate on aquaculture research. That should make it easier to collect data on additional exchanges. Dr. Rubino also reported that they are working to improve their UJNR website so the site will include past historical documents. He also reported that the US panel is also working to include more general finfish and shellfish aquaculture research information on the website.

5. Publication of Proceedings of 40th UJNR in Hawaii: Marie Fujitani

Ms. Marie Fujitani presented the Japan Panel with printed copies of the Proceedings of the 40th U.S.-Japan Aquaculture Symposium. More printed copies will be sent by freight and the electronic copy will soon be available for download. The 40th Proceedings are dedicated to the people of Japan and their strength and compassion in the face of tragedy in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Mr. Hanafusa extended thanks to U.S. panel for the editing of the proceedings. Special thanks were expressed for the provision of reprints to Japan participants. Dr. Michael Rust asked the Japan Panel how many additional printed copies they will require. The Japan Panel will discuss and provide an answer at a later date.

6. Current Business: Michael Rust

Dr. Michael Rust apologized for the slow progress in creating the UJNR History and accomplishments document. The document is nearing completion however still requires some editing and review by the U.S. Panel. Additional work is required to add more UJNR accomplishments to the document. That should be completed by early 2014 and then the draft will be sent to the Japan panel for final review.

Mr. Hanafusa extended thanks to Dr. Rust for editing of final review.

7. General Discussion:

1. Annual Report on National Aquaculture: Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa

At the 40th Aquaculture Panel meeting, U.S. and Japan delegations agreed to discuss the Annual Report on National Aquaculture for the UJNR Aquaculture Panel on the Agenda for the 41st business meeting. The Panel worked on the new report and has a final format ready for consideration and adoption.

Dr. Machiguchi expressed his apology for the late submission of the proposed format (Attachment #1). He also mentioned that both sides presented the reports at the symposium this year. However, such presentations will not take place in the future. He also proposed that the Japan Panel would like to exchange reports in the future two weeks before the commencement of the business meeting. If it is possible, the new reports and their content will be discussed by panel members in more detail. This will strengthen understanding of all Panel members regarding their national aquaculture sectors. Dr. Minakawa explained the summary of 2013 Annual Report on Aquaculture in Japan and provided copies.

Ms. Fujitani gave an overview of the 2013 U.S. Annual Report on Aquaculture for the U.S. Panel, and provided copies. She also commented that US also recognizes the importance of exchanging such reports.

Japan and U.S. panel members approved annual reports starting with the 41st meeting of UJNR.

2. Next three-years plan of Aquaculture Panel: Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa

At the 40th Aquaculture Panel meeting, the U.S. and Japan delegations agreed to discuss the new structure and the 9th Three-Year Plan of the UJNR Aquaculture Panel on the Agenda for the 41st business meeting. The Panel worked on the next three-year plan inter-sessionally and has a final plan ready for consideration and adoption.

US and Japan delegations both explained proposals for the next three-year plan. Both sides were able to agree on the theme for the next three-year plan as “Genetics and Breeding Studies in Aquaculture Industry.” After discussion, both sides agreed to Attachment #2 as the next three-years plan.

3.Plans for 42nd UJNR Meeting: Michael Rust

The chairman of U.S. Panel, Dr. Michael Rust, announced that the 42nd UJNR Panel Meeting would be held in California in 2014 around the same time, probably the first or second week of October.

The Chairman of the Japan Panel, Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa, thanked Dr. Rust for taking the initiative to begin planning for the 42nd Panel meeting and emphasized the significance of the 42nd Panel meeting.

8. Other Items:

Mr. Hanafusa gave an update on the possible combining of FRA with the National Fisheries University. He explained that the combining has been put on hold. Comprehensive reviews of research agencies are still taking place.

Dr. Rubino explained that the proposal to put NOAA into the Department of the Interior is not moving forward. He also explained that there are three US government agencies dealing with aquaculture due to historical reasons, and that the three agencies have excellent cooperation.

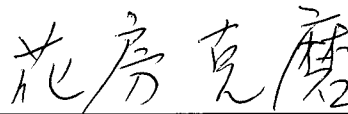
Acknowledgements: Mr. Hanafusa expressed his gratitude to the Panel members and observers involved in this meeting for their effort and contributions. He also thanked the interpreter, Mr. Atsuhisa Ohtani, for his contribution.

Conclusion

Business was concluded and the 41st UJNR business meeting adjourned. These Minutes were signed by the Chairs of the U.S. and Japan Panel on December 10th, 2013 in Yokohama, Japan.



Dr. Michael Rust
United States Chairman



Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa
Japan Chairman

Attachment #1

UJNR Annual Report Format (draft)

2013 Annual Report on Aquaculture in COUNTRY NAME
UJNR COUNTRY NAME Panel

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. National policy on aquaculture**
- 3. The latest topics in aquaculture**
- 4. Production trends in aquaculture**

Attachment #2

The 9th Three-Year Plan (Agenda of Business Meeting)

As the Japanese side proposed at the 40th UJNR Aquaculture Panel Meeting in Hawaii, there should be a mini symposium in the 1st and 2nd years and a traditional symposium in the 3rd year.

The Next Theme: "Genetics and Breeding Studies in Aquaculture Industry"

In recent years, the aquaculture industry has occupied an important position in the fisheries industry, while its market and structure have become markedly different from those of capture fisheries that target wild fishes. In particular, there is a need for farmed fish to provide unique characteristics and advantages in order to differentiate them from wild/captured fish and improve profitability, in diversification of the economy and consumer needs. Also, the world aquaculture industry faces various problems while it greatly develops. To address these problems, breeding research will be of great help with the improvement of aquaculture technology. The utilization of wild broodstock/seeds does not result in genetically improved stocks, and the importance of genetics and breeding studies has increased to meet various needs. Although genetic improvement is common in agriculture and the resulting benefits unquestioned, there are few selectively bred commercially available strains in the aquaculture industry except in inland aquaculture.

Moreover, we should pay attention to the ecological impacts of breeding technology. At the same time selection may increase risks when selected animals escape and breed with wild stocks unless proper safeguards are put into place. Integration of scientific knowledge of the benefits and risks can help contribute to genetic improvement programs. Our UJNR activity should deepen discussions on the issue of genetics/breeding studies, which is expected to contribute to the development of the aquaculture industry in both countries of Japan and United States.

1st Year: Present status of breeding studies in aquaculture (Mini symposium)

2nd Year: Evaluation of the impact of breeding organisms on the ecosystem and aquaculture industry (Mini symposium)

3rd Year: Comprehensive symposium for genetics/breeding issues in aquaculture (Symposium)