

Preface

The United States and Japanese counterpart Panels on Aquaculture were formed in 1969 under the United States-Japan Cooperative Program in Natural Resources (UJNR). The UJNR Aquaculture Panel currently includes specialists drawn from the government and academic departments most concerned with aquaculture. Charged with exploring and developing bilateral cooperation, the Panels have focused its efforts on exchanging information related to aquaculture that could be of benefit to both countries.

The UJNR was begun during the Third Cabinet-Level Meeting of the Joint United States-Japan Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs in January 1964. In addition to the aquaculture Panel, current subjects in the program include destination of seawater, toxic microorganisms, air pollution, energy, forage crops, national park management, mycoplasmosis, wind and seismic effects, protein resources, forestry, and several joint Panels and committees in marine resources research, development, and utilization.

Accomplishments of Aquaculture Panel include: increased communication and cooperation among technical specialists; exchanges of scientists and students; focus of efforts to issues of major international concerns such as disease transmission and stock enhancement; exchanging of information, data, and research findings; annual meetings of the Panel; administrative staff meetings; exchanges of equipment, materials, and samples; several major technical conferences; and beneficial effects on international relations.

The 31st UJNR Aquaculture Panel Business Meeting and Symposium was held from October 16 to October 17, 2002 at National Research Institute of Fisheries Science in Yokohama, Japan. The first topic of the sixth five-year plan of the UJNR Aquaculture Panel from 2003 to 2007, "*Aquaculture and Stock Enhancement of Algae and Filter Feeders*", provided the basis and focus for the Symposium. Following the meeting and symposium, field trips and satellite symposium were held in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan and Miyagi Prefecture, northern Japan to visit prefectural fisheries research organizations, culture sites of seaweeds and bivalves from October 18 to 24, 2002.

The symposium was organized by representative coordinator Dr. Tetsuo Seki and other UJNR Aquaculture Panel staff members of the Japanese side. Twenty specific papers were presented in the symposium. Eighteen full papers of them have been accepted for this Proceedings as a Supplement of Bulletin of Fisheries Research Agency. Two abstracts were included in this Proceedings. Editorial work has been assisted by the staffs of National Research Institute of Aquaculture. We would like to acknowledge Dr. Hisashi Kurokura, Dr. Ken Furuya, Dr. Charles Yarish and Dr. Roger I. E. Newell to preparing keynote and identifying speakers, and Dr. Masao Ohno, Kochi University for presiding the general discussion. On behalf of Japanese authors, we would like to express sincere gratitude to Dr. Paul Kilho Park for revising English with great dedication. Finally we wish thank Ms. Maya Kurihara to greatly support a editorial task for this Proceedings.

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