

Policy for the
Dissemination of Pacific White Shrimp,
Penaeus (Litopenaeus) vannamei Germplasm
From

Oceanic Institute

October 7, 2009

1) **Statement of Policy**

Oceanic Institute (OI) is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to applied aquaculture research, education, and training, and to the transfer of technologies developed through research to the private and public sectors. OI receives partial funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), through the U.S. Marine Shrimp Farming Program (USMSFP), to support a selective breeding program for the Pacific white shrimp, *Penaeus (Litopenaeus) vannamei*. The following policy establishes a mechanism for the orderly and equitable dissemination of shrimp germplasm from OI's breeding program to a diverse group of stakeholders. For the purpose of this document, "germplasm" is defined as genetic material that comprises the inherited qualities of a shrimp and can include all life stages (including larvae, sub-adults, and broodstock), as well as unfertilized gametes. For the purpose of this document, "stakeholders" include private companies and public institutions, both domestic and foreign.

2) **Mechanism for Germplasm Dissemination**

- a. Germplasm made available for dissemination will be research by-products from OI. For the purpose of this document, "research by-products" are defined as germplasm produced or derived from on-going, federally funded research activities conducted by OI researchers. Research activities include, among other activities, the propagation and maintenance of shrimp through various life stages.
- b. An announcement about germplasm dissemination will be made by OI in advance of the intended dissemination date and will include a description of the available germplasm. The announcement will be public knowledge and will be made available to all persons having reasonable interest in securing improved shrimp germplasm.
- c. OI will give first priority to U.S. stakeholders to obtain germplasm. After reasonable requests from U.S. stakeholders have been accommodated, other stakeholders will have an opportunity to obtain germplasm based on a first-come-first-served basis, until all available germplasm has been disseminated.
- d. Input about germplasm dissemination may be sought from an Industry Stakeholder Group which will meet annually to provide industry perspectives to the Technical Committee of the USMSFP. The Industry Stakeholder Group will be comprised of representatives from a broad range of U.S. businesses with interests in the shrimp farming industry.

3) **Public Benefits of Germplasm Dissemination**

- a. To fulfill the USMSFP mission of supporting the development of marine shrimp farming in the U.S., OI desires to transfer germplasm to interested stakeholders so that U.S. shrimp farmers, other U.S. businesses, and U.S. consumers can benefit from OI's technology.
- b. OI desires to maintain its shrimp breeding program, but requires financial support over and above that provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CSREES to maintain

its current level of activity and to expand research efforts for the benefit of stakeholders. In order to maintain a robust, long-term shrimp breeding program, OI must seek additional financial support from other federal grants and non-government funding to supplement CSREES funds.

- c. OI will seek payment for its germplasm. OI will not engage in price fixing, collusion, or market manipulation, and OI will not willfully undercut markets or engage in predatory practices.
- d. Revenue generated from the sale of germplasm will be considered program income and will be used to defray the cost of operating the breeding program, to improve and expand the breeding program, to assist U.S. shrimp farmers in developing lines of shrimp that perform well in their systems, and to improve existing shrimp growout technologies in the U.S.
- e. The use of revenue generated from the sale of germplasm to support additional shrimp research helps ensure OI's financial stability and is consistent with OI's charter and its not-for-profit status.