

Dear NOAA,

Alternative ingredient research has been, and continues to be, an active area of investigation. I have been leading an effort focused on use of soybean products in diets fed to several species. Data generated from those studies indicate use of alternative protein feed ingredients is feasible. The global supply of soybeans exceeds all other oilseeds and the resulting defatted meal is the largest supply of high-protein plant-based ingredients. Thus, it is reasonably priced. New uses of soybeans may result in diversification of soy products available for use in aquaculture feeds. The United Soybean Board, in collaboration with the Indiana Soybean Alliance, and respective soybean check off programs in Ohio, Illinois and Iowa, have been funding this initiative for 6 years. The U.S. Soybean Export Council (formerly the American Soybean Association), has an active project on use of soy-based feeds. That effort has been ongoing for over 20 years. I suggest we have made significant progress in identifying alternative feed ingredients in diets for several species. However, we have many new and emerging species with little to no research support. **A focused research program on dietary development for new and emerging species would facilitate aquaculture expansion in the U.S.** Without this research support and on-going extension of data, new producers will have to rely on diets formulated for other species, such as salmonids or catfish.

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