

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to thank NOAA for this opportunity to submit my comments regarding aquaculture research.

The need for alternative feed ingredients in aquaculture is well documented. The soybean stands as a commodity that is readily available for inclusion in aquafeeds. Soybean meal can be formulated at high levels and readily accepted by many species of fish including channel catfish, carp and tilapia. Research funded by the United Soybean Board has also shown that it can be included at high levels in marine shrimp diets. However, when soybean meal is included at high levels in carnivorous fish diets, problems occur. Soy protein concentrate is a high quality protein alternative that is more similar to fish meal in terms of protein content. As the marine aquaculture industry grows, it likely will focus on the more carnivorous species. Continued research needs to be conducted to support the use of soy protein concentrate in these diets. Coinciding with this, research should be conducted to come up with methods of lowering the cost of production of soy protein concentrate (it currently costs about the same or slightly more than fish meal). I fully support NOAA's efforts to grow the aquaculture industry, and I feel that by continuing to research the use of soy in these feeds, NOAA's efforts will be successful.

Thank you,

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Director of Aquaculture

Indiana Soybean Alliance/Indiana Corn