



September 12, 2002

Dear Tribal Leaders and Other Participants:

I bring you personal greetings from the United States Aquaculture Society, a chapter of the World Aquaculture Society. I regret that I am not able to attend the National Summit on Emerging Tribal Economies and speak to you personally. However, be assured that the U.S. Aquaculture Society supports your efforts to develop tribal economies and create new employment opportunities, specifically as they apply to the culture of fishes and other aquatic organisms. We recognize that aquatic plants and animals have been a very important part of many tribal economies and cultures. We expect aquaculture to become an increasingly important part of many of your economies and to provide new opportunities for employment among your communities.

The mission of the U.S. Aquaculture Society is to "provide a national forum for the exchange of timely information among aquaculture researchers, students and industry members in the United States". To accomplish this mission, the U.S. Aquaculture Society sponsors and convenes workshops and meetings, fosters educational opportunities and publishes aquaculture-related materials important to U.S. aquaculture development. To this end, we encourage you to join our association and attend our next annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky in February.

The U.S. Aquaculture Society and its parent society are here to assist you. We welcome you to join us in helping aquaculture grow as an environmentally-sound and economically-sustainable industry in the United States. National summits, such as this one, are important avenues for making this a reality.

We wish you the best in your endeavors and wish you a successful and productive summit.

Sincerely,

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