AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS SAFETY FORUM:
EVALUATION

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The Aquaculture Products Safety Forum was attended by 45 people from 11 states. Each attendee received an evaluation form in their registration packet (example appended at the end of this paper). Eighteen evaluation forms (40 percent of the number distributed) were completed and returned.

The evaluation solicited attendees' ratings of 10 items. A standard 5-point Hedonic scale was employed, where:

1 = Poor
2 = Fair
3 = Average
4 = Good
5 = Very Good

Subsequent discussions of ratings are based on a sample size of 18 (with the exception of two items pertaining to lodging and travel accommodations). Ratings are presented as means +/- standard deviations.

The overall format of the Aquaculture Products Safety Forum received a very favorable rating of 4.72 +/- .45. This indicates that the respondents liked the format, which was composed of two morning plenary sessions and two afternoon discussion group sessions. The attendees were also favorably impressed with the strength of the agenda (4.67 +/- .47) and the quality of the speakers (4.61 +/- .49). And, evaluation respondents indicated that the degree to which the Forum addressed the issue of aquaculture products safety merited a rating that was nearly median between "good" and "very good" (4.56 +/- .60).
Although conference facilities (meeting rooms, audio-visual aids, etc.) received a rating of 4.55 +/- .83, the rather high standard deviation resulted from a diversity of opinions about the facilities. The most common complaint was that the lecture room for the plenary sessions was too cramped. The eleven attendees who were lodged at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center felt the hotel rooms merited a rating of 4.54 +/- .50. And food service at the Conference Center, including the reception, luncheons, and breaks, received a rating of 4.39 +/- .83. (The large standard deviation of .83 can be attributed to a divergence of opinions about the food that was served, when it was served, and the method of preparation.)

Although the Forum was held on the campus of Auburn University, which is 110 miles from the Atlanta Airport, Forum location nonetheless received a rating of 4.44 +/- .68. However, the three evaluation respondents who flew into Atlanta only rated availability of ground transportation as "good" (4.00 +/- .82).

The effectiveness of the breakout sessions received the lowest rating (3.83 +/- .69) of the ten items included in the evaluation. While some participants felt that the efforts of the breakout groups were right on target, others thought they were slow to start or difficult to get focused. It is not surprising that the output from the breakout groups was not unanimously applauded, bearing in mind that: (1) many participants had not previously functioned in a discussion group setting; (2) the working group sessions were composed of 32 individuals from industry, academia, and regulatory agencies; and, (3) the intent of the working group sessions was to develop a consensus of opinion.

To summarize the results of the Forum evaluation, with the exception of the item discussed immediately preceding, all aspects of the Aquaculture Products Safety Forum received ratings that ranged between "good" and "very good". It is hoped that these evaluation results will be of value to the planners of similar future efforts.
AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS SAFETY FORUM

EVALUATION

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5 WHERE:

1 = POOR  
2 = FAIR  
3 = AVERAGE  
4 = GOOD  
5 = VERY GOOD

1. STRENGTH OF AGENDA

2. QUALITY OF SPEAKERS

3. EFFECTIVENESS OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS

4. OVERALL FORMAT OF FORUM

5. CONFERENCE FACILITIES

6. HOTEL ROOM (FOR THOSE STAYING AT AUH&CC)

7. FOOD SERVICE (RECEPTION, LUNCHEONS, BREAKS)

8. LOCATION OF FORUM

9. AVAILABILITY OF GROUND TRANSPORTATION  
   (FOR THOSE WHO FLEW INTO ATLANTA)

10. DEGREE TO WHICH FORUM ADDRESSED THE  
    ISSUE OF AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS SAFETY

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS EVALUATION FORM AND LEAVE IT AT THE  
SPEAKERS' PODIUM. PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THIS EVALUATION FORM.
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