

# **Presentation to Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**November 13, 2008**



**WALDEMAR S. NELSON AND COMPANY  
INCORPORATED**

**ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS**

**FOUNDED 1945**



PLANNING PROGRAM TO FACILITATE  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFSHORE  
AQUACULTURE IN THE GULF OF  
MEXICO

## What the Project is:

Planning effort for a specific commercial-scale demonstration project in the Gulf of Mexico

## What the Project is not:

Feasibility study on Gulf of Mexico  
Aquaculture

# Components of Planning Effort

- Development of Siting Criteria
- Selection of Appropriate Fish Species
- Selection of Host Platform
- Selection of Necessary Supporting Systems
- Risk Management Approaches
- Define Measures of Success
- Outreach Program

# Planning Team

- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
- University of Southern Mississippi and Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
- Mississippi – Alabama Sea Grant Program
- LSU Sea Grant Program
- Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
- Cargill, Inc.
- Daybrook Fisheries, Inc.
- LA Fish, Inc.
- Aquaculture Systems Technologies, LLC
- Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc.

# Likely Composition of Planned Project

- Associated with existing platform
- Submersible, commercial scale cages
- Multiple cages and species
- Varying grow out periods
- Product placed into commercial markets
- Environmental monitoring program

# Possible Schedule for Planned Project

- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 – Present Planning Report
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009 – Secure funding for Project (?)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009 – Order Equipment / Source fingerling supply
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009 – Begin offshore operations
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010 – Harvest and Decommission

# Perceived Impediments to Commercial Offshore Aquaculture

- Funding Commercial Operation – successful demonstration required
- Permitting – Gulf Aquaculture Amendment
- Organized Opposition – Outreach Program



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