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University of Miami Experimental Fish Hatchery first educational and research institution in the world to obtain GLOBALG.A.P. aquaculture certification

(GAINESVILLE, Fla. – January 11, 2016) – The University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Experimental Fish Hatchery (UMEH) has made an international mark as the first educational and research institution in the world to obtain the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance for Aquaculture producing Cobia eggs and fingerlings commercially.

GLOBALG.A.P. is a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) recognized scheme at the farm level. The GLOBALG.A.P. Aquaculture Standard applies to a diversity of fish, crustaceans and mollusks and extends to all hatchery-based farmed species, as well as the passive collection of seedlings in the planktonic phase. It covers the entire production chain, from broodstock, seedlings and feed suppliers to farming, harvesting and processing.

“As a supplier of cobia eggs to Open Blue Sea Farms in Panama, the GLOBALG.A.P. certification is a key element to have in place to support the growth of their business,” said Dr. Daniel Benetti, Professor and Director of Aquaculture with the Department of Ecosystems and Society with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami.

“Their commitment to ensuring their innovative farming system has the highest standards through GLOBALG.A.P. and the research support they have provided to our University to develop our cobia selective breeding program made this a natural next step for us. We expect that having this certification will open other doors for us as we move forward.”

The UM Rosenstiel School Experimental Fish Hatchery (UMEH) is located on Virginia Key in Biscayne Bay approximately one mile southeast of downtown Miami. The UMEH is a state-of-the-art facility with capabilities to hold broodstock and conduct research on larval rearing and nursery of several ecologically and economically important species. The UMEH supports an innovative academic and research program centered on advanced science and technology to ensure that seafood production through aquaculture is wholesome, environmentally sustainable, socially responsible and economic viable.

Quality Certification Services (QCS) conducted the certification.

Based in Gainesville, QCS offers the following certification options: Certified Organic, Certified Transitional, Certified Hormone/Antibiotic Free, Organic Aquaculture, GLOBALG.A.P. (several scopes), specific trade practices, aquaponics, and Food Justice Certification, which will allow consumers to choose to support a more just agricultural system.

GLOBALG.A.P. is the world’s leading farm assurance program, translating consumer requirements into Good Agriculture Practice in a rapidly growing list of countries – currently more than 110 worldwide.

For more information about QCS and GLOBALG.A.P., please visit the QCS website at www.qcsinfo.org or call 352.377.0133.

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About QCS

QCS is a USDA and ANSI ISO Guide 17065 accredited certification body that offers a wide array of certification options for farming of crops, livestock, aquaculture, animal feed manufacturing, packing, handling and processing and wild harvest operations. As the largest certifier on the United States eastern seaboard, QCS meets the needs of operations regardless of type, location or size on the ever-expanding worldwide market. Florida Organic Growers, the parent organization of QCS, has been involved in promoting organic and food safety for more than 25 years. Find out more at www.qcsinfo.org.

About the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

The University of Miami is one of the largest private research institutions in the southeastern United States. The University's mission is to provide quality education, attract and retain outstanding students, support the faculty and their research, and build an endowment for University initiatives. Founded in the 1940's, the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science has grown into one of the world's premier marine and atmospheric research institutions. Offering dynamic interdisciplinary academics, the Rosenstiel School is dedicated to helping communities to better understand the planet, participating in the establishment of environmental policies, and aiding in the improvement of society and quality of life. For more information, visit: www.rsmas.miami.edu.