

been possible to survey it all. Hence, I request you to kindly send me literature (papers, articles, reprints and other relevant documents).

Also I will be glad if you could inform me of other scientists who are working on stock assessment of pearl oysters.



Colombian progress

Francisco J. Borrero, Cultimar Ltda, Investigacion, Promocion, Mercadeo, Calle 59 #3A-24 (Of. 403), Santa Fé de Bogota, Colombia, South America (Phone/Fax: (57-1) 249 6739), writes:

We are working on growth of *Pinctada imbricata* (perhaps the same as *P. fucata*) and *Pteria sterna*. Among the various aspects we are covering, we have just finished a first piece of work on nursery and intermediate growth of *P. Imbricata*, and we are now close to submitting a manuscript for publication. Other works (spat collection, conditioning and spawning) are being submitted soon.

I continue to work with INVEMAR at Santa Marta, but now as an advisor; we have submitted a new grant which will fund us for three more years.

On my own, I now work with two new, private, colombian mollusc an aquaculture companies

(CULTIMAR Ltda and CICA Ltda), which together are in the process of building a commercial aquaculture facility in the Guajira Peninsula (Colombia's northernmost region). CULTIMAR works in close cooperation with government agencies, and aims at promotion of invertebrate aquaculture and fisheries in Colombia.

Our activities range from basic and applied research, to promoting and fostering the sustainable utilisation of aquatic products. Unfortunately, library facilities in our country are poorly funded, which means that we have no access to a great deal of important information, both published in journals, and in other formats.



Margaronics sponsors joint-venture in Venezuela

By: Gary Kraidman, President, Margaronics Inc., 8 B Taylor Avenue, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1435, United States of America. Tel: (908) 937 8997, Fax: (908) 390 3335.

Margaronics Incorporated, a New Jersey (USA) company, has established the Margaronics Incorporated Cultured Pearl and Pearl Oyster Research Grant for 1995-1996. Margaronics is working on the creation of the first saltwater cultured pearl in Venezuela from the indigenous pearl oyster *Pinctada radiata (imbricata)*.

Margaronics Inc. will supply funding, technical know-how, supplies, and other support to the grant. The grant will be administered and supervised by the Fundacion La Salle de Ciencias Naturales, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela. Specific areas of pearl oyster studies will be carried out under provisions of the grant.

There is an ongoing joint-venture relationship between Margaronics and the Fundacion La Salle de Ciencias Naturales. Work sponsored under the Margaronics grant began in the fall of 1995.

Mr Gary Kraidman, President of Margaronics, gave a course on 9 May 1995, at the Fundacion La Salle. Attendees received a certificate and included students, staff, faculty, as well as other Venezuelans not associated with the school. The course, copyrighted by Gary Kraidman, is titled "The pearl of Venezuela: past, present and future" and parts of it have been videotaped during the presentation.

There was very positive feedback to the course, which also included slides, transparencies, shell and pearl specimens as well as commercial videotapes. The course will be updated and repeated to reflect changes in the pearl market and new technologies.

On 12 May 1995, Gary Kraidman was appointed an Associated Researcher and Visiting Lecturer to the Fundacion La Salle de Ciencias Naturales.

