

# GEORGIA AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

APRIL 18, 2025 | ATHENS, GA

DRIVING INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY, AND GROWTH IN GEORGIA'S AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY

## AGENDA

### **Welcome** (Mahler Hall)

9 a.m.

**Todd Petty**, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources  
**Terry Bramlett**, Georgia Farm Bureau Aquaculture Committee

### **Why promote Georgia Aquaculture?** (Mahler Hall)

9:20 a.m.

**Mark Risse**, Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant  
**James Shelton**, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources  
**Dan Remar**, UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics

### **Reactions Panel** (Mahler Hall)

**FACILITATOR: Dan Remar**, UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics

10 a.m.

**Terry Bramlett**, Georgia Farm Bureau Aquaculture Committee  
**Caitlin Jackson**, Center of Innovation-AgTech, Georgia Department of Economic Development  
**Todd Petty**, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources  
**Clint Peacock**, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Resources Division  
**Doug Haymans**, Georgia DNR, Coastal Resources Division

10:30 a.m.

**BREAK**

### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

#### **Coastal Opportunities** (Room L, Second Floor)

**FACILITATOR: Tom Bliss**, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

10:45 a.m.

**Charlie Phillips**, Sapelo Sea Farms  
**Eric Herbst**, North Carolina Sea Grant  
**Laura Solomon**, Tybee Oyster Company  
**Rusty Grice**, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant/Auburn Shellfish Lab

### **Inland Opportunities** (Room K, Second Floor)

**FACILITATOR:** James Shelton, UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources

**Terry Bramlett**, Georgia Farm Bureau Aquaculture Committee

**Brian Simmons**, Owen and Williams Fish Farm

**Mitchell Davis**, POND Co.

**John Lee Thomson**, Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division

**Matt Getsinger**, Georgia Select Fish Farm

### **Emerging Opportunities** (Room Y, Second Floor)

**FACILITATOR:** Amrit Bart, UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Animal and Dairy Science

**Andrew Ropicki**, University of Florida

**Heidi Bissell**, Disney's Animals, Science and the Environment Program

**John Carroll**, Georgia Southern University

**Charlie Santerre**, Clemson University

### **Market Demand** (Mahler Hall)

**FACILITATORS:** Dan Remar, UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics | Erin Arneson, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

**Sri Reddykotha**, CoMan of Georgia

**Eli Kirshtein**, Inland Foods

**Bryan Rackley**, Oyster South/Kimball House

**Cheryl Smith**, Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Grown

### **LUNCH** (Magnolia Ballroom)

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Arvind Venkat, Waterfarmers Aquaponics

Arvind Venkat is the Founder & Scientific Director of Waterfarmers, a global leader in aquaponics and controlled environment agriculture. With over 15 years of experience, he's pioneered systems that grow more food with less—less land, less water, and less waste. Recognized by Earthwatch UK and the Toronto Social Innovation Centre for innovation in AgTech, Venkat blends deep engineering expertise with bold vision. With degrees from Kettering, MIT Sloan, and University of Toronto, he's equally at home explaining aquaponics to a 10-year-old or pitching future farms to global investors—with clarity, spark, and purpose.



Noon

### **Regulations** (Mahler Hall)

**FACILITATOR:** Mark Risse, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

**Michael Mock**, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division

**Clint Peacock**, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division

**Paul W. Zajicek**, National Aquaculture Association

**Devin Wilson**, Georgia Department of Agriculture

1 p.m.

1:50 p.m. **BREAK**

**Financing, Investments, and Incentives** (Mahler Hall)

*FACILITATOR: Eugene Frimpong, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant*

1:55 p.m. **Thomas Credle**, *UGA Small Business Development Center*  
**Alex Edquist**, *Good Agriculture*  
**Laura Solomon**, *Tybee Oyster Company*

2:45 p.m. **BREAK**

**Research, Education, and Workforce Development** (Mahler Hall)

*FACILITATOR: Erin Arneson, UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant*

2:50 p.m. **Amrit Bart**, *UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Animal and Dairy Science*  
**Stephen Patrick**, *UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Cooperative Extension*  
**Jimmy Avery**, *Mississippi State University/USDA NIFA Southern Regional Aquaculture Center*  
**LaDon Swann**, *Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant*  
**Brigette Brinton**, *Georgia Southern University*

**Wrap Up Discussion and Closing Remarks** (Mahler Hall)

3:40 p.m. **Mark Risse**, *UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant*

4 - 6 p.m. **Poster Session and Reception** (Pecan Tree Galleria and Hill Atrium)  
*Georgia Grown products and drinks available*

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