

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 18, 2019  
**TIME:** 1:30 pm or upon adjournment  
**PLACE:** Room EW42  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Troy, Representatives Dayley, Kerby, Stevenson, Zito, Andrus, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Nichols, Raymond, Erpelding, Toone, Abernathy  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Kerby, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Erpelding  
**GUESTS:** None

**Chairman Boyle** called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

**Leo Ray**, Fish Breeders of Idaho, said Idaho raises 70% of all trout in the US. He said raising sturgeon in Idaho is a direct result of the College of Southern Idaho's research on how to spawn and raise sturgeon in the great water available in Idaho. Mr. Ray gave a history of the practices of aquaculture beginning two thousand years ago in China. He said China still produces a majority of the world's aquaculture. He stated when he first started in 1968, less than 1% of our seafood came from aquaculture whereas today 50% comes from aquaculture. He explained as the ocean's wild harvest decline, it is more economical to raise fish on farms rather than in the ocean. He said the demand for sea food is projected to double in the next 20 years and much of that increase will be met from farms.

**Mr. Ray** said in order to grow the industry it is important to have both public and government support. He spoke of the importance of university research and reasonable EPA and DEQ regulations that allow young people with energy and drive to experiment with new concepts.

**Mr. Ray** said Idaho is poised to lead in aquaculture development with the strength of the University of Idaho Hagerman Research Institution, the College of Southern Idaho Aquaculture Programs and with the leadership of **Gary Fornshell**, their aquaculture extension agent.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

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Representative Boyle  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary