



January 27, 2017

Dear Colorado Trout Producer:

The regulatory burden has increased costs of production for many farms. Measuring those costs due to regulations will help us to address these regulatory issues.

Dr. Carole Engle and Dr. Jonathan van Senten are conducting a national trout survey to measure the costs of production of the regulatory burden on our industry. This study is supported by the U.S. Trout Farmers Association, the Western Regional Aquaculture Center, and USDA-APHIS.

They did a similar study on the U.S. baitfish/sportfish industry. Those results are being used by the industry to work on ways to streamline regulations and to reduce their costs. At least one fish farmer has used those project results in a dispute with a regulatory agency with a decision that was favorable for the fish farmer.

This is a letter to request your participation. We need to have a good response rate from producers for the data to be defensible and useful in the battles to reduce our regulatory costs. The data will be important to our industry. Carole and Jonathan will keep your individual farm data entirely confidential; no one else will see your individual farm data and the questionnaire itself will be destroyed after the study is completed. They will provide a signed confidentiality agreement related to your data. All individual farm data will be averaged across all farms so that no data from any one farm can be identified.

Jonathan will be contacting you the last week of January, 2017 to see if you prefer to fill out the survey yourself, by telephone, or by in-person interview. He will also be explaining the survey in a presentation at the Colorado Aquaculture Association's annual meeting on Feb. 3, 2017, and would like to meet you at that meeting. It may be possible to complete the survey while at the meeting. It would be helpful to bring a list of the regulations and permits that you must have, estimates of the time that you spend completing paperwork, submitting reports, taking and delivering water samples, water and fish health testing costs, and whether you have lost sales or business opportunities due to the regulatory environment. Jonathan will also be available the week following the meeting to come to your farm in person to complete the survey, if that is your preference.

For any questions, please contact Jonathan van Senten directly at jonat86@vt.edu or 954-297-7940 or Carole Engle at cengle8523@gmail.com, telephone 870-489-4259.

Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

CAA Board