Dear Reviewers:

I am pleased to submit my application to the College of the Environment (CoEnv) Travel and Meeting Fund. I seek support for the 2018 joint meeting between the World Aquaculture Society and Aquaculture America, taking place in Las Vegas, NV. I am a second year graduate student at the UW’s School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, with a background in Olympia oyster restoration in the Puget Sound. I research how environmental variables affect the physiology of shellfish species that are important both economically and ecologically, with an emphasis on native species produced in aquaculture for restoration and commercial purposes. As such, I am keenly interested in developing my knowledge base in aquaculture practices around the world. While I have exposure to bivalve shellfish aquaculture in the Puget Sound region, I am hyper-aware that cultivation in other countries and of other species is dramatically different. A broader perspective of fish cultivation practices will inform my research methods and my recommendation to industry.

I have submitted an abstract to present my project on how hatchery practices can facilitate rapid “adaptation” in a species of oyster to climate stressors, and seek feedback from growers and other researchers on my work. Finally, this will be my first Aquaculture America conference. By attending this event as a second year graduate student I will have the opportunity to connect and increase the visibility of my work early in my graduate school career, with the goal of fostering collaborative relationships over the next several years while at the UW CoEnv.

Thank you for your consideration!