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 conference between the World Aquaculture Society and Aquaculture America, taking place in Las Vegas, NV. I am a second year graduate student at the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS). 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 recommendations to industry. Additionally, I have submitted an abstract to present my project on how hatchery practices can facilitate selective breeding in a species of oyster to mitigate the effects of climate stressors on populations, and I seek feedback from growers and other researchers on my work. Aquaculture America would provide the opportunity to network with potential collaborators and industry partners. Finally, this will be my first Aquaculture America conference; by attending this event as a second year graduate student I can increase the visibility of my work early in my graduate school career, with the goal of fostering relationships over the next several years while in CoEnv at SAFS. While my masters research is supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program, the National Shellfish Association Carriker Grant, as well as the CoEnv Hall Conservation Genetics Research grant, no awards provide funding for conference travel.

Thank you for your consideration!