

Project Update: January 2011

The 2010 rainy season hit the south of Honduras particularly hard, with flooding occurring on a monthly basis. The area in which we had been working was particularly affected, with structural walls of the shrimp ponds being destroyed by river waters moving through the floodplain.

Into 2011 and the start of the dry season, we have been able to initiate the foundation steps of the project. Using the recent floods as case in point examples as to why mangroves are important, a few areas where shrimp tanks walls had mangroves were still intact after the floods, we set about planting mangrove seedlings and allowing natural recruitment of mangroves within the tanks. The redevelopment of the shrimp tank hydrology has been completed; this consisted of altering the floor of the earthen tanks to improve water flow and increasing the area in which shrimp live (reduces competition and risk infections). We are currently into the 7th week of the initial trial of changing the feeding regimes of shrimp within the tanks. This first trial relies solely upon natural food sources within the tank, with no addition of commercial feeds or other additives, the trial will be completed in 8-10 weeks. This will provide a foundation for all of the other results to be based, regarding shrimp developmental rates, harvest revenues, and profit margins per pound of shrimp produced.

The next trials will include different feeding regimes, some that will include the provision of commercial feeds and others that enhance naturally occurring food sources. Students from a local aquaculture university will be visiting the shrimp tanks over the next few months and helping out with some of the trials.

