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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ONLINE MANUAL PROVIDES FREE TECHNOLOGY TO AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS

February 4, 2009 (St. Louis, Mo.) – The U. S. Soybean Export Council released *Engineering Manual: U.S. Soybean Industry OCAT Offshore Ocean Fish Culture Cage* to offer assistance in off-shore aquaculture production. The Ocean Cage Aquaculture Technology (OCAT) manual outlines how to construct and use offshore fish farming technology that protects fish in unstable waters, allows for offshore use to reduce environmental impact and facilitates easy feeding of soy-based feed technology. The U.S. Soybean Export Council promotes the use of OCAT cages by providing easy, free access to complete information detailing how to construct, operate and care for the cages. Through the dissemination of this information, USSEC hopes to increase the use of sustainable aquaculture practices, provide protein to a growing global population and promote the use of soy-based feeds. The manual can be accessed at http://www.ussec.org/resources/SPCforaquaculture.pdf.

(more)

The U.S. soybean industry has supported feed-based aquaculture technologies and soy-based aquafeeds since the late 1980s. In 1999, the industry incorporated marine fish culture into its existing aquaculture program in response to growth opportunities for marine fish cage production in the coastal provinces of China. However, deteriorating water quality due to pollution, unsustainable fish culture practices utilizing fishmeal as the primary food source and human overpopulation, necessitated a move offshore to an open ocean environment.

By moving marine fish production to an offshore environment, USSEC had to design a production system for harsh weather conditions, such as typhoons. Early tests using Norwegian-style cages proved unsuccessful with substantial storm damage to both the cages and the fish. USSEC chose to move forward with the project by developing a new cage technology that is fully submersible and allows fish to survive storms safely below the turbulent surface waters. This cages unique design permits a standard operational position near the surface that allows for easy daily feeding while also permitting complete submersion in inclement conditions.

The U.S. Soybean Export Council promotes U.S. soy internationally helping make soy the highest valued U.S. agricultural export at over $12 billion annually. The Council supports an international aquaculture program that

promotes the benefits of soy-based fish feeds and helped create demand for over 250 million bushels of soybeans used annually in aquaculture feeds. This program ensures the continued growth of these environmentally friendly, sustainable feeds in the world's fastest growing sector of animal agriculture.

USSEC operates nine international offices to increase demand and facilitate trade for U.S. soy products.

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