

Summer edition, 2008



Fast Growing Species Diet Launched.

Grobtest's newly developed "High Energy Diet" has been developed using the latest research and technology designed for Australian conditions. The feed which is designed for the fast growing cobia can also be used to increase the growth rates of species such as barramundi and yellow tail kingfish.

Unlike other feed brands in Australia, the new diet is the only diet of it's kind in Australia with lipid and protein sources derived solely from fish oil with no trace of pig, chicken or other animal fats often used to substitute one of the most important ingredients in fish food.

Recent research has shown the cobia, especially juveniles require large amounts of fish oil as the ability to synthesise HUFA from PUFA was limited. Partial to full replacement of fish oil from the cobia's diet had a detrimental effect on both liver function directly effecting the immune system and growth.

The Cobia is well known for it's desirable table fish qualities and extremely fast growth rate. Early reports from one Qld farm have seen the cobia grow from 4cm to 40 cm in 40 days!. The increased protein and lipid levels in the new diet can also benefit the performance of barramundi and yellow tail especially in the summer months when metabolism rates increased.

The new diet will be available after January with the orders taken now.

"The results show that cobia juveniles had relatively high need for fish oil in their diets, and the ability to synthesize HUFA from PUFA was limited. Partial or total replacement (33-100%) of fish oil with linseed oil or corn oil or both were detrimental to fish growth and immune responses"



Blackwell synergy.

Salmon Diet

Grobest Australia is proud to announce the introduction of Australia's only **Land Animal Protein Free** Salmon Feed. New to Australia, Grobest's Salmon feed has been under development for the past year with trials run both here and abroad. "Our scientists have been working in conjunction with some of the best in the industry to develop what is essentially the most cost effective feed available on the market" Andrew Bray of Grobest Australia says.

Due to the fact that all proteins and lipids used are of marine origin Grobest is expecting to see an improvement of the general health and well being of Salmon with an added bonus of increased Hufa and Pufa compounds leading to higher concentrations of Omega 3's in the finished product.

"There is no feed like this on the Australian market and rare in the New Zealand Market" adds Andrew, "and the fact that there is little or no phosphate outputs is also great for the environment".

Utilizing the very latest in technology in Grobest's Taiwanese manufacturing plant the 40/25 and 45/20 is of the highest quality using vacuum technology to better stabilize the HUFA and PUFA components, something that's essential in producing high quality Aquaculture feed.

Grobest's salmon feed is available on order by the container and can be delivered anywhere in Australia and New Zealand. For more information on our new Salmon Feeds range please call ph 1800 005434 or visit our web site at www.grobest.com.au



Andrew and Darren Bray of Grobest Australia unpacking the first container of Salmon Feed. The Salmon feed is destined for the Australia/NZ market.

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND FISH

QUALITY



EXPERIENCE

FINGERLINGS

Orders being taken:



Silver Perch



Lake Eyre Golden Perch

Jade Perch

Tel 07 5546 4462

sales@seqfish.com.au

Order early & avoid disappointment

Price Review

Over the past 12 months, Grobest customers have enjoyed not only low prices, but a decrease in prices due to the strong Aussie dollar.

Although our currency is still solid, an increase in overseas raw materials has increased twice since our last official price rise. On top of record levels in oil prices and sea freight, wharf and unloading fees have also risen.

The fall out from the US housing market crisis has also put upward pressure on interest rates which in turn has an affect on our prices.

We have implemented the price increase in three stages. The first in early January, the 2nd in February, with the 3rd being in April. For more information, or for an updated price list, please call us on our free call number 1800 005 434, or email: sales@grobest.com.au

Australian farmers falling behind the rest of the world.....

With monumental amounts of restrictions and bundles of bureaucratic red tape, Australian farmers may face very hard times in the not too distant future.

Australia may be the largest land mass in the south-east Asian region, but when it comes to aquaculture, what progress if any, with the help of our government, have we made in the past 15 year in regards to new species development?

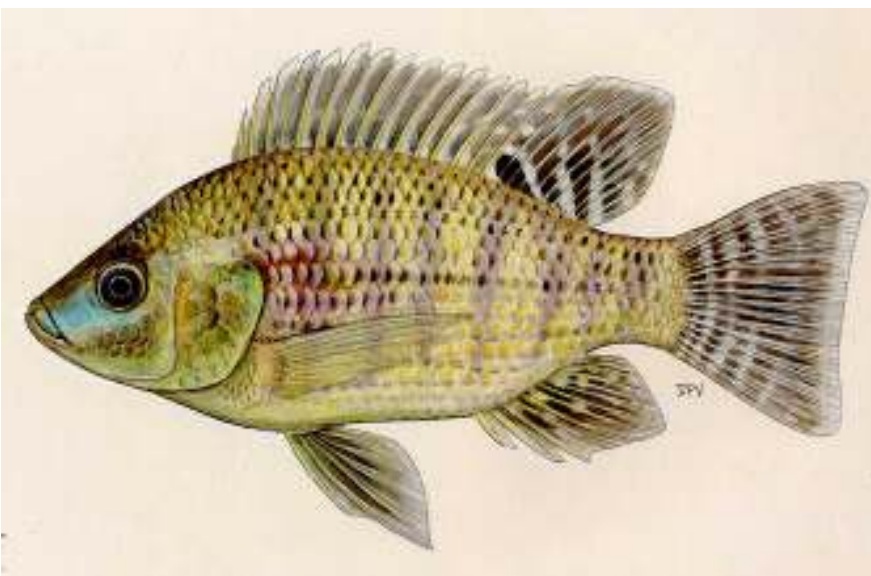
Just a few short hours away from the tip of NT lies a country with a population of 234,693,997 people. Of these, 60% live in Java, Madura and Bali which only accounts for 7% of the total land mass of Indonesia. Their life expectancy is 70 years, 65.5% of the population are aged between 15-64, infant mortality is 3.7%, the poverty rate is 28%, yet their literacy rate is a staggering 88%.

With so much against them, why is it the diversity of aquaculture in this country is enormous? The Javanese have been culturing fish such as the Barramundi Cod, countless numbers of grouper species, milk fish, catfish, tilapia, monodon, vannamei and so on for decades. Australia has only one farm that is making inroads into new species and can produce both Barramundi Cod and Cobia, Bali has literally thousands.

The tilapia, which is found in Australia is now the most important aquaculture crop of this century. It is the most widely farmed fish species in the world with an estimated 3 million tonnes expected to be produced in 2010. On the US seafood consumption table it moved up from 10th in 2001 to 5th 2006, overtaking catfish for the first time. International trade in tilapia is now worth US\$2.5 billion. China is the largest producer/exporter recording a 1.11 million ton 2006 production, followed by Egypt at 200 000 tonnes.

Dubbed the *Aquatic Chicken*, it is an introduced species in Asia, yet there is no evidence that it has affected the sustainability or the environmental integrity of the region. In fact it has been shown that it only becomes invasive in water ways after human activity has degraded it to a point that the body of water has become un conducive for indigenous species.

Professor Sena s de Silva, Director General of the Network of Aquaculture Centers of Asia Pacific say "There is....



O. niloticus or Nile Tilapia, the most common farmed species.

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...overwhelming evidence to consider tilapia naturalized as part and parcel of their ecosystems.” Professor de Silva went on to point out that in comparison to trout in some countries where there is scientific evidence that the trout had indeed impacted on biodiversity, they are still not considered invasive and continue to be stocked in natural waterways. New Zealand is a prime example of this. Although trout farming is illegal in NZ, stocking of recreational fishing lakes and waterways is done by NZ Parks and Wildlife.

Although Queensland’s DPI regard the tilapia as a noxious fish, the fight to eradicate it is a futile one. 15 years ago six tilapia were placed in a pond on the golf course in the Mirage resort in Port Douglas. 18 months later the pond was poisoned and 16 ton were scooped out with a front end loader.

Should we not look at harnessing this species growth potential in a responsible way?

The positive side of farming the tilapia is considerable. For a start it requires a much lower protein diet (<30%) compared to most Australian native species (>35%). Grobest’s tilapia diet is \$400-\$500 per ton cheaper than the native and barramundi diet respectively. It can tolerate a much wider range of environmental conditions, is simple to breed with minimal larval mortality and is easily weaned to artificial diets. It can be densely stocked into pond, recirculation systems, raceway, even bath tubs! Tilapia have a very good fillet recovery, taste good, grows fast, good FCR’s and has a huge export potential as well as a world wide consumer acceptance.

What about the *Penaeus Vannamei*?

In 2006 the subtropical city of Zhanjiang, China, produced 150,000 metric tons of farmed shrimp from 27,600 hectares of ponds. The harvest was worth more than a billion dollars, accounting for 20% of China’s total production. Recently, production has been growing at the rate of 30% a year. The city has over 400 shrimp hatcheries that produce a total of 60 billion postlarvae a year. The hatcheries ship post larvae all over the country and even sell some to Vietnam. Over 80% of the city’s processed shrimp products are exported to the USA.

Forty-one seafood processors in Zhanjiang have obtained HACCP certification. The city can process 489 000 tonnes of seafood a year.

China produces 650 000 tonnes of Vannamei prawns year. Thailand 450 000 tonnes, Indonesia 400 000 tonnes and Vietnam 350 000 tonnes. World wide the Vannamei accounts for more than....



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...90% of the total prawn production.

India are now considering scrapping their tiger prawn production through out the country in favor of the Vannamei. Why?

The average pond production in Australia for the tiger prawn is around 6-8 ton per hectare. Although there has been a recent claim of a farm running at 18 ton per HA, this is very unusual. In India it is around 2-3 tonnes. Farmers in India can produce 20-30 tonnes of Vannamei per hectare, *ten times that of the monodone!* On a recent visit to Indonesia, on the island of Sumatra, I visited a prawn farm that was producing the Vannamei at 60 tons per hectare. Again, this is probably at the extreme, with the farm being tightly run, but the average seemed to be 30-40 ton per HA.

Cost of production for the Vannamei in India is around AU\$2.50 per kilo, more than half the cost of the tiger prawn. Most Asian countries have moved away from the monodon, initially because of disease which wiped out the majority of farms, but also due to its (*Vannamei*) robust nature. Although there is talk about going back to the tiger prawn in Indonesia, mainly due to the fact that the Vannamei is no longer considered disease resistant as it first was, production remains strong at 400 000 tonnes per year.

Vannamei brood stock in Indonesia are flown from either Hawaii or Florida in the US. These prawns are certified SPF and SPR , and are 15th generation.

Is this something Australia should consider? In one corner we have a fish that was introduced into Australia by the Government over 30 years ago, and is now considered a pest (sounds familiar), yet has huge potential for farmers and is already considered the most important aquaculture species of the 21st century. In the other corner we have a species of prawn that Australia could import disease free, could produce ten times the tonnage per hectare, cut production costs by more than half and make a good profit.

When speaking to prawn and fish farmers alike, nearly all are open to the idea of these and other new species and believe more study should be done by the relevant government authorities.



Inside GROBEST'S new Vannamei hatchery in Bali.



Vannamei Brood stock tank in Sumatra.