



It's Official!

Grobest SE diet takes out first place in NSW DPI food trial conducted at the Grafton Aquaculture Centre.

Full story next page.

Autumn 2008



Feed Trial

The recent food trial conducted at the Grafton Aquaculture Centre in Northern NSW was completed with some interesting results.

The trial, which was conducted over a 105 days, compared the growth rates as well as price per kilo on four commercially available diets. Select Nutrition, Ridley, Skretting and Grobest each provided the DPI with their diets for testing. Grafton chose the Silver perch as their test species, using a pond based system utilizing floating cages for the trial.

Grobest feed took out first place in the cost per kilo ratio on fingerlings using the Grobest starter feeds N1 and N2 on fingerlings. Growth rates were also excellent with Skretting achieving a 5% better result on growth rates, but with Skretting's feed being more than \$1200 dollars per tonne more expensive it's little wonder that Grobest came up trumps. Grow out to 180grams saw Ridley (50% protein) and Grobest SE diet (35%) coming out head to head with virtually no difference in weight and cost at the end of the trial.

Grobest feed also came out on top with the over all condition (size/weight/length) of the fish being better than fish fed on the other three diets.

Although the trial is yet to be released to the public the trial will be published by Grafton in the near future.



Floating cage system at the NSW fisheries research centre at Grafton where the latest feed trials were conducted.

Contact David Foley at the NSW DPI for more detail.

Omega 3 or Omega Free?

As a consumer I like to buy fish that not only taste good, but has a number of health benefits as well. The fact that fish differs to Australia's most consumed protein source "beef", in the way that it supplies the human body with positive fats and oils as well as omega 3 fatty acids, fish could be described as the ultimate health food.

But what about aqua cultured fish? What are the levels of omega 3's found in species such as barramundi, silver perch and Australia's largest and most popular aqua-cultured species salmon? A recent study on the difference between salmon grown in Australia compared to salmon grown in New Zealand revealed a much higher omega 3 content found in NZ salmon than it's Australian cousins. Fish have the unique ability to convert omega 3's found within the food to omega 3 fatty acids within the flesh and skin, but are unable to produce omega 3's from food sources of non marine origin.

It is well known that most of the fish food sold within Australia is largely of bovine origin, in New Zealand (where bovine protein is banned) the over whelming feed ingredient found in fish food is of marine origin. So it's no wonder that the New Zealand salmon has higher levels of essential omega 3's fatty acids. So what does this mean for fish grown in Australia? Well as long as aqua cultured fish are fed low levels of marine protein, low levels of omega 3's will be produced. Simple.

But the challenge to feed company's all over the world is balancing the high cost of marine protein with sufficient levels of omega 3's. In a previous issue of the Grobest Times we explored the alternative "Krill" as a viable source of marine protein as an additive or alternative to fish meal. Krill is now becoming a popular food supplement in pill form. This is increasing demand in the lucrative vitamin market and again pushing up prices. Aquaculture has the potential to take not only a massive slice of the seafood market but take a huge slice of the health and wellness market.

Feed manufacture's have to keep exploring ways to transfer valuable Omega 3 sources to the end product to maintain credibility in a market, which is seeking the health benefits of fish, not just fish as a protein source. The popular saying "let your food be your medicine and your medicine be your food" could well be a catch phrase for the aqua-culture industry, considering that aquaculture world wide is growing at a staggering rate. Growers are positioned to supply a market that is increasingly looking for an alternative to red meat, with all the benefits of vitamin supplements. The challenge then to aqua-culture is to market it's products not against the vitamin market but go head to head with beef and lamb industry, armed with the knowledge that the benefits of eating seafood will maintain health and well being. Silver and Jade perch have the advantage over species such as barramundi and prawns of being able to convert large amounts of omega 3's from relatively lower amounts of marine protein, hence a 35% protein diet compared to a 45%-50% which is needed for barramundi. Maintaining sufficient levels of the good stuff is getting harder to do, so protein substitution will increase, but hopefully not at the detriment of human health.

Raw Material Price Increase

As expected, another increase in raw materials has been passed on from our mills, the second for 2008 in only 4 months!

Unfortunately Grobest Australia cannot absorb the full US\$85.00 per ton rise in cost, plus the fuel surcharges being added to all movements in and out of the shipping ports. Due to the fact the Aussie dollars is at record levels against the US dollar, we are able to keep the price rise to a manageable level. At this stage prices will be looked at on a monthly basis.

For an updated price list, call 1800 005 434 or email sales@grobest.com.au



Feed orders

With Grobest's feed becoming increasingly popular, delays on customer orders has recently been an issue we are having to deal with on a weekly basis.

To avoid disappointment, and a nervous wait, we would like to ask all our customers who do not have a standing order with us, to please allow 4-5 weeks for deliveries.

Grobest do carry limited back up stock for emergency's and for first time customers, but this can only stretch so far.

Ideally you should work out what your feed needs will be for the coming month or months and fax or email these through to our office. This avoids hand written orders being misplaced, and also misinformation being taken over the phone. Please be sure to also include whether you require **sinking** or **floating** feed if this applies. If nothing is written, floating feed will normally be sent.

With the prawn season closing in on us already, now would be a good time to look at what starter feeds your farm will require.

WHAT'S ON?

June 1-8

GROBEST'S 2nd International Farm Tour, Bali 2008.

July 5-6

The Aquaculture Association of Queensland's annual Conference, held in Childers, Qld. As a major sponsor of the AAQ, come see Grobest's trade display. For more information go to www.aaq.com.au

August 3-6

The Australasian Aquaculture 2008 international Conference and Trade Show, held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Come see GROBEST at booth number 86.