



# Grobest Times

Grobest Australia, Christmas Edition, 2008

Volume 11

## WHAT GOES UP.....!!



### Trading Times For Christmas

Grobest Australia will be closed for dispatch between Wed 24th December through to Monday 5th January. Please order early to guarantee delivery.

*Merry Christmas!!*

It's been at least 12 months in the making, and came as no surprise that the US sub-prime mortgage crisis has brought America to its knees. The first to go was the USA's 4th largest investment bank, Lehman Brothers.

Take over after take over saw the world panic and the Australian dollar slide from 20 year highs to 12 month lows in less than

6 weeks. The high "Aussie battler" had been keeping a cap on price rises, and in fact saw "Grobest" reduce the feed price to pre 2005 levels for most of the last 12 months.

Although the cost of raw materials and oil prices had sky rocketed over the last 6 months, "Grobest's" prices remain below December 2006 levels.

The recent announcement of the US government \$US1.25 trillion bail out quickly steadied the market and saw the dollar steady, but even this could not stop the dramatic slide after an endless stream of gloom from our own government kept the dollar in free fall, so as to hit levels not seen since the attacks of September 11, 2001.



# Disease Free

Summer temps are finally on their way after a long winter and below average spring temperatures which brought snow in the Southern states and cool temps across Qld. The usual stories of winter disease and problems caused from sustained low water temperatures have not been heard as loud as previous years from new customers of Grobest who made the transition to Land Animal Protein free feed. One of Grobest's relatively new customers, Lyndon and Lyle Batterham of Carbean Aquaculture at Karara, west of Brisbane have experienced for the first time, a winter disease free cold season.

Sceptical at first Lyndon thought he would try Grobest feed after hearing reports that Winter disease may be caused from animal protein interfering with the digestive system of fish in colder months of the year when the metabolism slowed dramatically. This has been researched by a number of both private and governmental bodies with the general consensus being that certain proteins foreign to the natural diet of certain species could inhibit an allergic reaction in the gut causing infection and ultimately death. To Lyndon's surprise not one of his fish showed any sign of sickness nor scarring associated with winter disease despite some of Karara's lowest temps in decades. The reason we believe that Grobest feed is your best defence against winter disease from silver perch to barramundi is the natural proteins found only in marine based feed which closely mimics the natural diet of fish in both fresh and saltwater. Fish-meal, krill meal and squid meal are the base ingredients in Grobest feeds, combined with high levels of additional vitamins. Grobest feed is the highest quality feed available in Australia for all species of fish, as well as delivering the best FCR's in the industry.



## Fish Meal Prices Fall

The price of Fishmeal has finally come down after years of upward pressure on the most important commodity in aquaculture. Although the annual production level of fish meal has fallen from 6 million tonnes in the 1990's to 5 million tonnes since the year 2000, the down turn in the global economic environment has released pressure on consumption both here and abroad. Once only used for agriculture and aquaculture, the industry has also seen the human consumption of both jack mackerel and Peruvian anchovy increase. The overall catch is expected to remain steady at 5 million tonnes.



The future of the use of fishmeal in aquaculture feeds is expected to decline as new protein sources are studied and utilized, although fishmeal is yet to be rivalled in its importance especially in starter, brood stock and finisher diets. Grobest and other importers of quality feed are restricted in its choice of protein sources as tight Governmental regulations restricts the importation of meat and bone meals for use in aquaculture feeds.

A recent trip to Grobest's feed mill in Jakarta was met with some resistance to the idea of replacing fish meal with less quality protein ingredients as the plant manager struggled to comprehend why we would compromise the quality of Grobest's standard fish meal based feed stating that "fish eat fish". After a moment of thought I had to agree with him. He is right, fish is the main food source of virtually all species of marine fish, as well as other sources of marine protein in the ocean. Substituting protein sources is the way of the future but until such time as fish meal becomes uneconomical or environmentally unsustainable, Grobest will continue to use it in all of its feed lines, and until such time will remain the only feed company that solely relies on marine protein for feed production in Australia.



# New Religion

If Labour's Climate Change Minister Penny Wong is to be believed the effects of Climate change will wreck havoc on our industry over the next few decades. Ms Wongs predictions of rising sea levels of up to eight metres and the "direct threat to fish species such as salmon, mud crabs, barramundi and prawns" have recently been added to Ms Wongs long list of disaster scenarios.

The proof Ms Wong eagerly sights is the "Drought in the Murray Darling". Although not taking past rainfall data in consideration the Murray Darling is the smoking gun on climate change for Ms Wong ignoring the fact that Globally temperatures have been in steady decline since the peak of 1998 , with a rate of decline of .06 degrees per annum. According to Australian geologist David Archibald this trend will continue with a decline of .02 degrees Celsius per annum through to 2020..

It was only on October 28 2008 that London had its first blanket covering of snow since 1922, ironically as Parliament was debating it's future climate change policy. Also in Australia, we experienced the coldest October across the board since 1910. This year in areas such as the snow fields, record snow drops were a welcome sight for ski enthusiasts. New Zealand also experienced the best ski season in years.

So where does this leave Aquaculture in Australia? If the species decline predicted by the Labour Government is to come to pass aquaculture will be in more demand than it is today but with fewer locations to farm. Salmon farmers have been put on notice to look for colder deeper waters further off the coast and relocate. Prawn and barramundi farmers will also have to look for appropriate inland farm locations but with the ever imposing water allocation rules, can aquaculture survive this impending disaster? The solution as Penny Wong details is a reduction in carbon dioxide levels (one of four life give natural gases) controlled with a carbon tax that will be set and collected by the big banks, the same big banks that caused the recent global market collapse, which triggered the fraudulent bail out package, also endorsed by our Labour Government.

Whether global warming is real or not , aquaculture is still predicted to grow to 126 million tonnes by 2020 up from 99.4 million tonnes in 2001 and although the bulk of this will be contributed to Chinese aquaculture, Australia is set to benefit from the rise in demand of it's aquaculture products.



**Grobest would like to thank all who attended the Aquaculture conference in August. It was great to catch up with all our long time customers, and also meet a lot of new ones. We thank you for your patronage and support.**



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HIGH PERFORMANCE

### Grobest History/Background

With over 30 years experience in the business, Grobest Group is at the forefront of aquatic feed products. The Group has established an advanced R&D centre utilising precision instruments and employing one of the world's top professional research teams.

Freshness and Safety are not the ultimate goal but the starting point. Grobest is committed to conserve marine resources and the eco-system by healthy aquaculture practices. Learning from nature, cherishing and protecting nature are our never-ending goals.

To ensure the highest international hygiene and traceability requirements are met, precise records are kept for each stage in the production process. Strict hygiene controls are in place and training courses for production staff are ongoing. As a consequence Grobest feed plays a great part in producing superior aquatic feeds resulting in better flesh quality and taste as well as higher processing recovery rates.

kingfish

silverperch

#### Grobest Silver/Jade Fish Feed features:

Sinking or Floating pellets  
Developed specifically for fresh water fish  
High performance for fast growing  
Low Animal Protein Free (LAP)\*  
Fast growth and low FCR throughout all sizes

#### Nursery Diets

	SE51	SE52
Pellets (mm):	1.1	1.8
	Sink	Sink
Bag (kg):	20	20

#### Growout Diets

	SE1	SE2	SE3	SE4	SE6	SE8
Pellet (mm):	2.2	3.5	4.5	6.0	8.0	10.0
Bag (kg):	20	20	20	20	20	20

Bulk Bags available in: 500kg



#### Crude Analysis

Protein min: 35%  
Fat min: 10%  
Moisture max: 10%  
Ash max: 11%

#### Ingredients

Chicken Fishmeal  
Shrimpsmeal  
Wheatflour  
Soyabean Meal  
Aquarix

\*LAP has a pre-requisite for aquarix product and consumer approval

salmon

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