



Grobest Times

April/May 2007

Australia/New Zealand

The big news this edition is the announcement of Grobest's feed price adjustment for the next quarter. Due to the strong Australian dollar against the Green back, Grobest has reduced most of our feed price's more than 50% of last year's price increase! This price adjustment has allowed Grobest feed to be sold under most of our competitors current prices.

The results of the price fall will allow Grobest feed to be more affordable to the average farmer by taking advantage of Grobest's excellent FCR averages or move closer to the booming natural foods market..

In the past Land Animal Protein Free feeds were seen only useful if seafood was destined for markets like Europe, but the benefits go far beyond export markets. Land Animal Protein Free feeds have the added benefit of improvement of water quality including decreased Nitrogen and Phosphorous outputs and natural disease control. Fillet yield is free from all animal fats and reduced grey discoloration, generally caused by the oxidation of fats through the fillet. The omega 3 profile is unchallenged against terrestrial based feeds, allowing the animal to produce higher levels of both EPA and DHA Omega 3 fats and oils. Grobest's feed profile is available for viewing on our website for use in quality assurance programs such as HACCP and ISO programs. Analysts are predicting a strong Aussie dollar for the next few months which could see our prices move further downward, making Marine based food more attractive to quality conscience farmers.

The other feature this edition is our focus on sustainability in aquaculture feeds and the use of a relative newcomer in the marine based feeds market, Krill.

We have also included a page for farmers or equipment suppliers to advertise in our news letter that reaches a large yet specific customer base in the Australian and New Zealand aquaculture market.

"The strong Australian dollar has made Grobest feed more competitive to farmers who want to take advantage of using Australia's only marine based fish feed."



Sustainability.

There has been quite a bit of interest over the past few months in terms of the sustainability of fish feed ingredients and its relation to Grobest feeds. Because Grobest utilizes marine ingredients as their major protein source the need to find suitable ingredients to reduce the amount of fish meal used in our feed is paramount. Although the current quota of ~6 million metric tonnes of quality fish meal is sustainable, an alternative protein source may not be all that far away. Krill meal (often used by Grobest) is becoming a rather sort after commodity.

The Antarctic Krill is the worlds most abundant crustacean totalling more than 500 million tonnes, more than all other fish and crustacean combined. Like its name says the Antarctic Krill lives in the cold waters of the Arctic. The krill travels in swarms like bees often amassing to a numbers exceeding 30 000 individuals per cubic meter. Although krill is not a new ingredient, it has resurfaced as one of the most promising and sustainable marine ingredients. Other outstanding properties of krill are its natural pigment Astaxanthin, its palatability, its low content of pollutants, and its likely improvement of larval fish survival. These attributes make krill a more attractive feed than potential competitors such as squid meal, clam meal, artemia soluble, and fish soluble (Sclabos 2003). The naturally occurring high levels of **Astaxanthin** have been proven to assist in both growth and immune modulation in both fish and prawns. Krill is also a rich source of minerals and has certain amino acids that stimulate the smell and taste with certain glycogenic amino acids which are appetite stimulants. The Astaxanthin contained in krill is used to enhance the flesh colour in species such as yellow tail king fish, mulloway, prawns salmon and trout. Current estimates have revealed the sustainability of Krill harvest could exceed 150 million metric tonnes per year more than 100 times more than high quality fish meal. To date the harvest methods have been poor compared to methods used to harvest meal sources such as anchovies although many Asian countries have invested millions into krill harvesting technology to meet the rising demand of Krill meal in aquaculture feeds.

Experiments using krill have been measured utilizing both full krill based feeds and krill as an additive, both have yielded excellent results. Krill's excellent flavour profile means that it is useful in former unpalatable feeds, as an additive to improve flavour such as feeds containing high levels of plant protein. Stay tuned for more information on Krill based feeds when more information comes to hand.

Source: Aqua feed .com
Blackwell synergy.
Aquaculture news voodoo.

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Quality...

The quality of fish and prawn feeds can differ greatly between brands. Not only is the quality of ingredients used a major factor in feeds but the milling quality of extruded diets plays a big role in the finished product. Grobest Indonesia have invested millions into twin extrusion technology over the past 6 months, improving pellet integrity and non water solubility. Often pellets that have not been manufactured at the highest standard contain large pieces of ingredient that should not be visible in a quality pellet. All granules should be of similar size and colour. If large particles are found it generally means that the milling process has not undergone the desired manufacturing time to mix all ingredients to their optimum. What this can lead to is a slowing of the digestion process within the animal therefore effecting efficient digestion and food conversion. Undigested food will often pass through the animal, fouling the water and increasing nitrogen and phosphorus out puts. The twin extrusion method also allows improved vitamin and amino acid retention within the pellet allowing the pellet to remain intact for longer periods.

To take advantage of Grobest quality, feed storage areas should also be taken in consideration. Feed should be stored in refrigeration if possible and kept away from damp or moist areas. If refrigeration is not possible feed should be stored in a well ventilated area kept away from fluctuating temperatures. Feed can also be frozen fresh if the amount ordered exceeds the weekly or monthly feed rations. Frozen feed should always be thawed in a cold room and never allowed to thaw at room temperature to avoid moisture entering the feed. For more detailed information on food manufacturing methods of Grobest feed call our free call number on 1800 005 434 or email sales@grobest.com.au.

Gold Spot Cod Could Be A Winner!

A number of North Queensland farms have decided to trial the fast growing Gold Spot Cod in their grow out ponds in an attempt to assess the viability of this new aquaculture species. Trials undertaken by Northern Fisheries in Cairns have had good success with spawning of brood stock and are confident that the grouper could become a major marine species within Australia. Gold Spot are reported to have excellent growth rates, rivalling Barramundi, although the cannibalistic nature of the cod also rivals barramundi. Harvesting of the Gold Spot Cod is expected within the next six months with interest from Sydney and a number of Asian markets. Gold spot can be transported live for the live market trade.

Yamba Farm Ready For Mulloway

Clarence Water fish farm is about to receive it's first batch of Mulloway fingerlings this month. The revamped prawn farm sits on the banks of the Clarence river in Northern NSW. John and Vicki of Clarence Water Aquaculture have spent the past year working hard to upgrade the old prawn farm to accommodate the 66 000 fingerlings which they both hope to turn into approx 100 tonnes of saltwater Mulloway. Mulloway farming has in recent times been concentrated off Port Lincoln in South Australia and small operations in Botany Bay. The good eating quality and good marketability has seen the mulloway enjoy some what of a price resurgence in recent months adding to the benefits of growing Mulloway.

Barramundi Cod (*Chromileptes Altivelis*) Grobest's Grow out Trial

In a first for an Australian feed company, Grobest Australia has decided to put its money where its mouth is and trial its own Grouper feed on the Barramundi Cod, this will allow Grobest to assess performance and health within the local environment.

Purchasing a number of fingerlings, Grobest has set up a small recirculation system within its premises at Beenleigh on the Gold Coast.

With some technical help from **Aquasonic**, and the purchase of their "Bio-Nature" bio filter (at a give-away price), a 1000 litre RAS for the intent on gauging FCR's, water quality and growth rate for the Barramundi Cod was established. **Fresh by Design** donated the AMB (Assisting Moving Bed) Bio-filtration media for the trial.

The fish were stocked in early March with formal record keeping starting late April. Look out for regular updates in



AMB Bio-filtration media



Grobest Australia would like to welcome **Fresh By Design** as our first major sponsor of this newsletter. We would like to invite all readers of the Grobest Times to contact Ben at **Fresh By Design** or Peter at **AGK Technology** for any information regarding equipment sales, from pumps to hatchery appliances.

Grobest would also like to thank them for their support of our small feeding trial project we have running currently on barramundi cod, using our grouper diet.

For advertising enquires please call toll free 1800 005434.

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