

Hello,

My firm is Mariculture Technologies International, Inc. and Pompano Farms, LLC. (www.PompanoFarms.com) located in Oak Hill, Florida. We are fry producers and inland growers of the Florida Pompano along with other marine species.

My comments as they relate to your four categories are:

1. After 35 years in mariculture I am encouraged by some of the work that is being done with soy meal modification and would support further investigation with this and other like plant proteins. Further, there would appear to be a trophic level economy for considering farming herbivorous fishes to be used as fish meal for higher forms of marine fishes that attract greater market value. One step beyond that would be to consider macro marine algae's for not only bio-fuels but as substitutes for fish meal components. Some of these tropical marine macro algae's have a much higher fatty acid content than their terrestrial counterparts. No comment on where not to focus research dollars relative to feed stuffs. Let biological common sense and experience prevail.
2. The threat of disease transfer by using like species waste being turned back into the target organisms diet is, as we know a bad practice. However, it seems to me that the practice of recycling shrimp heads, squid byproducts, clam byproducts that are put back into finfish diets would be acceptable. It is my understanding that there are tremendous unused resources here if only they could be economically recycled. Again, an untapped source of marine oils is in marine macro algae's and could be an alternative source.
3. The potential use of marine macro-algae's used first as an environmental remediation tool (nutrient scrubber) and then harvested for fish feed stuffs as opposed to land fill deposits could be economical in our view. Beyond this application the algae could be grown in aquaculture settings to be used for feed stuffs.
4. Current technologies are available for farming both micro and macro marine algae's and many of these species are good donors of omega 3 fatty acids. Further work on these opportunities would be our direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to have our opinions considered in this most important issue.

Regards,

Michael F. McMaster, President
MTI, Inc.
www.MaricultureTechnology.com