STATUS OF MARINE FINFISH AQUACULTURE IN AUSTRALIA

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Australia - Marine Finfish Production

Production (tonnes)


Southern bluefin tuna
Atlantic salmon
Barramundi
Other
Australia - Marine Finfish Value

- Southern bluefin tuna
- Atlantic salmon
- Barramundi
- Other

Value (US$m)

Distribution

Atlantic salmon

Southern bluefin tuna

Barramundi

Atlantic salmon
Southern bluefin tuna

- Captured at 15-30 kg (juveniles)
  - Caught using purse seine
  - Transferred to towing cage, towed to farms

- Cages
  - 30-40m diameter
  - 12-20 m deep
  - hold c. 2,000 fish
Southern bluefin tuna

- Feeding
  - pilchards and mackerel
  - 1-2 × daily
  - 6-7 days per week

- Research into developing artificial feed

- Market
  - exported to Japan
  - US$15-22 per kg
Atlantic salmon

- Originally introduced to support recreational fishing
- Culture began in 1980’s in Tasmania
  - around 15 farms
- Fish fed pellet diets
  - locally produced
- Markets
  - domestic (high-value product)
  - export
Atlantic salmon

- Threats
  - Warm water temperatures in Tasmania
    - disease problems
  - Increasing competition
    - Chile, New Zealand, etc.
  - World market for salmon
    - prices declining

- Looking to diversify
Barramundi

- Fingerlings produced in hatcheries or ponds
Most production currently from freshwater ponds

Expansion of sea cage farming
Feeding

- Feeding
  - pellet feeds
  - > 40g BW: 2 feeds/day

- FCR's
  - 1.2 - 2.0 (higher in winter)
New species

- **Mulloway**
  - *Argyrosomus japonicus*

- **Snapper (Red Sea Bream)**
  - *Pagrus auratus*

- **Striped trumpeter**
  - *Latris lineata*

- **Mahi mahi**
  - *Coryphaena hippurus*
New species

- Yellowtail kingfish
  - *Seriola lalandi*
Yellowtail kingfish
New species

- **Grouper**
  - Small production of *E. coioides*
    - Queensland
    - Western Australia
  - *Cromileptes altivelis*
    - Queensland
Industry development issues

- Environmental
  - Strong environmental lobby
  - Perception that aquaculture is damaging to coastal environments

- Sites
  - Relative paucity of good sites
  - Many good sites have little / no infrastructure
  - Competing interests
Future

- **Focus on high-value species**
  - SBT, groupers, etc.

- **Develop and expand export markets**
  - 18 million beef-eaters!

- **Public education**
  - Benefits of aquaculture
Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network

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Asia Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network

Successor to Asia-Pacific Grouper Network (APGN)

Funded by ACIAR, APEC

Coordinated by NACA
APGN Objectives

- Improve coordination of research
  - reduce overlap and duplication of research effort
- Provide opportunities for collaborative research
- Improve communication amongst grouper aquaculture researchers
APGN Research Program

1. Production technology
   1.1 Broodstock
   1.2 Larviculture
   1.3 Nursery
   1.4 Grow-out
   1.5 Post-harvest

2. Environment

3. Marketing

4. Food supply, certification

5. Socio-economics, livelihoods

6. Fish health

7. Training and extension
Expansion of network

- Network has been extremely successful
- Increasing interest in marine finfish aquaculture
  - Other species
    - Snappers (Lutjanidae)
    - Cobia (Rachycentron)
    - Pomfrets
- Expanded at NACA 13th GC Meeting
  - Incorporated in NACA work program
  - Asia-Pacific Marine Finfish Aquaculture Network
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