

# U.S. Aquaculture Basics

## *Things you need to know*

### There are **7 key species** of fish produced in the United States

#### 1) Trout

- a. Mainly found in Idaho, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, but can be farmed anywhere there are mountains with cool water runoff



#### 2) Bass

- a. Includes Large Mouth Bass, Striped Bass and Sea Bass
- b. If raised in a RAS system, bass can be grown anywhere
- c. If raised in a pond system, bass require warm water
  - i. Produced in the North in the summer only
  - ii. Produced in the South all year long



#### 3) Tilapia

- a. Currently found most frequently in Virginia, Iowa and California, but can be grown anywhere since they are produced in RAS systems
- b. Tilapia are a warm water species that will die if they get cold



#### 4) Catfish

- a. Mainly found in the South (Mississippi, Alabama, etc.) and some smaller productions in California
- b. Warm water species



#### 5) Pond Fish

- a. Includes Blue Gill, Crappie, Sandfish and ornamental fish like Koi
- b. Warm water species, but can survive colder water as long as there is no ice





#### 6) Perch

- a. Produced in Northern climates and can survive winter weather as long as there is no ice



#### 7) Sturgeon

- a. Typically grown in RAS systems, some in controlled pond environments
- b. Grown for caviar (Beluga sturgeon are the most expensive at \$420 per ½ oz.!) 
- c. White sturgeon most commonly produced in California and Idaho
- d. Males will be sold for meat at 3-4 years of age
- e. Females are grown for caviar which is harvested at their maturation of 10-12 years of age 

# There are 3 main types of production systems in the U.S.

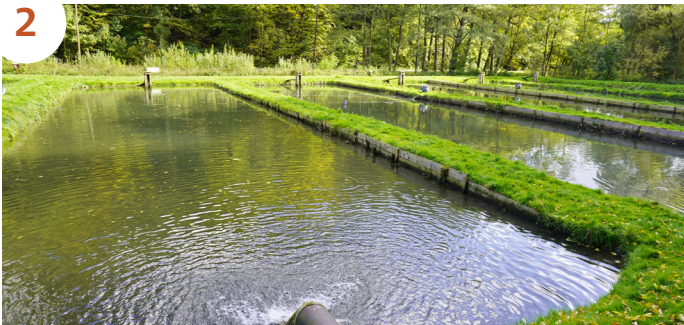
1



## Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)

- a. Indoor facilities that allow for all year long production of any species
- b. Producer is in control of all the variables, including water temperature, pH, and flow, but someone needs to be on-site 24/7
- c. Approximately, 95% of water is recycled as water passes through drum filters that remove heavy, sticky particles
  - i. Feed makes a big difference in RAS production systems
- d. Requires a large capital investment

2



## Pond Systems

- a. Most common production system in the U.S. currently
- b. Can be found in a majority of the states, but depends on availability of water and regulatory constraints
- c. These are constructed ponds often built near natural springs, through wells, or fed through a river

3



## Raceway Systems

- a. Second most common production system in the U.S. currently
- b. Typically fed through a river
- c. Water comes in one end and goes out the other

4



## \*\*Offshore net pens

- a. This 4th type of production system (nets in the ocean) is not found in the U.S. due to regulations but worth mentioning for knowledge

## Where to find more in-depth information about aquaculture in your region

- 1) Hatchery list from state associations
  - \*Become members of your state's aquaculture association!
- 2) Local aqua extension agents at regional agencies or state universities
- 3) State and federal hatcheries (managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife)

**Alltech**® COPPENS

Blueprint  
AQUA FEED