

A new hatchery-nursery facility in Veta la Palma fish-farm (PIMSA).
 Una nueva instalación de cría y pre-engorde en la explotación acuícola de Veta la Palma (PIMSA).

HATCHERY INTERNATIONAL

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 >> 19

PREDATION

Airborne predators the big winners at Spanish facility

While many aquaculture facilities constantly struggle to minimize fish losses from predation there's a hatchery and growout operation in the southern part of Spain which positively takes pride in its ongoing contribution to birds' bellies in its area.

The Veta La Palma wing of Spain's PIMSA company is located on an island in the midst of the marshes of the Guadalquivir River some 12 kms from the ocean. That puts it right next to the Doñana National Park and the park's major bird sanctuary which is sited on the flight path for huge numbers of birds migrating between northern Europe and north Africa.

The company says that the sanctuary attracts as many as 260 different kinds of bird – around 50 of which are endangered – and some 80% of which are aquatic species which enjoy visiting the fish hatchery and growout ponds.

All-told, the company calculates that it loses something like 20% of its entire production to the fish-eating birds each year. And that's not cheap, notes manager Miguel Medialdea, who has to obtain extra eggs to increase production to compensate for losses from the operation's forty-five 70-hectre ponds.

Medialdea said that the operation is now in the process of starting operation of a dedicated hatchery of its own, so that it doesn't have to buy eggs from other companies and other countries such as Portugal and France.

The hatchery-nursery building is a 2,800-square-metre installation, equipped with modern and sophisticated technology which includes powerful mechanical and biofiltration systems. Twelve independent operating water circuits allow the staff to work



The company calculates that it loses almost 20% of its production to the fish-eating birds each year. And that's not cheap, notes manager Miguel Medialdea, who has to obtain extra eggs to compensate for losses from the operation's forty-five 70-hectre ponds.



The hatchery-nursery building is a modern 2,800-square-metre installation. It's equipped with twelve independent operating water circuits which allow staff to work with different species and a range of salinity values. Larvae tanks, juvenile rearing tanks and others hold a total culture water volume of about 1,000 cubic metres.

with different species and a range of salinity values in water.

Larvae tanks, juvenile-rearing tanks and others hold a total volume of culture water of about 1,000 cubic metres. "The main goal," said Medialdea, "is to cultivate and breed our own sea-bass, sea-bream, meagre and sole, for self-supplying and for selling to other aquaculture facilities."

Intake to the system from the ocean is controlled through a large sluice gate at the mouth of the river, and there is a pumping station halfway along the 12-km stretch of river. Water from the river is also pumped into the upstream ponds.

That all makes for an extremely natural system: with high levels of good quality zooplankton and phytoplankton for the emerging fish, Medialdea told *Hatchery International*.

He added with a noticeable tone of pleasure, that the nutrient-rich waters result in a heightened quality of fish, grown without what Medialdea calls contaminants, and with good flavour and texture – all of which are recognized by restaurants and other clients.

That in turn permits the company to charge a premium for its fish, which helps make up for the losses to airborne predators.

— *Quentin Doedl*

Another Big Day.
 Another Big Delivery.
 Involving the
 Best-Of-Its-Kind:



FRESH-FLO'S TRANSPORT AERATOR.

- Practical! Truck unit is 12-volt battery operated.
- Efficient! Fresh-Flo outperforms other systems.
- Dependable! Ideal for long hauls, large shipments.

FOR MORE
 INFORMATION,
 CALL 800-493-3040.

FRESH-FLO CORP. 3007 Weeden Creek Rd.,
 Sheboygan, WI 53081 U.S.A. Phone: 920-208-1500, Fax: 920-208-6033
 E-Mail: freshflo@excelsi.net Web Site: www.freshflo.com



Hydrotech microscreens

Filters for
 intake water,
 recirculation
 and effluent.



HYDROTECH

Hydrotech AB, Mjølkelagatan 6, SE-235 32 Vellinge, Sweden
 Tel: +46-40 42 95 30, Fax: +46-40 42 95 31
 Email: mailbox@hydrotech.se Website: www.hydrotech.se