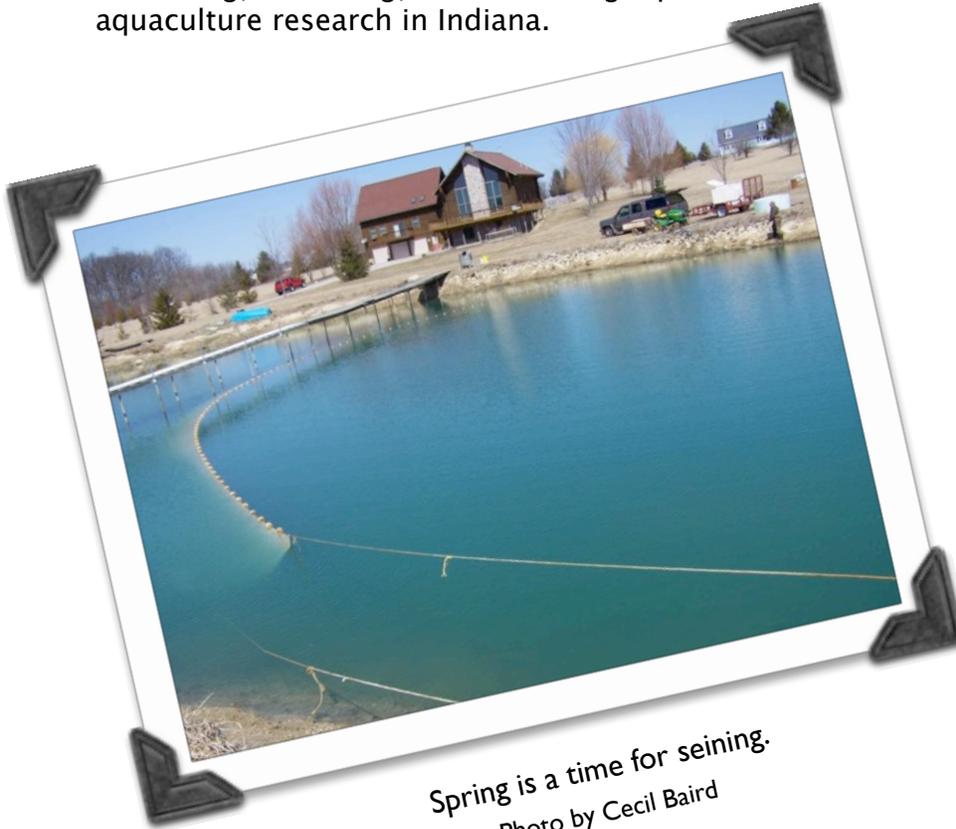




# Hoosier Fish Tales

**Mission Statement:** The IAAI (Indiana Aquaculture Association, Incorporated) enables aquaculture producers by promoting, marketing, educating, and nurturing aquaculture and aquaculture research in Indiana.



Spring is a time for seining.  
Photo by Cecil Baird

Spring is peak time for outdoor fish producers that have been stagnant all winter. Fish have to be moved in and out of ponds and delivered to customers. One method of harvesting outdoor ponds is seining. Seining is actually an art that has to be learned and it is not as easy as it looks.

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IAAI is grateful for the generous support of the Indiana Soybean Alliance.

### Quick Quiz

What fish species raised in aquaculture is also used to clean up filamentous algae in recreational ponds?

- A) Tilapia
- B) Bullhead
- C) Grass carp

*Answer on page 4*

The IAAI Newsletter is produced 4 times a year and available at <http://www.indianaaquaculture.org/>

*Congratulations Mark Zurcher our new IAAI treasurer.*



## President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Spring weather is finally here and if you're like me, this winter, albeit not especially severe, has dragged on too long. Spring is a busy time for aquaculturists that produce fish in ponds or sell fish produced in ponds. The good Lord willing we won't experience the drought and excessive heat of last spring and summer.

Make this the year you make the leap to produce fish or fish related products if you're considering it. The market is there and we need to produce our own seafood and seafood related products vs.

depending on other countries with suspect quality. And think of the jobs we can add to our economy. Judging by the inability of some of our members to produce enough to meet demand, there is plenty of opportunity out there.

If you just want to get your feet wet and don't have the acreage then build a small scale ras system.

Like Larry the Cable guy says, "Get 'er done!"

Cecil D. Baird



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## Aquaculture Feeding World's Insatiable Appetite for Seafood

*New Worldwatch Institute report discusses the rise in aquaculture production and seafood consumption and their impact on the environment*

**Washington, D.C.**—Total global fish production, including both wild capture fish and aquaculture, reached an all-time high of 154 million tons in 2011, and aquaculture is set to top 60 percent of production by 2020, according to new research conducted by the Worldwatch Institute ([www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)) for its *Vital Signs Online* service. Wild capture was 90.4 million tons in 2011, up 2 percent from 2010. Aquaculture, in contrast, has been expanding steadily for the last 25 years and saw a rise of 6.2 percent in 2011, write report authors Danielle Nierenberg and Katie Spoden.

Growth in fish farming can be a double-edged sword," said Nierenberg, co-author of the report and Director of Worldwatch's Nourishing the Planet project. "Despite its potential to affordably feed an ever-growing global population, it can also contribute to problems of habitat destruction, waste disposal, invasions of exotic species and pathogens, and depletion of wild fish stock."

Humans ate 130.8 million tons of fish in 2011. The remaining 23.2 million tons of fish went to non-food uses such as fishmeal, fish oil, culture, bait, and pharmaceuticals. The human consumption figure has increased 14.4 percent over the last five years. And consumption of farmed fish has risen tenfold since 1970, at an annual average of 6.6 percent per year. Asia consumes two thirds of the fish caught or grown for consumption.

The fish sector is a source of income and sustenance for millions of people worldwide. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, for every one job in the fish sector, three to four additional jobs are produced in secondary activities, such as fish processing, marketing, maintenance of fishing equipment, and other related industries. And on average each person working in the fish sector is financially responsible for three dependents. In combination, then, jobs in the primary and secondary fish sectors support the livelihoods of 660 million to 820 million people—10–12 percent of global population.

from: <http://www.worldwatch.org/aquaculture-feeding-worlds-insatiable-appetite-seafood>



# Who would have thought you could find saltwater shrimp in Midwest Indiana?

*by Karlanea Brown*

Who would have thought you could find saltwater shrimp in Midwest Indiana. And yet you can. We are RDM Aquaculture LLC in Fowler, IN Benton County. We are located 9 miles from the nearest town and 30 miles from the nearest city. We are located between corn and soy beans. In reality it is the middle of nowhere. Benton County is a wonderful farming community. They have centuries old farms that have been in the family's for generations. We moved into Benton County 20 + years ago. No regrets.



Akron Ohio to as close as my neighbor a mile down the road. We have them coming from Michigan and Illinois and Kentucky. This is my second favorite part of my job. I love the people we get to meet. They come from all walks of life and it is interesting to get to hear how they cook their shrimp.

Some will even leave a recipe or two behind for us to use with our customers. When people come into our sales room to get our live shrimp they always have a story about the first time they were here or about when they visited the gulf. Either way it is always nice to hear their experience with shrimp.

Like I said we raise Pacific white or penaeus Vannamei. We receive our pls (post larval) from Shrimp Improvement Services in Florida. Every 28 days we get about 80,000 pls and we are upping that number in the next few months to over 150,000 just to keep up with demand. The reason for so many pls is that we sell these when they are 40 days old or about 1.5 g in weight to other shrimp farmers so they don't have to deal with the nursery. I guess it is like a feeder pig operation. I need a better name than feeder pig but feeder shrimp doesn't sound right either. The shrimp farmer gets the juveniles (40 day old) shrimp delivered to their facility and then they grow them out for the next 3 months and then sell them how they choose to sell them. There are so many markets for this type of product that not everyone does it the same. This is pretty cool if you ask me.

We do sell our shrimp live this way we guarantee you a fresh product. You cannot buy anything fresher than a still swimming shrimp. The best part of our shrimp is that there is no prep work involved. You cook them with the head on it adds this sweetness into the meat you will not find anywhere else. You can eat the shells because they are like a very very thin potato chip. Compare it to a blackened steak, that crunches you get from a blacken steak. And for the mud vein, well there really is nothing in our shrimp vein and what little is just protein and salt since we do not add anything to our tanks. We use no **HOROMONES, OR ANTIBIOTICS** in our tanks. We like our water to be as close to their

natural environment before any contaminates or pollutants. So they are happy shrimp.

We also grow our shrimp out to sell out our front door for retail business. We get people from all over buying our shrimp. We get them as far as



Our system is very simple. It is based on air stones and a pump in a pool of salt water. Can't get much simpler than that? Mother Nature is complicated



## Saltwater Shrimp (cont)

enough we need to just fit in without making it more difficult. We do a lot of water testing. Nothing happens overnight in your tank but in 4 days you can have a tank full of dead shrimp. By water testing we can keep up on everything.

As a farmer's wife for many years I can tell you that I have never loved anything as much as I do Aquaculture. I love getting up in the morning and coming over to the farm and taking care of the babies (pls) and getting to work with the shrimp. I have heard it said that if you love what you do it isn't a job and then it becomes a labor of love. I might have misquoted that but I think you know what I mean. I can talk and talk a lot more about this. There is so much to say and there are a lot of big changes happening at RDM Aquaculture LLC. We are very excited about every one of them. We are even going international. We are working with Marvesta (first privately owned shrimp farm) on a huge project in Maryland. We are setting up a pl stations in New Haven Indiana. We have several new shrimp farms coming on board and very excited about that. We hope to make Indiana the shrimp capital of the world. We think we can do it. Then have the US the number one in shrimp production. There is no reason why we cannot do this with a little bit of hard work and going back to the basics.

### Quick Quiz Answer

Answer: tilapia. The tilapia has been used extensively in the southern United States to clean up filamentous algae and is beginning to be used more and more at our latitude. Mixed sex tilapia also provide forage for largemouth bass, but there is no danger of them overpopulating a pond as they die in the fall once temps fall below 50 F. This also allows a continuous product to sell as the pond owner has to buy more the following spring.

## Miscellaneous News and Updates

*by Rob Wibbeler*

### USTFA Fall Conference

The US Trout Farmers Association (USTFA) has scheduled the 2013 Fall Conference for September 12-14 at the Double Tree Hotel in Pittsburgh-Green Tree, PA. With the theme of Partners in Progress, the USTFA conference will focus on how producers and stakeholders working together play such an integral role in the growth, successes and sustainability of the domestic trout industry. Speakers will address a variety of topics, including advances in fish health management, redesigning the Lacey Act, emerging trout pathogens, research achievements, allied industry partnerships, and improvements in waste management. Those interested in exhibiting or sponsoring an event at the conference are asked to contact the USTFA office at [ustfa@thenaa.net](mailto:ustfa@thenaa.net) or 870.850.7900. Thanks to Laura Tiu for sharing.

### New blog about Indiana farmers

Designed to introduce you to your Indiana farmer, this blog by Jill Pritchard will explore producers big and small, who grow veggies and fruits and meats all across the Hoosier state. From Lake Michigan to the Ohio River and all the fields in between, join Jill on this foodie journey. If you would like your farm mentioned, let me know or contact Jill through her blog.

Jill is the Program Manager for Diversified Agriculture and Entrepreneurial Development for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and her blog can be found at <http://onthebanksofthewabash.net/about/>

## Soybean Alliance to Study Potential Fish Feed Mill

**May 20, 2013**

### **News Release**

Indianapolis, Ind. -- Exploring the opportunity to bring a feed mill dedicated to producing fish feed to Indiana in hopes of building a new market for Hoosier soybean farmers is the intent of a new grant recently awarded to Indiana Soybean Alliance.

ISA, the state soybean checkoff organization, received a Value-Added Producer Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture earlier this month to conduct a feasibility study on locating a feed mill focusing on aquaculture feeds in Indiana.

"Our Hoosier soybean farmers are committed to helping grow our state's soybean industry by supporting our state's aquaculture industry," said Jeanette Merritt, chair of ISA's aquaculture committee from Peru, Ind. "Aquaculture is a promising and growing market for our soybeans and our board is committed to supporting this industry within the state as we continue to look to help build strong markets for our soybeans."

Currently, most Indiana aquaculture producers import their fish feed from Utah, Pennsylvania or Louisiana. This study will show if it makes sense economically to eliminate the transportation costs associated with shipping soybeans from Midwestern states, like Indiana, to be manufactured into fish feed and then shipping the fish feed to Indiana.

"This grant will allow us to take the next step in determining if Indiana could have enough volume of fish production to justify a feed mill dedicated to aquaculture," said Shelia Lingle, director of aquaculture for the Indiana Soybean Alliance.

If the grant shows that a feed mill focusing on serving the aquaculture industry would be viable in Indiana, it would not only grow a new market for Indiana soybeans, but it could also grow the state's aquaculture industry as well.

"As part of our long-term

strategic plan, ISA has a goal to triple Indiana aquaculture production and build a feed mill in Indiana," said Lingle. "A feed mill closer to the actual commodity for local aquaculture producers just makes sense, especially as soy-based fish feeds become more widely used."

The Indiana soybean checkoff has funded several studies showing soybean meal to be a good substitute for fish meal in various fish species diets. Additionally, ISA has commissioned a study to survey the volume of fish currently produced in a 20-state area touching Indiana. Both of these efforts will provide valuable information for the feed mill feasibility study.

"Industry representatives have been helpful in providing information on ranges of production it would take to justify a dedicated feed mill, but this study will help us refine those numbers," Lingle added. "If the results of the study say that Indiana can support this type of feed mill, the study itself can be a tool for others to use to go out and secure funding – both private and other USDA grants – to help build a feed mill here."

The USDA Value-Added Producer Grant provides \$15,000 for the feasibility study with ISA providing matching funds for the study. The USDA grants focus on supporting rural producers and local economies. The ISA grant was one of 110 awarded by USDA in May, including three others in Indiana.

"I am pleased the USDA has recognized the hard work the Hoosier ag community does for their communities and our entire state," said Senator Joe Donnelly in a recent release about this program. "The ag community is the backbone of Indiana's economy, and the investment in these business owners will allow them to develop better products and create more opportunities for hardworking Hoosiers who want a job close to home."

To learn more about ISA's aquaculture initiative, visit [www.indianasoybean.com](http://www.indianasoybean.com).

Source: Indiana Soybean Alliance





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*Richard will handle aquaculture extension matters south of I-70.*

### ***From the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations***

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012 reveals that the sector produced a record 128 million tonnes of fish for human food - an average of 18.4 kg per person - providing more than 4.3 billion people with about 15 percent of their animal protein intake. Fisheries and aquaculture are also a source of income for 55 million people.

Fisheries and aquaculture play a vital role in the global, national and rural economy," said FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva. "The livelihoods of 12 percent of the world's population depend directly or indirectly on them. Fisheries and aquaculture give an important contribution to food security and nutrition. They are the primary source of protein for 17 percent of the world's population and nearly a quarter in low-income food-deficit countries."

source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/150839/icode/>