

Inland Saline Aquaculture Workshop

24th & 25th June 2004

South Australian Research & Development Institute and Cooke Plains Inland Saline Aquaculture Research Centre

For the past two years SARDI has conducted Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and National Action Plan (NAP) funded research on inland saline aquaculture at the Cooke Plains Inland Saline Aquaculture Research Centre (CPISARC). One project involved using saline groundwater associated with dryland salinity to semi-intensively grow fish, and sequentially pass the wastewater through a series of ponds to undergo bio-mechanical filtration to produce a range of secondary products.

A second project was conducted to provide preliminary research towards development of aquaculture systems for commercial use of saline groundwater from salinity interception schemes (SIS's). This research has concentrated on utilisation of saline groundwater discharged into the Stockyard Plains Disposal Basin (SPDB) near Waikerie from the Woolpunda/Waikerie/Qualco SIS. This initial research evaluated the growth of mulloway cultured in water from SPDB compared to salinity adjusted oceanic water.

This research has identified that there is potential for a significant aquaculture industry to develop in the SA Riverland utilising water from salt interceptions provided that appropriate culture systems can be developed to address limitations that have been identified to date. A new NAP project submitted through the Centre of Natural Resource Management (CNRM) has recently been approved. This project aims to develop an R&D and pilot-scale demonstration facility at Waikerie using intercepted saline groundwater currently being discharged into SPDB. It is intended that this facility will be used to trial and demonstrate culture systems that maximise aquaculture production from the intercepted groundwater and provide a catalyst for a commercial Aquaculture Park.

SARDI will hold a National Aquaculture Council (NAC) funded two-day workshop on Inland Saline Aquaculture at 'The Shores Function Complex', Hamra Ave, West Best, opposite the South Australian Aquatic Science Centre (SAASC) on the 24th June 2004. The workshop agenda will be finalised by 4th June but will include:

- Summary of research conducted to date at CPISARC.

- Present SARDI's vision for inland aquaculture aligned to Salinity Interception Schemes in SA.
- A selection of presentations from a range of industry, regulatory and planning agencies involved with the range of issues that will effect the development of commercial Aquaculture Parks aligned to Salinity Interception Schemes.
- Discussion of these issues and collation of views to assist planning for the R&D and demonstration facility and the commercial Aquaculture Park concept.
- Identify collaborators for ongoing R&D and commercialisation activities.

A trip to the CPISARC is planned for the second day (25th June) to inspect the integrated system operating using saline groundwater associated with dryland salinity Those that wish to join this trip will be transported to the facility and returned by 3.00 pm with a lunch break at Taillem Bend.

Attendance to the workshop and site visit is free of charge.

RVSP date will be the 11th June.

Any further questions regarding the workshop can be directed to Tim Flowers (ph 08 8290 2304, flowers.tim@saugov.gov.sa.au).