

Trout Aquaculture

Industry Status Report

Main Features

Production current season (1997/98):

24.2 tonnes

Number of producers for year 1997/98:

8 (includes major pay-fishing dam operations)

Estimated annual value (to producers) for year 1997/98:

\$196,038

Production projection next year (1998/99):

25-30 tonnes

Production areas

Intensive trout culture is confined to the lower south-west by summer water temperatures and limited by the need for a large through-put volume of water.

Potential exists to expand production by the utilisation of irrigation dam water in transit to agricultural farms on the south-west coastal plain. In addition, farmers with saline underground water are evaluating the performance of rainbow trout, stocked as yearlings and grown out in dams during cooler months.

Annual Production

Production method(s)

Highly intensive pond culture for food, and extensive farming in large gully dams stocked for pay fishing.

Production

Up to 200,000 kg/ha/year in dedicated ponds; up to 1,500 kg/ha/year in nutrient-rich dams can be achieved.

General Comments

The Fisheries WA Pemberton trout hatchery provides support for the commercial trout farming industry as a by-product of producing trout fry for recreational stocking programs. Fry are also supplied to private buyers who stock private dams within tourist complexes. Trout sold via tourist fishing ventures do not appear within the commercial production records, although they add significant commercial benefits to that sector and the regional economy. There is a trend for major trout producers to move towards tourist fishing ventures, effectively 'adding value' to the trout grown in these systems. While there is no reliable method of estimating the value of this sector, its tourism value within the south-west may be similar to that of the trout grown for the general fish market trade.

Ornamental Fish Aquaculture

MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The production of a wide range of freshwater and marine ornamental fish species is a small but rapidly growing sector of the aquaculture industry in Western Australia. As at June 1999, 23 licences are on issue for the production of these species. During 1998/99, the agency published information on the opportunities for ornamental fish production in Western Australia, and also convened a session on ornamental fish aquaculture at the World Aquaculture Society Conference held in Sydney in April 1999.

Industry Status Report

Main Features

Production current season (1997/98):

183,480 fish

Number of producers for year 1997/98:

15

Estimated annual value (to producers) for year 1997/98:

\$67,666

Production projection next year (1998/99):

Approximately 200,000 fish

Production Areas

State-wide.

Annual Production

Production method(s)

Dedicated small ponds and aquaria; breeding and rearing of juveniles for live sales.

Extension and Information Transfer

As with other aquaculture species, the Fisheries Research Division provides considerable advice on ornamental fish aquaculture and proactively promotes native fish as ornamentals and for mosquito control; however, most of this culture is for internationally well known exotic species (e.g. Cichlidae) associated with the aquarium trade. A major advisory publication on production of aquarium fish was released in 1998/99.

General Comments

Commercial production recorded for 1998/99 indicated considerable volatility in production for major aquarium fish groups.