

Leading finfish-farming entrepreneur to headline conference

Thue Holm, CEO of Atlantic Sapphire AS and the entrepreneurial drive behind Langsand Laks AS, the world's first commercial-scale land-based salmon farm using recirculating systems, is keynote speaker at this year's New Zealand Aquaculture Conference, *Feeding the Future*. The conference takes place in Nelson on October 23 and 24.

Holm's visit to New Zealand is sponsored by NIWA, whose Bream Bay Aquaculture Park in Northland is a world-renowned centre of expertise in research and services that support commercially viable and environmentally sustainable aquaculture developments. Holm will share personal insight into the opportunities and challenges of commercial-scale farming of high value finfish in recirculation systems.

Andrew Forsyth, NIWA's Chief Scientist, Aquaculture, says there is enormous worldwide demand for high quality, high value aquaculture products from New Zealand. "We need to realise these opportunities in ways which are environmentally and socially sustainable and commercially competitive," he says.

"New Zealand enjoys a robust regulatory framework that ensures undesired effects from finfish farming are managed and unacceptable environmental changes do not occur. Nevertheless, the interests of numerous marine estate stakeholders increase the complexity, cost and time involved in developing marine aquaculture enterprises.

"We have watched the development of land-based aquaculture with great interest, and recognise that market conditions and technical developments indicate recirculating aquaculture systems will be part of the development mix in the foreseeable future.

"We look forward to the unique hands-on perspective that Mr Holm will bring to the discussion."

Thue Holm – profile

Thue Holm is the CEO of Atlantic Sapphire AS and the entrepreneurial drive behind Langsand Laks AS, the world's first commercial-scale land-based salmon farm using recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) to produce finished product to market. With the Atlantic Sapphire team, Thue is now building one of the largest RAS systems for Atlantic salmon in North America.

Thue trained as an environmental biologist at Roskilde Universitetscenter in Denmark. He has worked with recirculation technologies for seven years at Billund Aquaculture, a leading supplier of RAS systems. He has worked with RAS land-based grow-out salmon farming technology for more than five years and has been involved in six projects worldwide designed to produce between 1000 and 5000 tonnes per year.

From 2004 to 2006, Thue and Marcelo Varela developed Billund Aquaculture Chile, during which time Thue was in charge of building the biggest RAS Smolt systems in the world. He grew the company from two employees in 2004 to 30 employees in 2006.

From 2006 to 2011, Thue was the worldwide project coordinator and a senior manager for Billund Aquaculture. In this period, BA built the largest RAS sturgeon farm in the world – in Moldova.

In 2010, Thue conceived the Langsand Laks project, raised the capital and started the business.