



# Aqua Maof nabs deal for \$57 million Grieg salmon facility

Facility will produce 7 million smolt annually, executive tells  
**IntraFish**

by Elisabeth Fischer

AMG Norway, a subsidiary of the Israeli aquaculture tech provider Aqua Maof Group, inked a deal with Grieg Newfoundland to build the "world's largest indoor salmon aquaculture facility" in Newfoundland, Canada, Yoav Dagan, vice president of Aqua Maof, told **IntraFish**.

Construction of the Marystown-located recirculation aquaculture system (RAS) hatchery and nursery facility will kick off in early 2017, and the overall project investment is estimated at CAD 75 million (€50.3 million/\$56.7 million).

The facility, which will deploy Aqua Maof's RAS technology, will produce 7 million smolt every year, ranging up to an average weight of 1,500 grams.

Grieg NL plans to stock 11 sea-cage sites for the subsequent grow-out, planning to harvest 33,000 metric tons of Atlantic salmon annually by 2023 -- which will more than double Newfoundland's current production of the fish.

The overall investment for the entire project is estimated at CAD 251 million (€168.5 million/\$189.6 million).

Construction of the RAS facility will happen quickly, Dagan said. The intention is to reach a size that "will allow Grieg to go into the market within one season."

The facility will include an incubation area, a hatchery and a smolt area, the latter will use saline water. And the standards will be high, Dagan said, with zero wastewater discharge.

By the end of 2017 or early 2018 the first smolt should be produced, should everything go according to plan, Dagan told **IntraFish**.

While this is not the biggest project for Aqua Maof, it is certainly one of the most strategic ones, he said.

"Grieg is one of the leaders in the Atlantic salmon farming business and their due diligence has emphasized our technology's strength," he said.

"It will give us and our technology recognition in salmon industry's future."

Commenting on the long-lasting debate on land-based salmon farming, Dagan said he doesn't believe that RAS facilities will ever be able to replace cage systems.

But there needs to be a combination of the two "for future growth," he said. "We see a big potential to grow bigger smolt in RAS facilities for the industry, to make better use of their concessions."

Dagan also emphasized that sustainability, eco-friendliness and creating jobs for the local community in Newfoundland are on top of both Aqua Maof's and Grieg's agenda.

In addition to the Newfoundland facility, Aqua Maof is in the advanced planning process for seven more facilities in locations across the globe. About 70 percent of the planned future facilities will be dedicated to salmon.

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