

SHOWCASE

New feed reduces phosphorous for freshwater producers

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans recently unveiled a new feed for freshwater fish which it says two major Canadian feed companies are now producing and which provides major advantages over conventional feeds.

Developed by the agency alongside scientists at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Laval University in Quebec, Corey Feeds and Skretting in New Brunswick and fish farms in Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan, the new feed is being touted as not only better for the fish in terms of feed-conversion, but is also a sizeable improvement for the environment.

Tests were done on trout from between 30 grams and 1.5 kgs, in laboratory settings and in field trials, says project initiator and overseer-committee member Eric Gilbert. The results were consistent throughout he said: the two new Canadian diets yielded an improved FCR averaging 30%

better than the previous, "traditional" diets being used in the industry, and the amount of phosphorous waste was roughly 36% lower.

Gilbert, a senior official in DFO's sustainable aquaculture directorate, acknowledged that the new diets – put out by Corey Feeds as Optimum and by Skretting as Orient LP

(Low Phosphorous) – are more costly per tonne than the older diets. He said though that this is more than made up for by the advantages for the fish farmer and hatchery operator.

A spokes-

person for Corey

Feeds in Atlantic Canada confirmed that the company had already seen large numbers of producer companies in Quebec switch over to the new feed in the face of new, phosphorous-restricting guidelines about to be introduced in the province.

The feed comes in a variety of pellet sizes, down to a pellet small enough for fingerlings and fry in hatcheries.

– *Quentin Dodd*

