

Aquaculture

North America

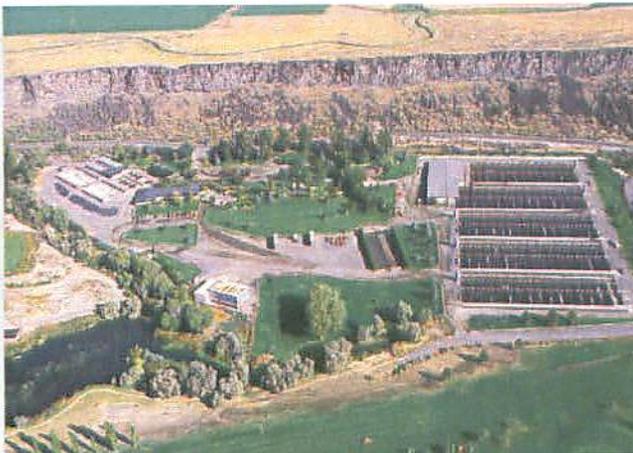
Fish Farming in the United States & Canada

WATER WARS

Fish Farms vs the Pumpers

In Idaho there's been a decade's long war between some of the region's trout farmers and the terrestrial farmers on the tableland above. It's a battle for access to the rich aquifer that feeds water to the area and although some fish farmers can lay claim to proprietary rights it hasn't guaranteed the water supply. For the latest on this continuing story go to page 11.

Aerial view of the Clear Springs Foods Snake River Farm Complex. Above and beyond the farm is the Eastern Snake River Plain where water comes from the gigantic underlying Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. At right in the photo is the Snake River Farm, Clear Spring's smallest facility, and to the left is the company's Research and Development Center and Snake River Brood Station where it operates a selective breeding program. Clear Springs is dependent on water from the aquifer to which the company has senior (i.e. proprietary) rights.



PILOT PROJECT

Experimental offshore mussel farm drops lines off Martha's Vineyard

BY ERICH LUENING | CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Situated just a few miles off Cape Cod, the island of Martha's Vineyard is world famous for playing host to presidents and Hollywood celebrities, but now it has become home to a pilot offshore blue mussel farm.

The newest addition to the small shellfish farming community here is an experimental submerged mussel farm that went into the water in September. Fulltime fishermen and part-time shellfish farmers, Alec Gale and Tim Broderick dropped a 500-foot cable 30 feet underwater in Vineyard Sound which opens out into the Atlantic Ocean and then hung lines off the cable that were loaded with juvenile blue mussels, held to the line by biodegradable socks.

"We've both been commercial fisherman for years," said Broderick on board Gale's boat the *Jane Lee*, a 55-foot commercial fishing boat they use for sea clamming in the winter and transporting locally caught fish to mainland markets in the summer. "They needed guys to do the work, who knew how to use the gear and could have a big enough boat to get out there."

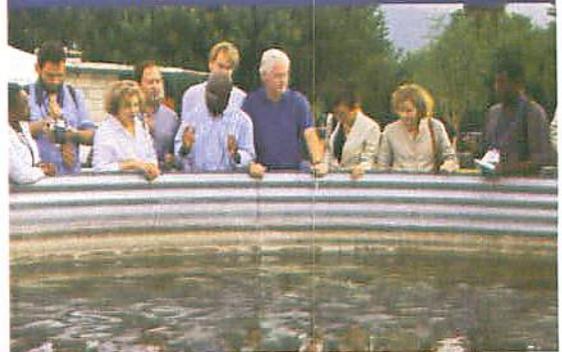
Broderick and Gale took on the hard work of building and deploying the pilot project in Martha's Vineyard island waters. Broderick and Gale's system follows the University of New

continued on page 6



The goal is for the pilot farm and others like it to provide secondary jobs that will supplement the incomes of commercial fishermen in the region.

GOOD BREEDING



In his capacity as the United Nation's Special Envoy to Haiti Bill Clinton (centre in blue) recently escorted a group of potential investors to a tilapia farm in that Caribbean country. Photo: UN/Logan Abassi

Former US president touts benefits of Haitian fish farm

Bill Clinton encourages investment in tilapia culture

Former US President Bill Clinton is apparently a fan of aquaculture – at least the way it's practised in Haiti where he recently visited a tilapia farm to show some potential investors what a great opportunity it is.

According to a report in the *Miami Herald*, Clinton was in a relaxed mood when he looked over some large aluminum fish tanks at the operation, located some 14 kms from downtown Port-au-Prince, the capital of the impoverished Caribbean nation.

A number of reports indicate that he was impressed with what he was shown by the farmers, to the extent of not just lauding the fish farm, but also delivering what one observer termed "his best sales pitch" to a whole busload of foreign (to Haiti) investors he had brought along for the event.

The fish farm is designed to be as self-sufficient as possible including solar panels to help power the operation in a country where it's well known for its unreliability.

continued on page 6

FROM THE COVER

Experimental offshore mussel farm drops lines off Martha's Vineyard

continued from page 1



Fishermen Alec Gale and Tim Broderick with Marine Biological Laboratories volunteer Rob Reynolds deploy longlines and anchor in Martha's Vineyard Sound.



Alec Gale and Tim Broderick show off their "socks"



View of longline floats on a blustery New England day

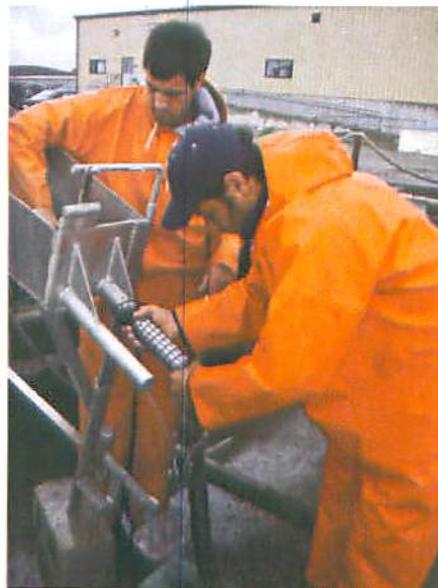
Hampshire model where two clusters of submersible floats raise the line to form the corners of a horizontal backbone from which loops of mussel grow-out ropes are suspended. Additional floats along the backbone help maintain the line at the desired depth as the mussels gain weight during growout. On the surface, all that is visible are three buoys, one tethered to a Jayco Stingray high performance anchor to mark the location of the longline, and one attached to the center point of the backbone for raising the line to the surface.

If all goes well, they hope to pull the first marketable mussels in July. Their dream is to turn the pilot farm into a secondary job to supplement their commercial fishing enterprise and build a new fishery for other lobstermen and fishermen to take part in.

A follow-on project recently dropped lines in waters off the South West coast of the island.

The Vineyard pilot farms are part of a wider effort in the region with pilot farms also set in Narragansett Bay and the waters off Newport and Block Island in Rhode Island. Fishermen are participating in the project along with a shellfish processor in Rhode Island who is contributing mussel seed.

"This just feels right," said Broderick, who has a degree in marine biology. "We're



Mason Silkes, American Mussel Harvesters, and Johnny Murt, Marine Biological Lab, socking mussel seed.

always looking for new ways to make a living on the water."

Some of the cost was underwritten through a \$214,000 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant as well as local financial support from the Menemsha Fisheries Fund. The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group is administering the project in partnership with the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole.

ANA

Clinton touts benefits of Haitian fish farm

continued from page 1

The farm not only provides a high source of protein to some very impoverished Haitians, but also puts some money in their hands to live on. It's run as part of a local development program by Dr. Valentin Abe.

Abe, a graduate of Auburn University's School of Aquaculture, launched the Haiti Fish Development Project (HFDP) with the eventual aim of re-establishing fishing as a reliable occupation in Haiti.

During Clinton's visit, Abe was quoted as saying he was looking anywhere to find financial backing to expand the farm to help economic development surrounding it.

As a result, the farm, came to Clinton's attention in his role as the United Nation's Special Envoy to Haiti.

The operation became the last stop of a whirlwind visit leading a trade mission which attracted some 600 business and civic leaders, including 200 foreign investors, to a presentation he made at the Karibe Hotel in Petionville.

After a tour of the fish farm, Clinton touted the tilapia project's use of solar panels and other environmentally friendly techniques.

"Take the tour, treat yourself," he is quoted as saying. "It is an example of entrepreneurship that is infinitely expandable."

At the farm, juvenile tilapia are raised for two months before being sold at 10 cents apiece to local farmers, who put them into cages for growout. The cages are then put in the river, and the fish are fed three times a day for the next four months.

The ones that weigh a pound are sold back to the farm to be processed and sold to local markets, restaurants and hotels. The profits from those sales are then shared between the business and the farmer.

"Anybody who invests in this makes a profit right away," Clinton is reported to have told his audience of potential investors. "It is the least expensive, highest-guaranteed return project I have seen in any country in which I've worked, anywhere in the world."

- Quentin Dodd