

## NEWS

# Indoor shrimp farm starts-up in Massachusetts



BY ERICH LUENING

**T**he owners of Sky8 Shrimp Farm, based in Stoughton, Massachusetts, hope to sell their first Pacific White Shrimp in March, but that's just the start of what company founders plan for the Bay State farm.

Local entrepreneur James Tran is the founding partner of Sky 8 Shrimp Farm. The farm officially launched last November when post-larval shrimp arrived by air from the Florida Keys.

"Our consultant, Leon Claessens, of the Netherlands-based Aquaculture Farming Technologies (AFT), and I designed the indoor shrimp facility," Tran told Aquaculture North America.

The first run of shrimp scheduled to be harvested in March is a pilot run of small proportions. "Low density of 3,300 shrimp, in five tanks for a test run," said Tran. "Next year we'll have production of about \$1 million with more to grow on site. I also have a project working to find investors for a similar project in California. The technology is there to have one shrimp farm in each state. Going forward I think that's doable."

AFT maintains a shrimp farm and research center at their center in the Netherlands where they research

bio-floc minimum-exchange shrimp farming.

"Our biofloc system has no recharge of water," Tran said. The farm recycles its water after every harvest.

The farm also has a laboratory on site to monitor the health of the shrimp through the whole growth process.

The farm's founding partners lease 7,200 foot of indoor space for its fiberglass tanks, water pumps and heating and filtration equipment, Tran explained.

Peter Howard, a consultant for Sky 8, is reportedly helping the company seek additional capital, which it will use to lease more space and purchase more post-larvae. Sky 8 hopes to get from \$12 to \$15 per pound for its shrimp from local restaurants.

Tran got the idea of farming shrimp from a brother who lives in his home-country of Vietnam and who has his own shrimp research technology company.

The sky8 product is the Pacific White Shrimp, (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) which the company says it will sell at sizes 22-25gm (16/20 per pound) as a fresh product to restaurants in Massachusetts.



ANA

## Cape Cod shellfish hatchery not giving up on wind turbine



Artist's rendering of proposed wind turbine at Cape Cod hatchery site.

### Company back in court again

**A** Cape Cod shellfish hatchery's bid to build a wind turbine near Chapin Memorial Beach in the township of Dennis was back in Orleans District Court a few weeks ago where the company vice-president contended that the turbine would be what he termed "a financial security blanket" against climbing energy costs.

Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) launched the action against the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission on the basis that the deciding body had no legitimate grounds for overturning a decision in 2010 by the Dennis Historical Commission to approve construction of the 242-foot-high turbine on a site overlooking a beach in the area.

ARC launched the lawsuit with initial arguments just over a year ago, but shortly thereafter ARC president Richard Kraus indicated his company was dropping the action: it was simply too expensive and time-consuming.

But by mid-January this year the protagonists were back in court again, with ARC prepared to acknowledge in court that its energy bills haven't been improved by the poor state of repair of the hatchery – or by the cost of a kilowatt-hour doubling from 10 cents to nearly 20 cents between 2002 and 2009.

And ARC argued that having a turbine to supply energy and reduce electricity bills would allow it to take out a loan to carry out necessary repairs for the hatchery, estimated at some \$525,000, and also repair a seawall, another roughly \$470,000, ARC vice-president and co-owner Gail Hart is quoted as telling the court.

Thomas Michaelman, a principal of Boreal Renewable Energy Development, which consults on turbines, is quoted as telling the court that the turbine would produce 1.5 million kilowatt-hours in a year – enough, he said, for ARC to sell surplus energy credits to the local utility.

Michaelman termed it "a very windy site," and said that with the nearest residential property more than 3,000 feet away, intermittent shadow flicker from the turbine wouldn't be a problem.

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