



## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

# Aquaculture

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**Market Research & Intelligence | Marine and Freshwater Species Advisory |  
Site Audits | Regenerative & IMTA Aquaculture |  
Due Dilligence Assignments | LCA's | Project Planning & Engineering |**

# Contents

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|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>AQUACULTURE</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| Introduction of Services Offered                           |           |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>AQUACULTURE CONSULTANCY SERVICES</b>                    | <b>7</b>  |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>MARKET RESEARCH &amp; INTELLIGENCE</b>                  | <b>8</b>  |
| Expertise and Experience                                   |           |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>CAGE AQUACULTURE</b>                                    | <b>10</b> |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>SHRIMP FARMING</b>                                      | <b>12</b> |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>LAND BASED AQUACULTURE</b>                              | <b>14</b> |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>RECIRCULATION AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS (RAS)</b>             | <b>15</b> |
| Our state-of-the-art designs                               |           |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>HATCHERIES</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>AQUATIC RESEARCH FACILITIES</b>                         | <b>18</b> |
| ABT Innovia  |           |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>AQUAPONICS</b>  | <b>20</b> |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>OPERATION SUPPORT / CONTRACT MANAGEMENT</b>             | <b>22</b> |
| Technical Training and Strategy                            |           |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>PROCESSING FACILITIES / FEED MILLS / AUDITION HALLS</b> | <b>24</b> |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS</b>                     | <b>25</b> |
| European and International                                 |           |
| <hr/>  |           |
| <b>WHO WE ARE</b>  | <b>28</b> |
| Divisions within AquaBioTech Group                         |           |

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# Introduction

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**AquaBioTech Group** is an international aquaculture, fisheries and marine consultancy and engineering company. Its headquarters are strategically located in the centre of the Mediterranean, on the island of Malta, and operates globally with clients in over fifty-five countries.

**AquaBioTech Group** undertakes a variety of aquaculture, fisheries, and aquatic environmental projects through its regional offices and selected partners throughout the world. The vast majority of the company's work is related to the marine or aquatic environment, encompassing aquaculture developments, market research/intelligence, thorough project feasibility assessments, finance acquisition, project management, technology sourcing and technical support, and training.

**ABT Aquaculture** has developed a number of highly efficient and cost-effective Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS). We have designed systems for a number of hatcheries, broodstock, aquatic research, aquaponic systems and on-growing operations. We constantly strive to be at the forefront of our industry by testing and developing innovative technologies.

# Aquaculture

## Aquaculture Consultancy Services

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### ■ Feasibility Studies

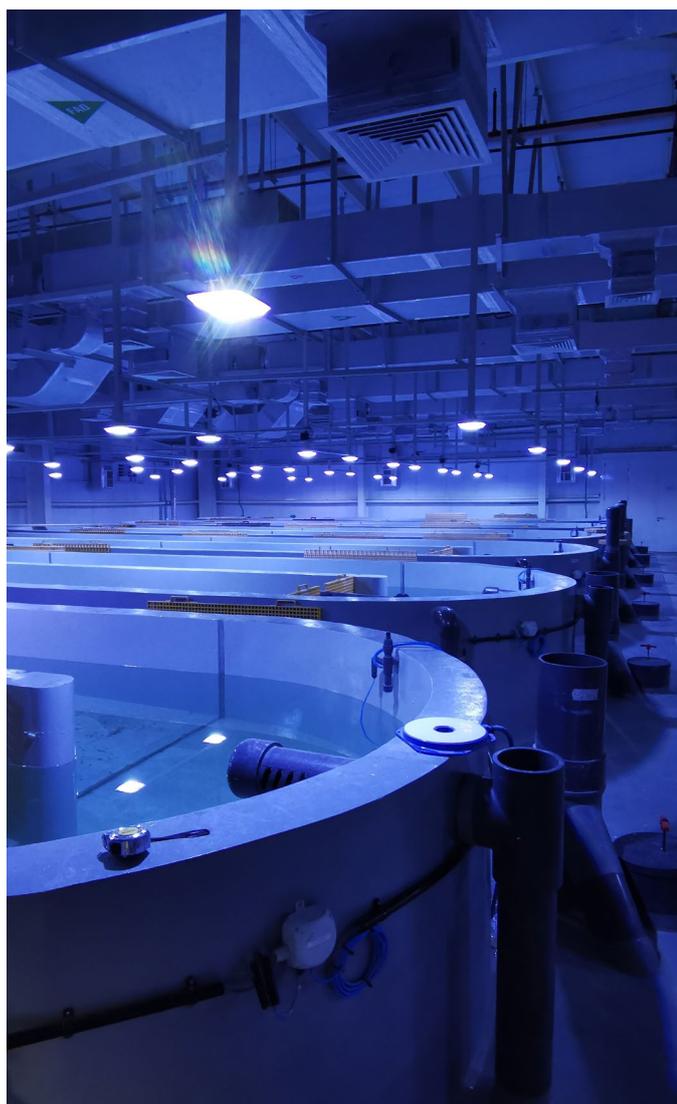
For new developments, **AquaBioTech Group** can undertake a complete assessment for projects, including site selection, financial reviews, risk assessments and technical surveys.

For existing developments, we can undertake complete technical assessments and troubleshooting for a variety of on- growing operations, developing detailed proposals for problem mitigation. **AquaBioTech Group** also advises on regulatory control, infrastructure requirements, environmental issues, and other matters necessary to ensure sustainable aquaculture development.

### ■ Business Planning

Aquaculture entrepreneurs must identify their business structure before operations can begin. They must understand the ins and outs of their business, from its core operations to its customer service. This analysis of the business and its external environment will help to drive business decisions and develop business strategies. In similar ways, investors, financial institutions, and authorities require them to provide a comprehensive business plan in order to understand the concept behind the investment and to ensure the entrepreneur is well prepared.

**AquaBioTech Group** has provided business plan preparation services for aquaculture and fisheries projects for many years for a diverse range of projects.





## ■ Specialist Audits

**AquaBioTech Group** is often called upon to execute specialist assessments for aquaculture projects. These audits are undertaken for entities such as insurance companies, financial institutions, corporate investors, development agencies and public, private and intergovernmental bodies for all sizes and types of aquaculture operations.

## ■ Due Diligence Audits

Technical, operational, and financial due diligence audits are undertaken in conjunction with legal and finance auditing teams to assess the overall status of a potential aquaculture investment asset. **AquaBioTech Group** employs a unique approach based on extensive management expertise, market awareness and comprehensive technical knowledge of aquaculture operations to present detailed insight of an operation's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.

## ■ Risk Management Audits

For insurance purposes, project planning or as an internal exercise, risk management audits are an important tool to identify, assess and prioritise threats. **AquaBioTech Group**, combining multidisciplinary expertise in aquaculture operations can offer a complete approach to aquaculture risk management, utilising quantitative and qualitative methods to assess risks and recommend cost-efficient mitigation measures.

# Aquaculture

## Aquaculture Consultancy Services

### ■ Biosecurity Consultancy

Biosecurity is one of the most important aspects in animal production since it prevents the introduction, spread and transmission of disease into, within and between animal production facilities.

Although basic in principle, biosecurity is one of the most challenging aspects of food production, as it encompasses the design, implementation and monitoring of specific measures at each step of the animal production process.

Insufficient or absent biosecurity on the contrary, poses a risk to the sustainability and continuity of the food production business, as economical losses from disease event can be potentially catastrophic. Therefore, stand-alone biosecurity audits are a much sought-after service. These can be performed for producers, risk managers, insurance companies or aquaculture investors.

**AquaBioTech Group** places emphasis on biosecurity and animal welfare in its daily work, both in its R&D facilities as well as projects conducted for clients. **AquaBioTech Group** employs a comprehensive methodology to assess the exposure of a given animal production facility to disease risk, identify the critical control points for the implementation of biosecurity measures and propose risk mitigation measures based on cost-benefit analysis and industry-standard decision-making tools.

Furthermore, our biosecurity consultancy services extend to offer education and training in best sampling practices, disease recognition, best disinfection practices, responsible use of pharmaceuticals, and quality assurance for the purchase of fish stocks.



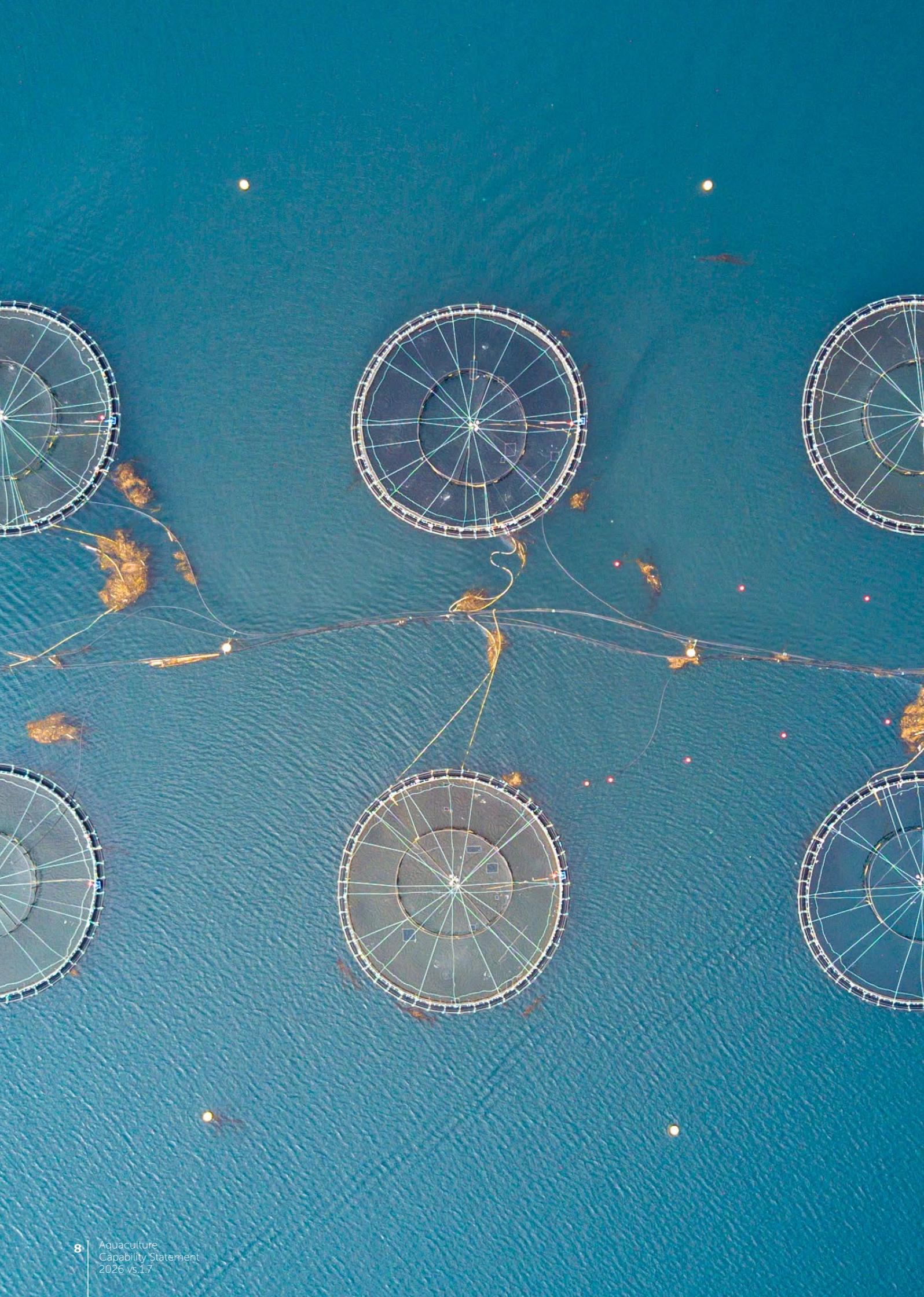
## ■ Market Research & Intelligence

**AquaBioTech Group** has a dedicated market research and intelligence team providing specialised services for clients ranging from industry stakeholders, associations, public bodies, development agencies and financial institutions. Market research and intelligence assessments are commissioned primarily covering subjects from aquaculture and fisheries to fish health, nutrition, research, financing and trade facilitation processes.

Our portfolio includes several services including product surveys, regional support services, GIS based studies, business intelligence research, channel/ supply chain research, market sizing, and trade promotion preparedness studies. Complementary to market research and intelligence, **AquaBioTech Group** provides several business and coaching services ranging from business planning and market entry assistance to export coaching and institutional and human resource development. **AquaBioTech Group** ensures the legal and ethical collection and analysis of information whilst treating the data with the highest level of confidentiality and integrity.

Our international team, composed of skilled and experienced staff can provide access to valuable insight information of the markets. By working with local partners, we can provide accurate information and ensure data validation.







## Aquaculture

# Cage Culture

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**AquaBioTech Group** can provide a complete service from project design through to installation and commissioning. We have experience with cages from nearly all the major cage manufacturers as well as designing tailor made cage and mooring grids for specific projects.

### ■ Site Assessment

New developments: **AquaBioTech Group** can undertake a complete assessment for projects, including site selection, financial reviews and technical surveys.

Existing developments, **AquaBioTech Group** undertakes complete technical assessments and troubleshooting for a variety of on growing operations, developing detailed proposals for mitigation.

AquaBioTech Group also advises on regulatory control, infrastructure requirements, environmental issues and other matters necessary to ensure sustainable aquaculture development.

### ■ Bathymetric Surveys

Seabed assessments and bathymetric surveys are an integral part of any modern aquaculture development. **AquaBioTech Group** uses a number of advanced survey and analysis methods so as to model and predict ideal site locations based on available and collected data.

### ■ Equipment

A large variety of technologies from various suppliers are required for any sort of new aquaculture development or existing venture. As part of the services **AquaBioTech Group** offers its clients, the company sources a large variety of equipment ranging from nets, cages and vessels to oxygen meters and microscopes.

As **AquaBioTech Group** does not manufacture any equipment of its own, we are able to offer our clients a truly independent assessment of which equipment is best for each project concerned.

In conjunction with this and due to our extensive purchasing power, we are also able to secure the very lowest prices for our clients and ensure that all products are compatible and functional for the project concerned.

## ■ Near Shore Activities

Whilst the availability of near-shore locations is rapidly decreasing due to competition with other users, near-shore aquaculture is still a pillar of the global aquaculture industry.

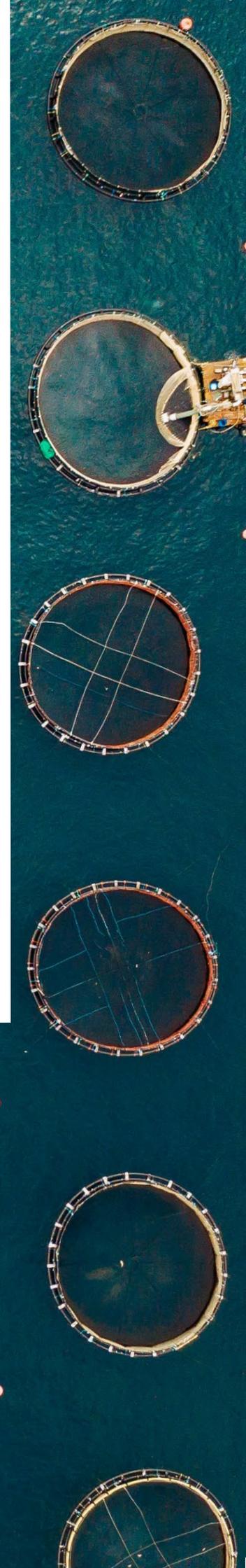
Undertaking intensive aquaculture close to shore poses several environmental challenges such as water exchange modelling together with bioremediation and biological issues such as adequate oxygen levels in the water. These and many other factors require adequate consideration and planning before commencement of operations.

## ■ IMTA

Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) combines multiple species from different levels of the food chain in one system. The system normally consists of fed aquaculture, inorganic extractive and organic extractive species to create a balanced environment. IMTA utilises the excess feed, wastes and nutrients of the finfish for the growth of shellfish and marine plants. For IMTA, species selection and positioning are essential. The system design is engineered to optimise the utilisation of waste products of the cage aquaculture.

**AquaBioTech Group** is establishing a pilot IMTA system off the coast of Malta, to utilise the fish farm effluents for further shellfish production and evaluate the site assessment method.

Coupling dispersion patterns and benthic community data, the pilot project aims to assess the environmental parameters that influence the feasibility, design and optimal species for an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) system in the specific environment.



# Aquaculture

## Shrimp Farming

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### ■ Shrimp Farming

Shrimp farms from large-scale extensive to small-scale intensive operations can be designed in-house. The company also offers technical assistance to existing farms in areas such as broodstock domestication, maturation, and hatchery production.

**AquaBioTech Group**'s experts can assist to all the different aspects of the shrimp farming development including:

- Seed Supply
- Site selection
- Species culture
- Culture Techniques
- Water Quality Management
- Pond Design / System Design
- Feeding Management Strategies
- Environmental Impact Assessment

In addition, the company is working towards establishing successful business and operation models for the development of RAS shrimp farms. For existing farms **AquaBioTech Group** offers technical assistance in areas such as broodstock domestication, maturation, and hatchery



## Aquaculture

# Land Based Aquaculture

With extensive global experience in the design and construction of recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) for new projects and retrofits, we offer a wealth of knowledge, assisting in management and monitoring of land-based production facilities. From flow-through systems to super intensive RAS, our company undertakes a variety of projects. These include anything from full project engineering to specific biological aspects of production systems for mainstream and emerging species. All projects include an online monitoring system that allows our staff to continuously monitor the system's performance from our head office.

### ■ Filtration Systems

As a result of the efforts of our own research and development department we have developed some of the most advanced and cost-effective filtration solutions available on the market today. Filtration modules that can process from 2 m<sup>3</sup> up to 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water per hour are available, as well as custom- designed solutions that are specific for each client's requirements and budget.

### ■ Hatchery Technology

Using the very latest technology, [AquaBioTech Group](#)'s research facilities host several recirculation systems that are able to function as a fully operational hatchery. Studies using our in- house capabilities have developed new techniques for improving hatchery production, efficiency, and knowledge. The facility also provides our staff with valuable practical knowledge of how systems perform, therefore helping to consult and advise our clients and provide continuous technical and operational support.

### ■ Grow-out Technology

Our large-scale recirculation systems are designed to produce optimal performance in terms of production, energy consumption, and reduce water discharge. Complete systems are designed with biosecurity as a priority and include integrated online monitoring systems to enable our staff to provide remote support and advice to clients, long after the onsite training has been completed. The technology retains fundamental design aspects that we have found to be successful and adaptable to clients of varying requirements and to species specific requirements.

We also offer crucial production planning by our staff experienced in commercial grow out RAS farming, which has proven to raise the efficiency of the facilities and increase the production potential; essentially gaining more output tonnage from the same water volume and filtration system.

### ■ 3D Computer Aided Design

All projects undertaken are planned using the very latest CAD software and 3D modelling tools. This technology allows for a complete visualisation of the proposed project and integration of all aspects of the construction.





## Aquaculture

# RAS Technology

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**AquaBioTech Group** offers design and engineering services for recirculating aquaculture facilities for both research and commercial use. Our design and engineering department is specialised in the newest and most efficient technologies. The resident team of engineers and architects can tailor projects to every requirement and support the client from start to finish on all technical and biological aspects including:

- Installation; third-party quality control
- Feasibility study and project budgeting
- Online technical and biological support
- Full RAS system design and bio-planning
- Full production planning and maximising of production efficiency / potential
- Conceptual planning using 3D CAD software
- Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)
- Civil works design; structural, electrical

**AquaBioTech Group** apply its expertise to design:

- Solids separation devices (hydro cyclones and radial flow separators)
- Tanks for every application (fish tanks, biofilter tanks, sumps, etc.)
- Down flow bubble contractors (oxygen and ozone cones)
- Packed columns oxygenation and degassing
- Protein skimmers

Complete systems are designed with biosecurity as a priority and include integrated online monitoring systems to enable our staff to provide remote support and advice to the client, long after the onsite training has been completed.



## Aquaculture

# Hatcheries

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Hatcheries are a complex part of aquaculture and their design and operation is possibly the most difficult part of the aquaculture process. Careful thought and consideration must be placed in designing any new hatchery to ensure that an efficient and continuous production of fry is achieved. **AquaBioTech Group** offers several hatchery solutions ranging from small and medium-scale units to full-scale commercial hatcheries.

These designs include some of the very latest technologies that allow for complete recirculation of the culture water. Hatchery projects are undertaken for a wide range of species from salmon and trout, through to Asian seabass and shrimp. In designing or upgrading any hatchery operation, the selection of the correct technologies is essential for ensuring success. Location, economic circumstances, and various other parameters have an impact on the final design of the facility and the level of the technology investment required.

Broodstock control and management is a difficult, yet essential part of any hatchery operation. Ensuring that the broodstock deliver the quantity and quality of eggs required at the right time involves considerable planning and understanding of broodstock nutritional requirements and environmental control. Broodstock selection and improvement is also another area of work that is becoming increasingly important and protocols developed in-house have been used internationally on genetic improvement projects.

**AquaBioTech Group** can assist clients in ensuring that their broodstock are managed properly with fishcomprehensive husbandry protocols and selective breeding programmes.

Live feed production, be it rotifers, copepods, or artemia, are the fundamental basis of any hatchery feeding regime, but ensuring continuity and quality of this production is anything but easy. **AquaBioTech Group** can assist clients in preparing production protocols and strategies for continuous and batch culture of rotifers, as well as technically and practically supporting existing operations with site audits.

The larval stages of aquatic species is the most sensitive periods and one of the primary areas to improve productivity and success in an aquaculture facility. AquaBioTech Group offers full management programmes, from hatching to grow-out, including comprehensive feeding and nutrition guidance and environmental parameters and monitoring.

## Aquaculture

# Aquatic Research Facilities

Research involving aquatic organisms is increasing and with this comes the need to create highly customised facilities. **AquaBioTech Group** has been entrusted with designing, building, and installing some of the most specialised aquatic research facilities in the world. The company is able to undertake projects for all types of medical, veterinarian, nutritional and biological / ecotoxicological research. .

**AquaBioTech Group** has delivered successful studies for over two decades in areas such as:

- Feed trials for novel ingredients and innovative formulations
- Epidemiology
- Vaccine development
- Use of smart technology in improving welfare and efficiency
- Water quality monitoring
- Novel water treatment methods
- Biofouling efficacy
- Algae, daphnia, copepod toxicology assays



The research facility of **ABT Innovia** has become internationally recognised and has resulted in all of world's leading fish feed and aquatic vetriceutical producers using the facility for independent testing and verification.

## Aquaculture

# Aquaponics

Aquaponics is an integrated approach to efficient and sustainable method of intensive soilless agriculture based on the use of aquaculture effluents. It uses the nutrients that are usually discarded as aquaculture wastewater. At the same time this system uses more than 90 % less water than traditional agriculture.

**AquaBioTech Group** has established a highly efficient recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) which can be connected to its own biological reactor and connected to a hydroponic system. Either component can be adapted and added on to existing fish or hydroponic farms to create a working 'aquaponic' system or developed as an entirely new unit.

Our team of engineers and architects, along with external partners, can tailor projects according to the clients' requirements and provide support from start to finish on all technical, biological and production aspects including:

- System design, including RAS and hydroponics
- Online and onsite technical and biological support
- Installation: including third-party Quality Control
- Feasibility studies and project budgeting
- Commissioning and technical training
- Consultancy on existing systems

### ■ Plant Production Technology

Utilising the most efficient technology in the market makes our systems competitive with traditional hydroponics. By implementing integrated pest management (IPM) we minimise the use of phytopharmaceuticals.

### ■ Nutrient Management

Running a low environmental impact farm while remaining competitive, demands integral understanding of how the plants utilise nutrients and methods of renewing the enriched RAS wastewater to keep the nutrients in balance.

### ■ Mineralisation

Effluent with a high solids concentration from the RAS filtration system is collected in a biological reactor. In the process the solids are transformed to a form that is easily absorbed by the plants in the hydroponic farm. This can cut the cost of fertilizers by 70% and reduce the environmental impact by 80%.

## Aquaculture

# Operation Support & Contract Management

Creating a new aquaculture operation or taking over / restructuring an existing operation is only the first step in the creation of a viable business entity. **AquaBioTech Group** seeks to assist clients through every step of their business and provide timely information to clients so that their actions can be proactive and ahead of the competition.

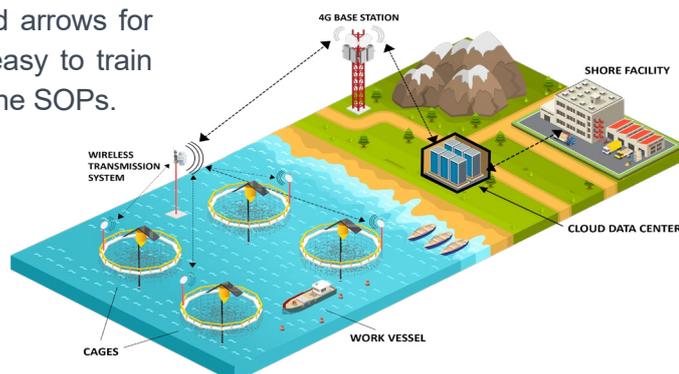
Design and engineering make an aquaculture facility work, and good management makes it successful. **AquaBioTech Group** believes that it is our responsibility to not only provide the hardware to our clients, but also our knowledge of the efficient operation and management of RAS facilities. Therefore, all **AquaBioTech Group** systems come with several additional services as standard.

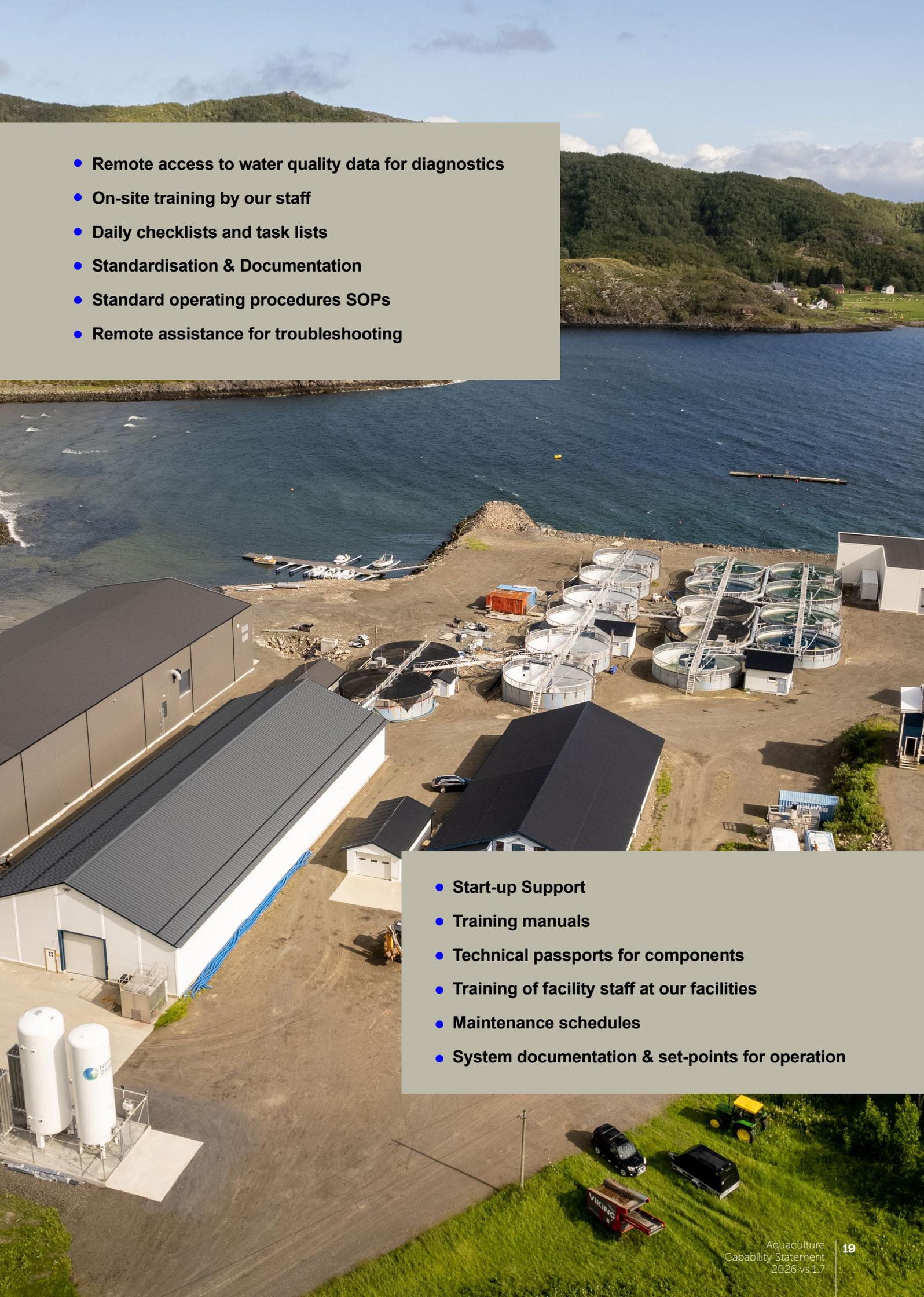
**AquaBioTech Group** offers all the necessary documentation and support to take the RAS facility into operation smoothly and efficiently. All **AquaBioTech Group** systems come with full and comprehensive documentation on system configuration, operation, and maintenance. The regular tasks of operation and maintenance are summarised in concise tasks list, and detailed information on the procedures is provided in a set of client-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

As part of the installation we also label the equipment and key pipes with colour coded arrows for example, so that it is easy to train technicians and follow the SOPs.

For all the RAS projects the **AquaBioTech Group** provides technical support for the system operation for a period of one-year from the date of the technology commissioning at the project site, at no additional cost, as long as full access to all monitoring data is provided by the end client to **AquaBioTech Group**.

In addition to this we offer further support packages as well as a more intense, hands on, operational support by our experienced staff, if required.



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- An aerial photograph of an aquaculture facility. In the foreground, there are several large, white, rectangular buildings with dark grey roofs. To the right, a cluster of circular, silver-colored tanks is arranged in a grid-like pattern. The facility is situated on a dirt and gravel area next to a body of water. In the background, there are green hills and a small village with houses. The sky is blue with some clouds.
- Remote access to water quality data for diagnostics
  - On-site training by our staff
  - Daily checklists and task lists
  - Standardisation & Documentation
  - Standard operating procedures SOPs
  - Remote assistance for troubleshooting

- Start-up Support
- Training manuals
- Technical passports for components
- Training of facility staff at our facilities
- Maintenance schedules
- System documentation & set-points for operation

## Aquaculture

# Operation Support & Contract Management

### ■ The monitoring System

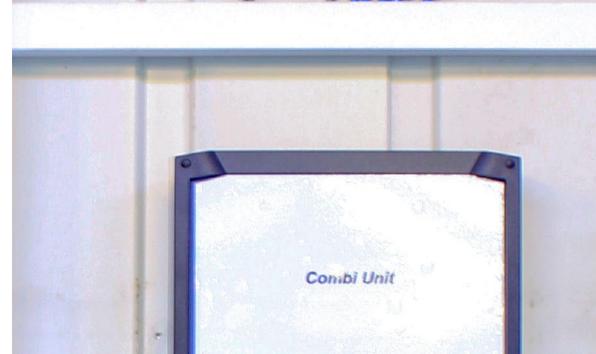
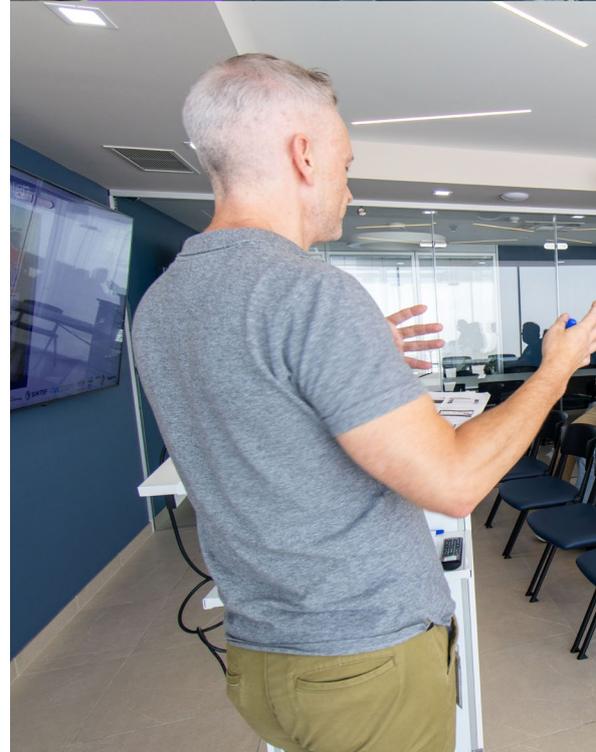
The monitoring unit is the brain and central nervous system of the entire farm and monitors and controls everything of importance, thus enabling the facility to sustain an intensive biomass at optimal conditions. Monitoring of the dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations, temperature, ozone injection and ORP levels, pH and CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring and control, dawn-to-dusk phased lighting and a number of other alarm and check functions form the basis of the system.

The system is also available as an online monitoring function, enabling staff to securely log-on and check on operational parameters. This monitoring system is also surveyed by our staff at our main offices in Malta enabling us to provide monthly diagnostics of the farms operation.

The supplied monitoring system is configured to keep track on the maintenance of the system components, and informs the user automatically when and where maintenance is required.

Furthermore, the monitoring system allows for remote access of the water quality data, which is essential for remote assessment of system performance and assistance in troubleshooting.

Besides supplying a basic training manual to the facility staff, **AquaBioTech Group** will also provide on-site training by experienced RAS specialists. Moreover, **AquaBioTech Group** also offers dedicated training sessions at its research facilities in Malta.





## ■ Technical training

As part of the service, we provide full technical training for the operational staff at newly built aquaculture facilities. This includes **AquaBioTech Group** experienced personnel instructing staff on how to operate the state-of-the-art equipment on daily operations and in various other scenarios via a fully comprehensive set of SOPs and Technical Information (TIs) documentation as well as failure scenarios.

We also provide training on fish husbandry techniques to ensure that the facilities operate at top peak efficiency and the production or research targets are successfully met. Another feature of the technical training provided is how to use the most recent version of the monitoring system we provide as how to utilize all its features, including remote access from digital devices and alarm call outs.

Accompanying this is the remote support we provide to the operators for several years after completion to help overcome any problems faced and ensure the overall smooth operation and longevity of the facility.

Besides providing training for RAS projects to clients, we also offer stand-alone training courses. We can provide tailor made training according to the needs of the project or business requirements.

## ■ Management Contracts

**AquaBioTech Group** also carries out medium and long-term management contracts for hatcheries, grow-out operations, and research facilities. As a contract manager of public and private research and on-growing facilities **AquaBioTech Group** emphasizes in establishing research and operation strategies that are looking at the benefits to society, the research community and the industry as well as reinforce national and strategies through a close to the market philosophy.

As part of this it has established its own innovation management approach internally whereby the facilities become a centre for excellence and innovation.



## ■ Landing Facilities / Auction Halls

**AquaBioTech Group** is able to provide scientific advice and engineering solutions for small scale fish landing facilities and fish monger auction markets especially in Third World countries. Designs are based on ISO and HACCP standards and OSHA guidelines to ensure product quality and the protection of consumer health. Proposed solutions range from small wholesale markets and stalls with small scale product preservation facilities to large scale auction halls including ISO standard processing and packaging facilities, clean and unclean sectors as well as store, office and management facilities. The main objective of the proposed solution is the provision of high quality and healthy products to the market.



# Aquaculture

## Processing Facilities & Auction Halls

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### ■ Processing Facilities

**AquaBioTech Group** offers technical and scientific supervision for the designing and engineering of processing facilities. We specialise in the design of facilities based on ISO, HACCP, and OSHA principles. Such designs provide our customers with the capacity to increase revenues through the production of new products based on various processing and packaging options as well as access to niche markets. Solutions offered cover all production stages including harvesting, chilling, processing (gutting, trimming, skinning, slicing, and filleting for added value), sorting, weighting, packaging, and production lot traceability.

**AquaBioTech Group** has experience with a variety of processing and packaging technologies available in the market from nearly all the major processing providers as well as providers of customized processing and packaging solutions. AquaBioTech Group also advises on local/regional/national regulatory control, secondary infrastructure requirements, environmental issues, and mitigation of processing impacts on the environment and other matters necessary to ensure compliance to the regulations, certification standards and QA/QC requirements

## Feed Mills

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**AquaBioTech Group** can assist large scale integrated aquaculture and fishery projects that are seeking to scale up their operations incorporating the development of fish feed mill in their operation. AquaBioTech Group offers scientific and technical advice for the design and installation of fish feed production lines based on modern technology solutions.

Advice offered supports high quality and efficient production of fish feeds suitable for all production stages and species with special attention to feed quality, production cost minimization, final product value and consumer welfare. Our services also include training support for the staff working in the new facilities.

## WHO WE ARE

# Divisions within AquaBioTech Group

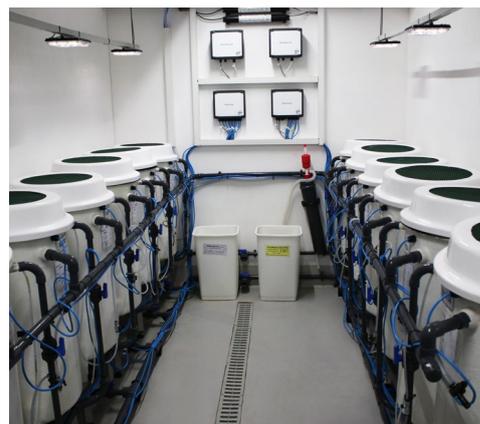
Within **AquaBioTech Group** there are various divisions that focus on different business areas such as:

### ■ ABT Innovia

With over 20 years of experience carrying out contracted research for the aquaculture industry, ABT Innovia continues to offer its services to companies from all over the world needing to develop and test their products for an ever expanding aquaculture industry.

**ABT Innovia** carries out research services to support the development and eventual commercialisation of vaccines, functional ingredients, alternative protein sources, culture technologies and production techniques, amongst others, for a wide range of commercially important species under any combination of culture conditions, in its fully licensed and biosecure R&D facilities.

**ABT Innovia** continues to expand its capabilities to cater for an ever-widening range of research requirements.



### ■ Marine

**Marine** provides a range of services including marine surveying, remote operated vehicle (ROV) search and rescue missions, habitat mapping, and GIS analysis. The skills and techniques employed include subsea sediment and water quality assessments, bathymetric and side scan sonar surveys, ROV investigations, and site inspections using remote sensing, underwater video techniques and SCUBA diving.





## ■ Fisheries

**Fisheries** offers a broad range of services in fisheries science. Our expertise encompasses several disciplines enabling us to carry out research, conservation, and commercial activities. We undertake projects in collaboration with international research institutions, governmental agencies, NGO'S and the private sector. We provide a complete set of multilevel field surveys, and is specialised in offshore and inshore collection, processing, and analysis of fisheries data and samples.



## ■ RAS

**AquaCirc™** has developed several highly efficient and cost-effective RAS. The system developed by **AquaBioTech Group** is a unique recirculation system which combines numerous state-of-the-art recirculation apparatus, such as custom made Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) tanks and specialist RAS products. We have also worked closely with our manufacturers to develop RAS equipment to fulfil our unique specifications and requirements, to offer more advanced product than readily available on the market

With almost twenty years of experience of RAS experimental research, with many different species of fish (and other aquatic animals) in our R&D facility in Malta, **AquaBioTech Group** has gained vast knowledge on fish nutrition, fish health, fish behaviour, and in-depth understanding of fish husbandry. As a result, **AquaBioTech Group** developed **ExperiRAS™** which is customised to match client needs. The **ExperiRAS™** system design is a result of the work of **AquaBioTech Group's** engineers and architect, each offering a wide variety of skills, including mechanical engineering, industrial automation and wastewater treatment.





# CAPABILITY STATEMENT

# **Aquaculture**

Created by **AquaBioTech Group**  
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