

AQUAPOD PROJECT Ocean Farms Technologies Searsmont, ME

The AquaPod™ is a unique containment system for marine aquaculture, suited for rough open ocean conditions and a diversity of fish species. Because of an increasing population and the need to develop food sources to meet world consumption requirements, ocean fish farming is one industry that can help meet this demand. Steve Page, CEO of Ocean Farm Technologies and inventor of the AquaPod™ Fish Containment System set out to create an affordable fish containment system that is appropriate for open ocean and deep-water environments. With his concept and a prototype, Page contacted Kleinschmidt Associates of Pittsfield, Maine to assist with the structural design of the AquaPod™. Kleinschmidt, well-known for its capabilities in other water resource projects, was excited to take on such an innovative and interesting project.

The AquaPod™ is constructed of individual triangular wire mesh panels fastened together in a spheroid shape and functions as a predator-secure containment system while submerged or partially submerged in the ocean. Because of its geodesic design, the AquaPod™ is stronger, safer, and more economical than the rectangular surface pens used in near-shore farming. The AquaPod™ was designed to withstand strong currents and will not lose shape or volume while in during inclement weather. The pod's wire mesh screening is strong enough to withstand predators such as sharks and seals. Kleinschmidt also assisted with the analysis and design of the AquaPod's™ unique mooring system and the fish containment system can be moored individually or tethered to other pods creating a grid structure.

The first full size pod was launched in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on September 21, 2005 for testing. In July of 2006, several pods were delivered to Snapperfarm, a commercial offshore deep-water fish farm off the island of Culebra, Puerto Rico.

The AquaPod received national recognition when it won an Honor Award for Engineering Excellence from the American Council of Engineering Companies in 2007.



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