

Northern Aquaculture

The Voice of Cold Water Aquaculture in North America

Ontario consultant calls tilapia "the miracle fish"

Ottawa, Ont - The Family Cichlidae includes more than 70 species of tilapia which are divided into three main genera: Oreochromis, Sarotherodon (mouth-brooders), and Tilapia (substrate spawners). The legal culture of these genera in Ontario became effective in 1995 due to the amendment of the Ontario Regulation under the Game and Fish Act.

In a paper entitled "Tilapia - A Potential Culture Species In Ontario", Thomas George, an aquaculture consultant, highlight-

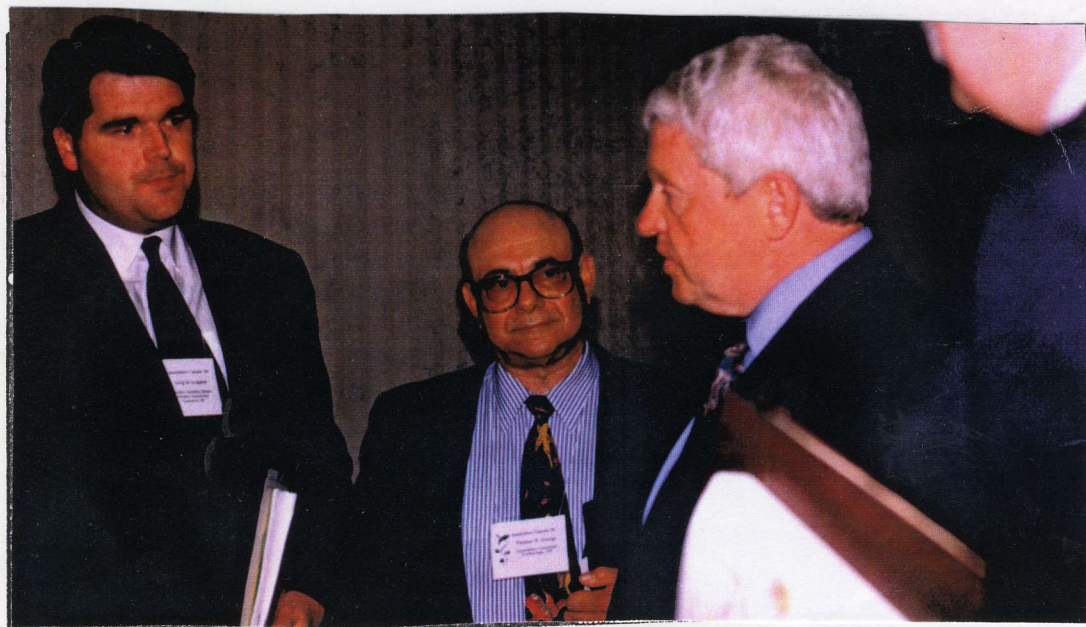
ed the distinctive characteristics of tilapia which make them one of the most suitable warm-water food fishes for the needs of the modern aquaculturist in large scale freshwater and sea water commercial culture. He calls them "The Miracle Fish" of the present time due to their astronomical global production growth.

The paper also reports on the culture potential of tilapia in Ontario, explores the tilapia market in Toronto, and how tilapia are currently the fastest growing

fish farm product in the USA with Toronto being one of the biggest markets in North America for live product.

Finally, the paper accounts on the culture prospects of talapia in Ontario, stresses the need for a proper market survey, and how Canadian aquaculturists should be able to produce talapia that would compete with the existing market prices and the aggressive marketing system.

This paper is currently under publication among the proceedings of Aquaculture Canada '96



Greg D'Avignon, executive director of the British Columbia Salmon Farmers Association (L), Thomas George and federal Minister of Fisheries, Fred Mifflin at the AAC meeting held in June at Ottawa.
Photo by Becky Field