



**"Strengthening Circular Economy
and Valorisation of side-streams
in RAS Aquaculture"
AQUALOOP International Conference**

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**The significance of producers associations and
cooperation with academia for aquaculture development
and support of RAS farming - perspective from the Polish
Trout Breeders Association**

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INTRODUCTION

Aquaculture as a strategic sector: Key to food security and sustainability.

Growing importance of RAS: Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) are the foundation of modern fish farming.

The role of cooperation: The importance of knowledge exchange and mutual initiatives (partnership projects).



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Mission and goals of the Salmonid Fish Producers Association

Industry Representation: Salmonid Fish Producers Association (SPRŁ) represents the interests of salmonid fish farmers before national and international authorities.

Association Profile: Bringing together individuals and legal entities engaged in professional fish farming.

History: The organization was established in 2007 as the result of transformation of Salmonid Fish Farmers Branch of Polish Fisheries Association.

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SPRŁ as a Recognized Producers Organization (ROP)

Description: An organization of representatives of the aquaculture industry engaged in professional fish farming, primarily salmonid fish.

Legal status: Since January 30, 2017, SPRŁ has held the status of a Recognized Producer Organization.

Tools for achieving goals: ROP status provides access to instruments for shaping the common market and achieving goals important for the entire industry.

Strategy: Development of the “2020 Strategy for the Development of Sustainable Intensive Aquaculture”.

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International Cooperation and networking

FEAP: Membership in the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, representing farmers before the European Commission.

Aquaculture Advisory Council: Active participation in the Aquaculture Advisory Committee.

International Projects: Participation in initiatives such as Aqualoop, InnoAquatech, SustainAqua, AquaBest and Geofish.



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Why is the cooperation with scientific community so crucial?

Innovation: Collaborative development of innovative solutions for the aquaculture sector through faster transfer of laboratory research results to farming practice.

Support for education: Actively supporting recruitment to vocational education and participating in consultation meetings regarding the creation of an Aquaculture program at the University of Gdańsk, thus creating potential jobs in aquaculture.

Industry publications: Co-editing „Aquaculture review" journal, which publishes articles on current issues and innovations in the industry.

Research projects: Participation in international projects such as Aqualoop, SustainAqua, AquaBest, Geofish, and InnoAquaTech, combining science with practice.



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The role of SPRL in RAS technology development ?

Working groups: Establishing expert teams for technological innovation.

Lobbying for support: Seeking dedicated funding lines for farm modernization toward recirculation systems.

Education: Organizing study visits to leading RAS centers in Europe.

Collaboration with technology providers: Creating a platform for dialogue (technology fairs).



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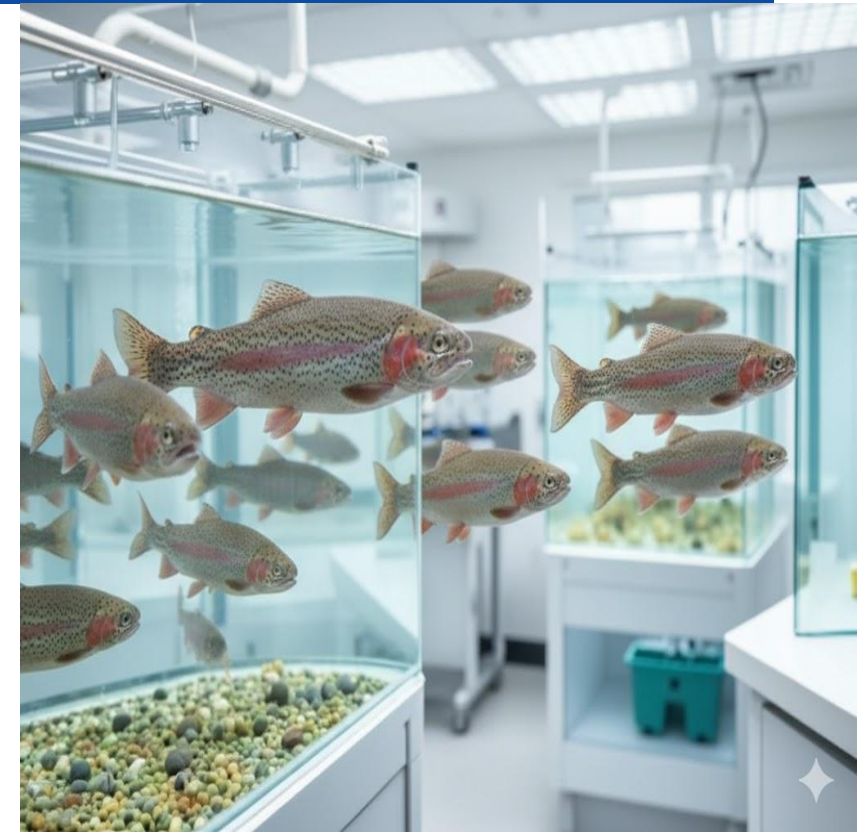
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Scientific support (collaboration with the Polish Academy of Sciences).

Optimization: Work on water quality and the efficiency of recirculation systems.

Collection and formulation of fish welfare guidelines

Environmental impact: Assessment of the impact of fish farming on the environment.



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Farmer's support

Trout Service: Online system for reporting and statistical analysis of production data.

Production and Turnover Plan (PTO): Market stabilization and supply planning. (Thanks to PTO, farmers become informed market participants who can collectively decide on trout distribution channels).

Code of Good Practice: The originally set of rules ensuring the highest quality and ethical production. ("Our Trout" certification).

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Operational and international activity

Industry Events: Organization of the annual Salmon Farmers' Conference (since 2008), which attracts approximately 250 participants.

Board Activities: The Board holds regular meetings (primarily online) to address current industry issues.

International Representation: Membership in the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and the Advisory Committee on Aquaculture (AAC) of the European Commission.

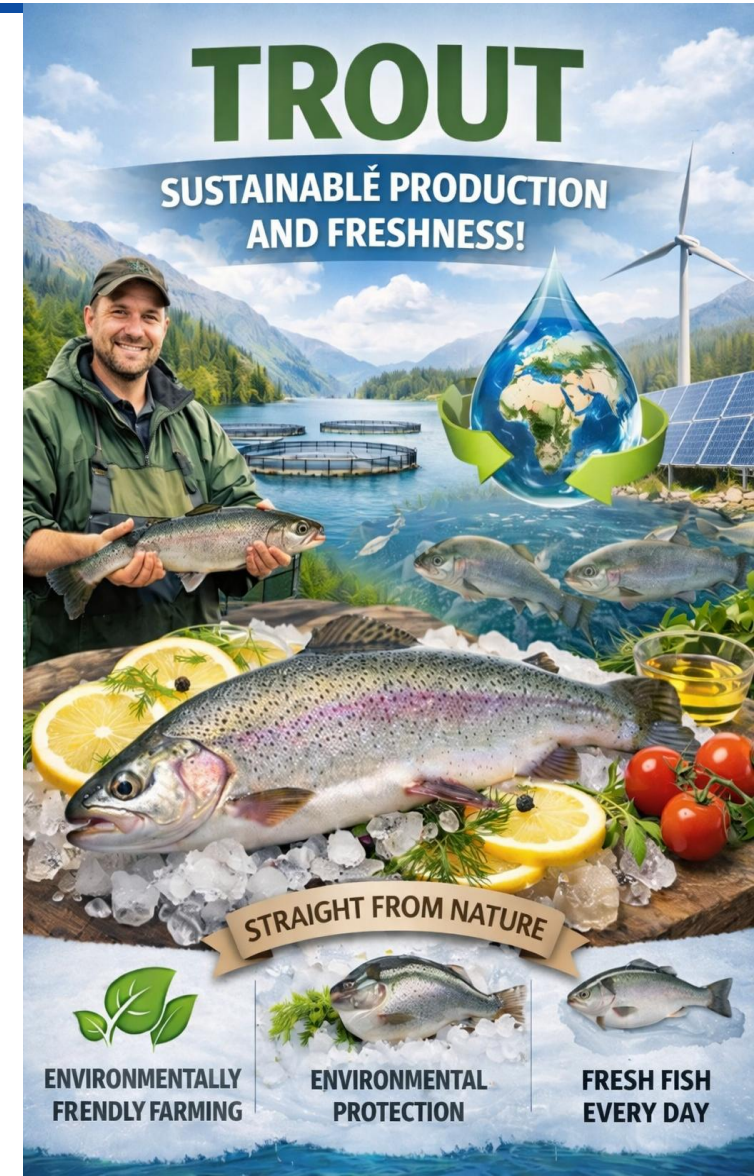
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Key initiatives and successes

Consumption promotion: „Now Trout" (40% increase in consumption over four years to 2021) and „Our Trout" campaigns, which reached 14.3 million Poles.

Quality standards: Development and implementation of a Code of Good Practice for fish farmers („Our Trout" certification).

Market Protection: Effective intervention in so-called "Turkish case" – providing substantive and financial support to the anti-subsidy investigation that led to the introduction of tariffs on trout imports from Turkey.



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Benefits for farmers and perspectives

Risk Reduction: Reducing costs and production risks through innovation.

Farming in accordance with best production practices developed by the industry described in trade journals.

Long-term strengthening of trout's position as a sustainable fish.

Challenges:

- High investment costs of RAS and highly intensive farming.
- In response to difficult market conditions monitored by SPRL, the association is outlining industry development perspectives and potential sales channels through strategic tools, such as production and turnover plans.

Conclusions:

Producer associations play a key coordinating role, and cooperation with the UG outlines opportunities for adapting sustainable RAS practices.



Contacts



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