

Dear Panel,

Thank you for hearing my suggestion for Area (1) in alternative aquaculture feeds, as follows:

Market forces will drive the push for alternative bulk dietary ingredients without the government promoting them. Yet, at high percentages in diet formulations, these present health problems in aquaculture. The United States should leverage its strength in biotechnology to develop enabling technologies which allow greater use of these abundant, less expensive, and renewable feedstuffs. For example, Aova Technologies has developed a micro feed ingredient to reduce the gut inflammation caused by high amounts of plant protein in alternative fish diets, resulting in improved health and performance.

Thank you for hearing my suggestion for Area (2) in alternative aquaculture feeds:

A specific obstacle to using non-fish-based feedstuffs is the gut irritation and immune responses these substances cause. By addressing the “fish end” of the equation, more alternative feed ingredients can be used. For example, Aova Technologies has a nutritional product to reduce inflammation in the gut which allows a greater portion of plant-based oils and proteins in the diet without the loss of performance otherwise observed.

Thank you for hearing my suggestion for Area (3) in alternative aquaculture feeds:

Commercial aquaculture feed is typically pellet extruded at high temperatures which destroy many nutritional and bioactive components. To include these in the diet, then, they must be added post-pellet, which is labor and time intensive and presents uniformity concerns, particularly for large commercial producers. Methods to better protect feedstuffs through the pelleting process via microencapsulation or other means are sorely needed. This could allow inclusion of many more types of ingredients and greatly reduce feed costs.

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