



Managing the investment: Petter Bakke is CEO. in the Bremanger company Smart Salmon. In February, they moved into new administration premises at Nordfjordeid to sharpen their focus on the planned start of construction this autumn. PHOTO: JØRN-ARNE TOMASGARD

Believes Aqua Maof technology is effective and reduces risk

Israeli Aqua Maof will deliver the technology to the Smart Salmon plant in Smørhamn. Managing Director Petter Bakke emphasizes RAS technology as energy efficient and with reduced risk.

According to Bakke, the reduced risk of biological challenges is partly due to the fact that the technology uses a sedimentation tank instead of a drum filter.

- Less can go wrong when the water does the job in the filter itself, says Bakke and describes sedimentation as a better alternative than a drum filter, where the water must be forced through with powerful pumps. It is often in such filters where the water is purified for reuse that biological challenges arise in connection with traditional Nordic RAS technology. This is one of the codes that must be broken to close with land-based farming in places where one can not take advantage of throughput.

Read also: The Smart Salmon boss thinks an investment of 350 million will provide good margins

Fresh water from waterworks According to Bakke, Smart Salmon has made an agreement with Bremanger municipality to use fresh water from the local Ryland waterworks. Intake of seawater is not relevant until the second construction phase, but a ditch to the sea will be arranged in connection with groundwork in the first phase. The need for salt water in the plant in the first construction phase will be covered by fresh water with added salt.

- The electricity consumption with the technology we will use will be 2.5 kWt per kg of fish we produce. This is far below the industry average. It has most to do with filtration and water flow. Aqua Maof has extensive experience of conducting efficient RAS land-based farming since they have limited access to water in Israel. Among other things, they have a fish farm in Negevørkenen. And the technology is used in a food fish farm in Poland where they produce salmon up to 6-7 kilos. They are present all over the world, and the technology is well proven. We have been and visited several gongs, both in Israel and Poland. The quality of the fish is very good, says Bakke.

Aqua Maof also owns 7.3 percent of the parent company Smart Salmon Group.



13,000 square meters: This is how Smart Salmon envisages the first construction phase of the development in Smørhamn in Ytre Bremanger, not far from Kalvåg.

Smart Salmon plans to start construction after the summer holidays this year, and Bakke believes they can have 500 grams of fish ready for the market in the winter of 2023.



Will build here: It is in this industrial area in Smørhamn Smart Salmon no will build a large smolt plant. In the long run, there may also be production of food fish. PHOTO: JØRN-ARNE TOMASGARD

Letter of intent for sale Bakke states that they have entered into a letter of intent with one player to purchase a third of the production of Smart Salmon, without him wanting to go into more detail about who this customer is.

- We also believe the market situation around us will be good. Smørhamn is in many contexts an outskirts, but in this context it is located in the shipping lane in the middle of an area with many fish farmers. It is a short way to a large market.

According to Bakke, they plan to start planning for the second construction phase, with an additional 5,000 tonnes of annual biomass, in the spring of 2022. The long-term ambition of Smart Salmon is to produce at least 30,000 tonnes of annual biomass. This will require the expansion of licenses and the purchase of new land for the investment. The license they have today is 7,500 tonnes, while they work with a license for 10,000 tonnes in France.



Welcoming: According to Petter Bakke, good reception in Bremanger municipality is an important reason why they are investing in the new industrial area in Smørhamn. Smart Salmon will be the first major player in the field.
PHOTO: JØRN-ARNE TOMASGARD