



## RECIRC IN ACTION

# Jars make picking easier at Marine Harvest facility

Marine Harvest Canada is modifying its egg-incubation program at the company's Sayward South hatchery on British Columbia's Vancouver Island. And while freshwater operations manager Dean Guest acknowledges that there has been some discussion within the industry about the benefits of upwelling incubation systems, the big cylindrical jars they have installed have proven to be a success, cutting labor costs and being easy to service.

That's especially the case when compared to larger incubation trays that take up considerably more room and have a much larger surface area when reaching over to pick out dead eggs.

Sayward South has 14 of the jars in its incubation room, which also houses some of the trays. The transparent plastic jars are essentially large-diameter pipes that have been cut to equal lengths and fitted with lids and bottoms.

They are linked to the water system in such a way that they can be run at different temperatures to speed up or retard hatching.

In this particular system, they come in groups of

14, two rows of seven, both fed with water from the hatchery's water-treatment and recirculation systems. Each jar is fitted with a valve so that the flow can be fine-tuned to ensure the eggs are always slightly in motion.

That brings the lighter dead eggs slowly and gently to the top of each vertical jar. Janet Sanford, one of three personnel who maintain the jars and remove any dead eggs, said that there they're easy to remove into a bucket using light suction from a primed pipette.

The jars, which are labelled with the spawning source and date, can individually contain as many as about 15,000 fertilized eggs, nearly the equivalent of three trays.

Sanford said that the jars are easy to access and it's possible to remove the eggs from one 14-jar set of jars in a day, along with dealing with other duties within the facility. The jars require only very minimal maintenance.

The large-scale hatchery has around 960 Heath trays which are still operating and is planning to put in new sections of bigger trays that can also be stacked.



MHC Sayward South incubation room employee Janet Sanford beside rack of upwelling incubation jars.

