

AquaVIP success story #3

Master FishFarmer Class (MFFC)



Universität
Rostock



Traditio et Innovatio

AquaProfi – Aquaculture Professionals’ success support” service is a service offer for aquaculture self-employed entrepreneurs, micro-enterprises, SMEs representatives, both employers and employees: fish farmers, crustacean farmers, aquaponics entrepreneurs, as well as farmers associations, NGOs, and authorities interested in improving their skills and sustainable aquaculture development.



The Master FishFarmer Class (MFFC) was a core AquaProfi service activity, with over one hundred forty registered participants. The aim of this exceptional online course based at Rostock University, was dedicated for fish farmers aiming at becoming master fish farmers and aquaculture professionals looking for further training opportunities.

The complete Master FishFarmer Class contained six different topics:

- RAS technology
- larviculture
- fish diseases & parasites
- algae production
- aquafeeds & nutrient requirements & feed additives
- aquaculture business & marketing & product development

A seven-months MFFC course allowed interested parties to participate in addition to their regular job and gain a certification by passing a final exam and fulfilling course requirements. The certification was awarded to almost sixty participants from eleven different countries.

Boost your career with online courses for AquaProfi

Master FishFarmer Class

Starting 20 October 2021!

6 TOPICS:

- RAS Technology
- Larviculture
- Fish diseases and parasites
- Algae production
- Aquafeeds, Nutrient Requirements, Feed Additives
- Aquaculture Business, Marketing, Product Development



Presented by internationally recognized experts & AquaVIP team



Convenient schedule: easy to match with regular job



Certification after successful completion (40 h/ entire MFFC)

Registration: bit.ly/MFFCregistration
Registration deadline: 15 October 2021



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Tobias Lipsewers, participant of AquaVIP services, including MFFC, parasitological training at Rostock University and member of the LinkedIn group shares his success story in the interview with Andrian Bischoff-Lang, AquaVIP project member from Rostock University:



*Tobias Lipsewers, PhD,
interviewed MFFC participant*

Why are aquaculture and aquaculture-related topics interesting for you and your further professional development?

After finishing my PhD in Aquatic Sciences in early October 2020, I wanted to move into the fish direction and have become more and more interested in sustainable ways of fish production and food production in general. Since February 2021, I have been steadily and self-taughtly educating myself in this direction.

The following main aspects are the focus for me:

- *aquaponics (indoor & outdoor)*
- *zero-waste approaches, thus the development and use of secondary products*
- *the possibilities to cultivate fish and e.g. algae in one system*
- *natural solutions to avoid unwanted chemicals in fish feed and water*
- *use of renewable energies for food production*
- *development of innovative solutions for biological water treatment*

My motivation to work in this sector, for example as an expert, consultant, scientist or producer, is healthy farm animals, environment & consumers!

Which form of aquaculture do you think is particularly promising for the future and should be developed further, and which form of aquaculture would you like to develop further?

I think that a more sustainable and revolutionized version of traditional pond farming could be the future of fish production. The demand for regionally-produced fish is increasing, permits for the use of surface water are being reduced, RAS systems are very expensive (construction and maintenance) and often only profitable, if at all, with very high stocking densities (animal welfare?). Therefore, I believe and have many practical ideas to help shape the pond industry of the future, also organic certified. Nevertheless, I see the future of hatcheries & larvae rearing in combination with RAS technologies.

How can you use what you have learned in AquaVIP?

The AquaVIP Master Fish Farmer Class (MFFC) came at just the right time for me, as all the topics covered are relevant to my career plans and I therefore learned a lot of useful and interesting things. Many of my ideas have emerged or taken on more concrete forms in the course of the MFFC. I am very grateful for that!

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How would or could these developments support or further develop the idea of the AquaVIP project?



For example, I could present my plans and maybe a model system at the AquaVIP conference later this year (2022) or give a guest lecture in one of the next AquaVIP courses. Project proposals and practical collaborations could also enrich both sides.

How did you find out about the AquaVIP offers?

Barbara Dmochowska wrote me an email on 21 September 2021 because I was registered for the Gdynia AquaVIP summer school in the same year. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the summer school and was all the more excited that the next Aqua VIP activity was already scheduled for October 2021. If I remember correctly, Frederick Bruce from the SUBMARINER network made me aware of the AquaVIP project as such.



Which offers did you take part in the AquaVIP project and how did you like it?



*The Master Fish Farmer Class - for the reasons already mentioned above, the MFFC was worth its weight in gold for me! It was my first official step into the fish direction before the electrofishing license and the **Fish Parasitology Development Course**, as self-education is often not recognized (enough).*



Participation in the fish parasitology course at the University of Rostock was made possible by Prof. Pam during the MFFC and took place almost directly after the MFFC.



*Fish Glass House,
Rostock University*

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Apart from Corona and its limitations, what else would you have liked to have seen or done differently?

Of course, visiting different facilities and "hands-on" experience would have been great too, but despite Corona, I think the MFFC was super organised and implemented. It would probably have been easier to network with like-minded people "on site", but that is also possible, if desired, e.g. by email. I was lucky enough to see the FischGlasHaus in Rostock and had the great opportunity to take part in the advanced course on fish parasitology. Many thanks again for that!

What specific effects did the AquaVIP offers have on your view of aquaculture and your further career planning?)

As I said above, I would like to work in the aquaculture sector either as an expert, consultant, scientist or producer, to see healthy farm animals, environments & consumers! Furthermore, the development of a more sustainable and revolutionized version of traditional pond farming would be an aim to go for.

Are there any special experiences or events that have confirmed your decision to participate in the AquaVIP offers?

Yes, it was very interesting and important to understand how interdisciplinary and multifaceted e.g. recirculation systems, but also fish farming in general are. I learned essential things for my professional future.

Thank you for taking part in MFFC & all the best in your career!



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