

Barramundi set to launch on Dutch market



The first sample batch of barramundi will be available to the US market by the end of 2006

WESTERN-AUSTRALIA based barramundi farming company Cell Aquaculture Ltd has announced that its facility in Holland is now fully operational.

Three batches of barramundi fingerlings have already been shipped to Holland with negligible mortality rates and a fourth batch is due to be shipped soon.

The facility now holds around 35,000 barramundi and is working towards full capacity, which is in excess of 50,000 fish, over the coming months.

Production is on schedule and by the end of this quarter, as expected, the Holland facility will have a first sample batch of barramundi available to the Dutch market. The facility is expected to reach full production capacity and consistent output by late '06/early '07.

"In June, Cell Aqua conducted joint promotional work with a high-end national Dutch supermarket chain aimed at creating further awareness of Australian barramundi in the premium marketplace," a spokesperson for the

company said.

"Discussions are continuing with a number of groups wishing to purchase the full production of barramundi from the facility and indicative sale pricing is very exciting."

Construction of the company's North American facility is also reported to be progressing as planned and is due for completion in mid-September.

Two batches of fingerlings have now been successfully dispatched to the US facility with negligible mortality rates and the third shipment is due in the near future. There are now over 25,000 barramundi in the US facility and further fingerling shipments over the coming months will bring the system to full production capacity.

The first sample batch of barramundi will be available to the US market by the end of 2006. The facility, which is over 5,500m² in size, is expected to reach full production capacity and consistent output within the first quarter of 2007.



Indications are that the barramundi will be well received