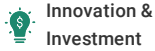




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Global Aquaculture Innovation Award finalist: MNL Group

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By Lauren Kramer

Futerpenol feed additive promises improved immune responses for farmed salmon and trout



Futerpenol® in powder (or “polvo”) form. Photo courtesy of MNL Group.

Until recently, antibiotics have been the only option for Chilean salmon farmers in their efforts to fight infectious fish diseases.

After Chile’s social and economic fallout from the ISA virus between 2009 and 2011, a Chilean biotech R&D firm launched an animal division and began working on a natural product to support the immune health of farmed fish.

What Maqui New Life SA (MNL) created was a natural feed supplement, Futerpenol®, which it says reduces or eliminates the need for antibiotics by stimulating the immune responses of salmon and trout. The innovation earned MNL a trip to Guayaquil, Ecuador, to present at the Global Aquaculture Alliance’s (GAA) annual GOAL conference as one of three finalists for its Global Aquaculture Innovation Award.

Chilean producers using Futerpenol®-enhanced feeds in their fish diets are reporting fewer mortalities and improved Specific Growth Rates (SGRs) and feed conversion ratios (FCRs), said Cristián Moreno, deputy director of MNL’s animal health division.

“We made a commitment to leverage our company’s expertise in and success with human health products to rebuild the global salmon industry using 100 percent natural products,” said Moreno. “The vision was to develop and commercialize plant-based products with bioactive properties as a way to help the industry grow stronger, sustainable and more disease-resistant fish.”

In 2013 the company’s scientists examined a natural formulation they knew worked for terrestrial farm animal health to find out if it would work for rainbow trout, too. By mid-2016 they determined it did.

