

For: *Aquaculture America, Honolulu, HI*  
*US Marine Fish R&D Capabilities*  
Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020



\* = The company formerly known as 'Kampachi Farms, LLC'

*Seriola* R&D

Macroalgae culture

*Kyphosus* culture

Offshore permitting

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# OCEAN ERA –

**COLLABORATIVE**

**OFFSHORE**

**AQUACULTURE R&D**

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

**ECOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE**

**Neil Anthony Sims, Lisa Vollbrecht, Helen Meigs,  
Keelee Martin and Joseph (Crispin) Nakoa**

File name: Sims\_480\_6

Session Name: Status of US Marine Fish (Session #: 68)

Session Date: Tuesday, February 11

Time Assignment: 10:30 am



# OCEAN ERA –

## COLLABORATIVE OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE R&D AT THE NEXUS OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND ECOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE

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## Take-aways

1. Collaborative

2. Critical commercial path

3. Mission driven

4. Omnivorous

5. Nimble





**Ocean Era, LLC ancestry**

**Black Pearls, Inc.**

**Kona Blue Water Farms, Inc.**

**Blue Ocean Mariculture**

**Kampachi Farms, LLC**

**Forever Oceans**

**Ocean Era, LLC**





Ocean Era office

Macroalgae yard

Fish  
research  
yard

Legend

**OCEAN ERA facilities at NELHA**

Google Earth

100 m





Macroalgae yard

**OCEAN ERA facilities at NELHA**



# OCEAN ERA facilities at NELHA

Fish research yard

36 x 4,000 L HDPE tanks for replicated trials





**Broodstock tank array (under construction):**



**Fish research yard**

**“Pair-spawning” tank array**

**12 tanks, @ 10 tonnes**







Offshore aquaculture in Kona

Blue Ocean Mariculture - kampachi

NELHA, HATCH, offices, facilities

Ocean Era – macroalgae (permitted, funded)

Forever Oceans – kampachi, automation



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## 1. Collaborative

# Kona Blue Water Farms, LLC

First integrated offshore fish farm and hatchery 2004 - 2009

Genesis: Advanced Technology Program (NIST)  
John Corbin, Cates International,  
Hawaii Hi-tech tax credits (Act 221),  
Ocean Spar

3000 cu m Sea Station™ net pen

© Doug Perrine / SeaPics





1. Collaborative

## The Velella Beta-test

TIME Magazine's "25 Best Inventions 2012"

Superb FAD for Kona fishermen

© Tom Carey





**1. Collaborative**

**The Velella Beta-test**

**In collaboration with ...**

**Illinois Soybean Association**

**National Science Foundation**

**Ocean Farm Technologies, Inc.**

**International Copper Association**

**Lockheed Martin**

**NOAA**

**University of Hawaii Hilo**

**Capt. Bill Austin and crew**







## Take-aways

1. Collaborative

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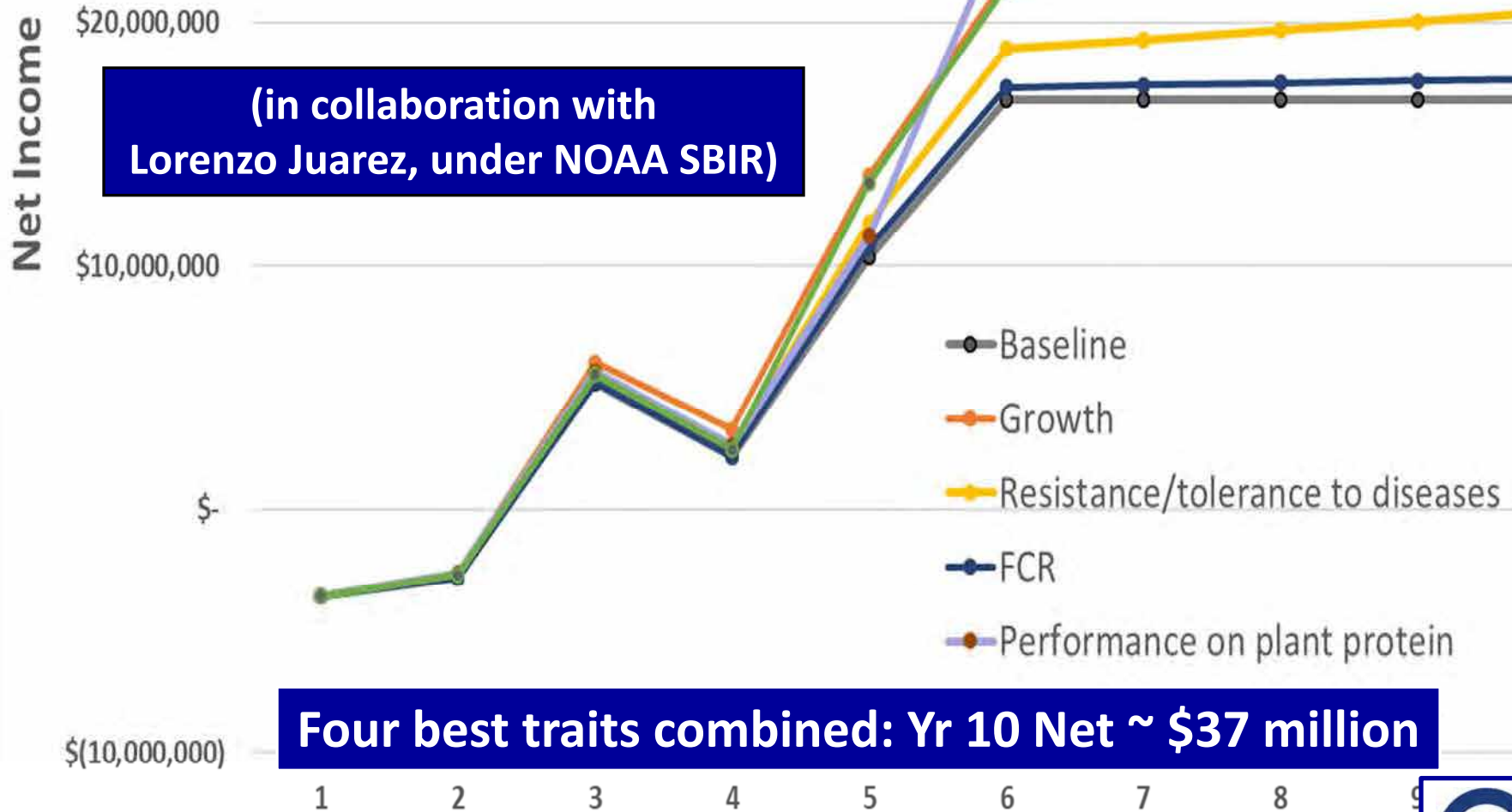
4. Omnivorous

5. Nimble

# Selective breeding benefits to a Financial Model template:

## 2. Critical commercial path

(in collaboration with Lorenzo Juarez, under NOAA SBIR)



Four best traits combined: Yr 10 Net ~ \$37 million

= 118% increase







2. Critical commercial path

**Selective Breeding ROI:**

**10 year investment ~ \$5 million**

**= 32% ROI**

**(in collaboration with Lorenzo  
Juarez, under NOAA SBIR)**



Commercial spin-offs

5 miles  
Scale

“Concession”  
- 4 miles  
offshore



**BAHIA DE LA PAZ**

Genesis: Michael Bullock, Matias Arjona, Rex Ito,  
Government of Mexico ...

LA PAZ





# Kampachi Mexico

Submersible Polar-Cirkel-style surface pens



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**3. Mission driven**

**Nebraska Soybean Board-  
supported research (2006 - 2017)**

**In collaboration with U Nebraska Lincoln,  
Dr Tom Clemente**

**Fish-In : Fish-Out < 1:1**

**Control Diet**

**SPC-based Diet**



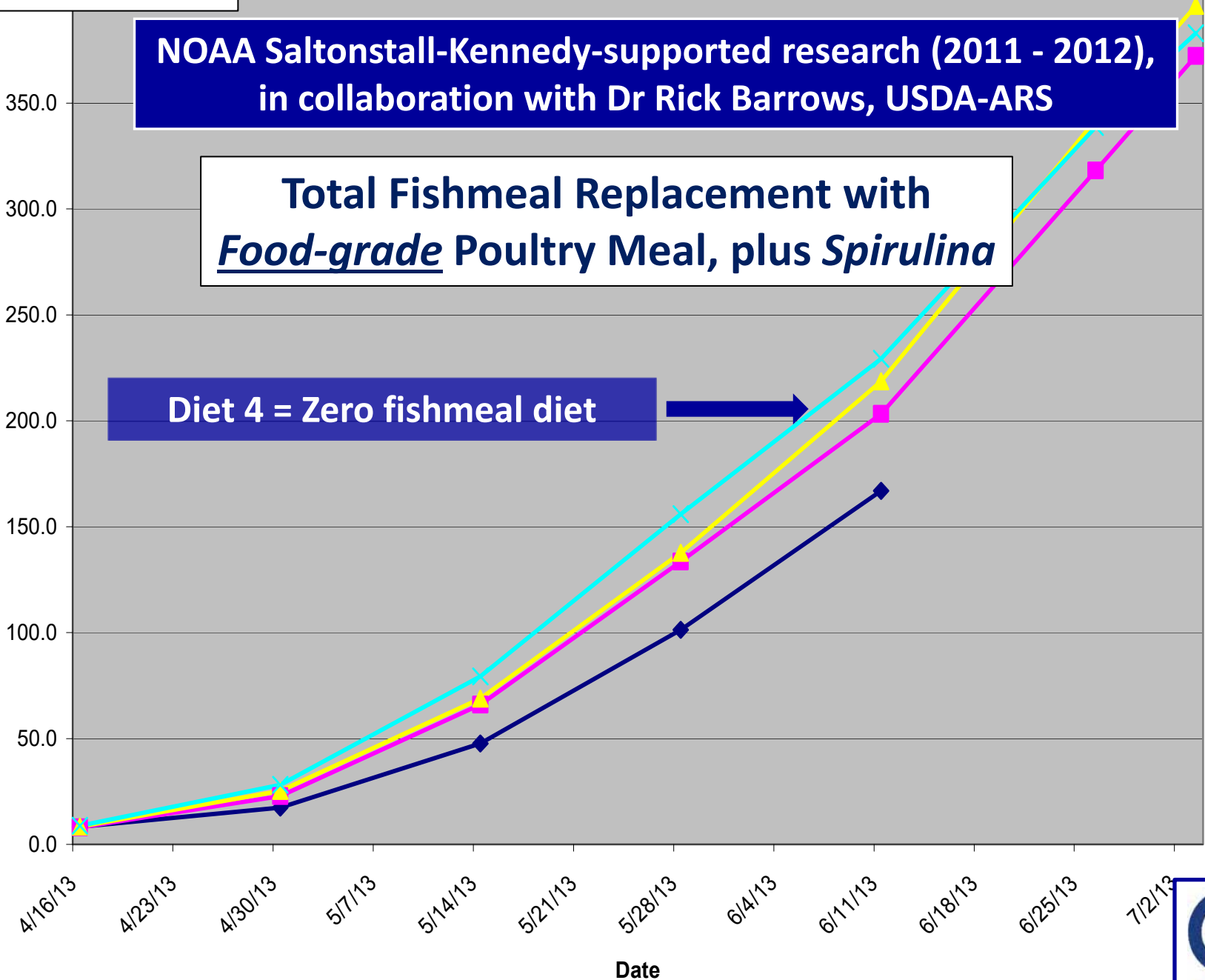
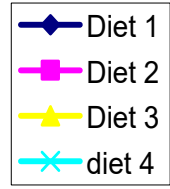
### 3. Mission driven

NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy-supported research (2011 - 2012),  
in collaboration with Dr Rick Barrows, USDA-ARS

Total Fishmeal Replacement with  
Food-grade Poultry Meal, plus *Spirulina*

Diet 4 = Zero fishmeal diet

Average Fish weight (g)



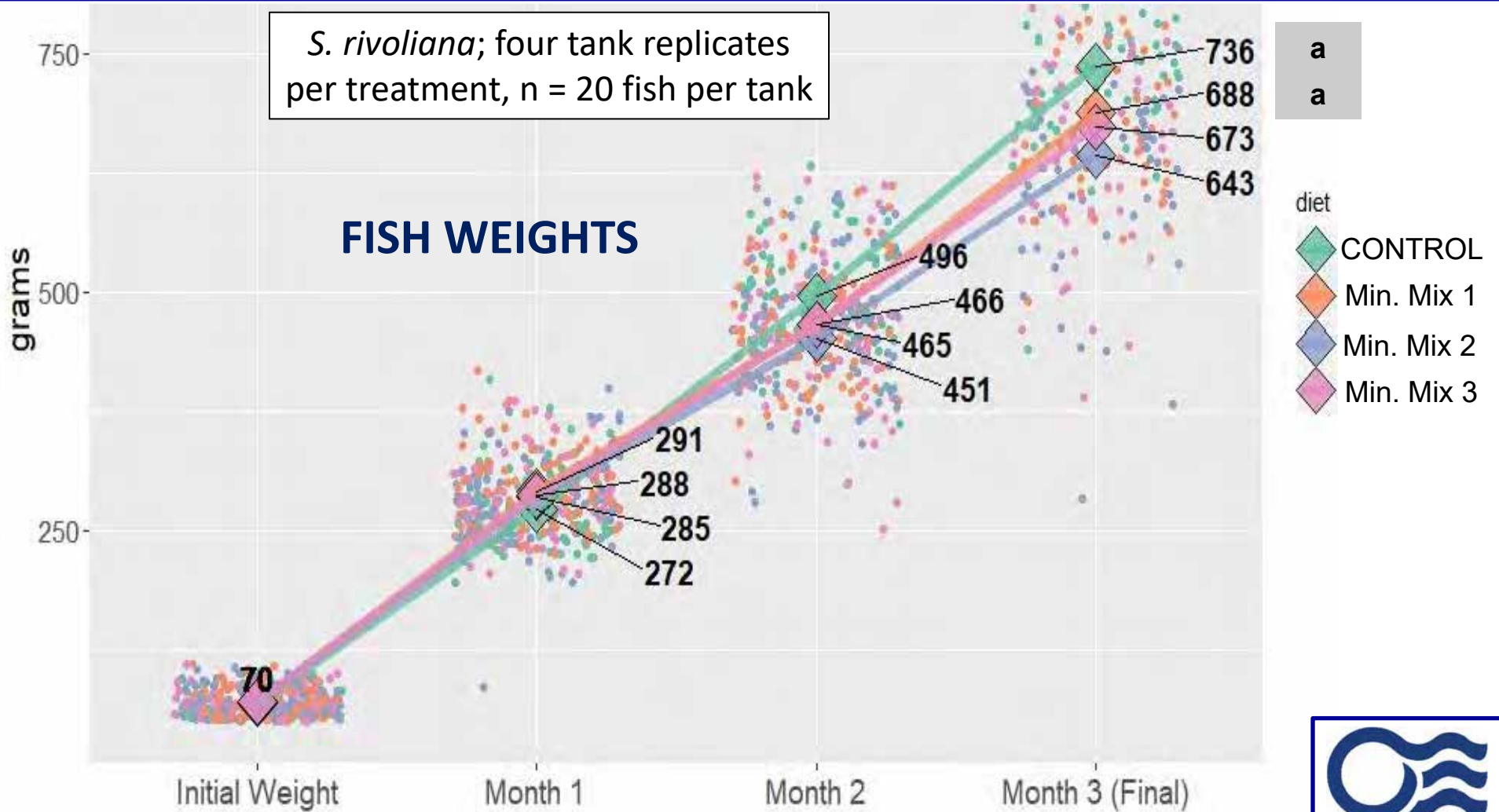


3. Mission driven

# Total Fishmeal Replacement with Feed-grade Poultry Meal, plus trace mineral mix

Mineral Mix Diets 1 – 3 v Commercial control

NOAA – SK, in collaboration with F3 – Future of Fish Feed, and Dr Rick Barrows (ret.)



### 3. Mission driven

**NOAA – SK 2018 - 2020, in collaboration with  
F3 – Future of Fish Feed, and Dr Rick Barrows (ret.)**

**Final Trial : Total Fishoil Replacement ?**

**Veramaris + canola/flax mix @ 8.3%  
(c.f. fish oil)**

**Truly Fish-free feeds?**

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### 3. Mission driven

## Offshore macroalgae: economic incentive / ecological imperative

- Food, feed, fertilizer, fuels, and footprint (C)





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4. Omnivorous

**Kyphosids: rudderfish/chubs, *nenue***



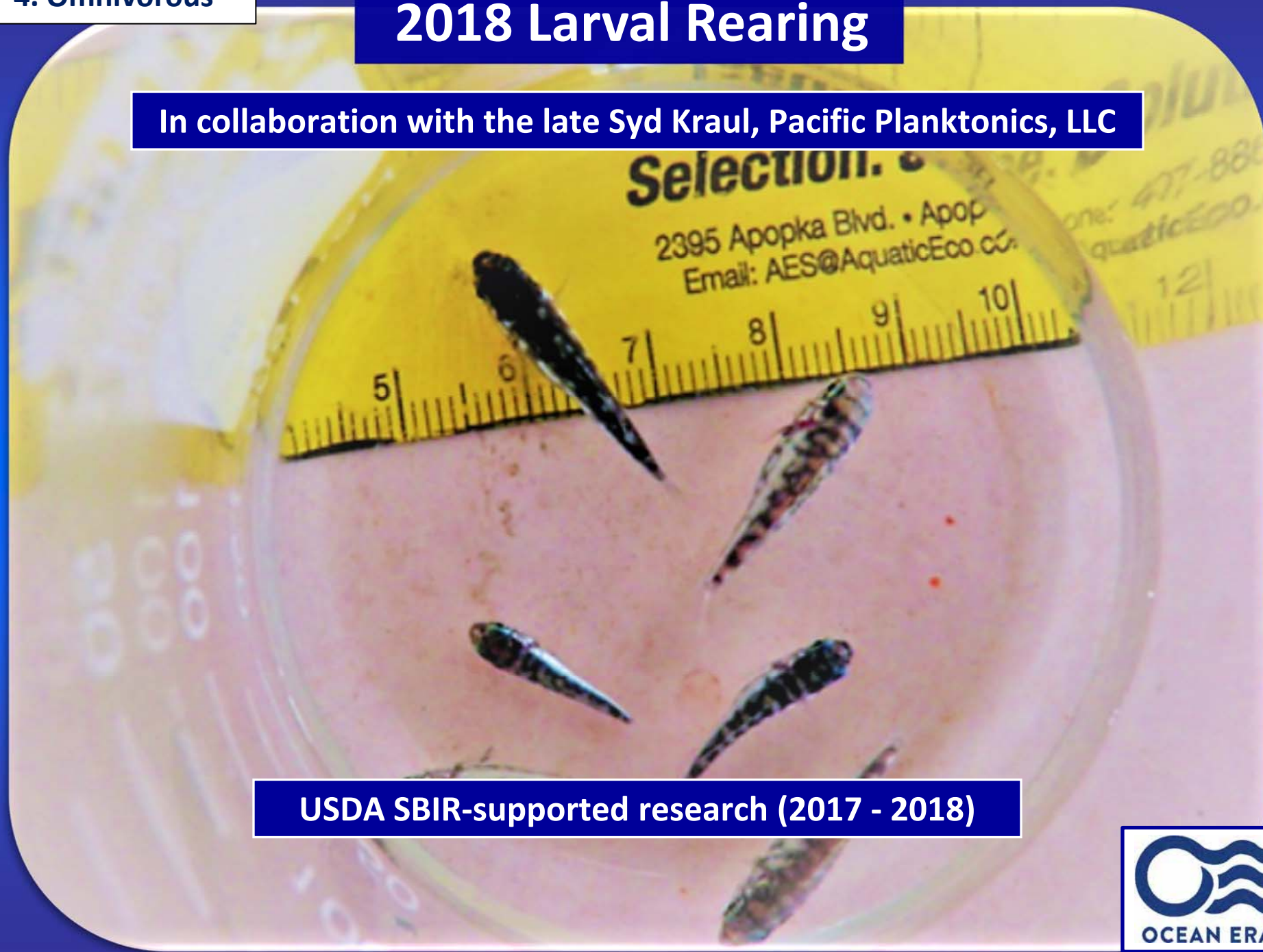
NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy-supported research (2016 - 2018)



4. Omnivorous

## 2018 Larval Rearing

In collaboration with the late Syd Kraul, Pacific Planktonics, LLC



USDA SBIR-supported research (2017 - 2018)





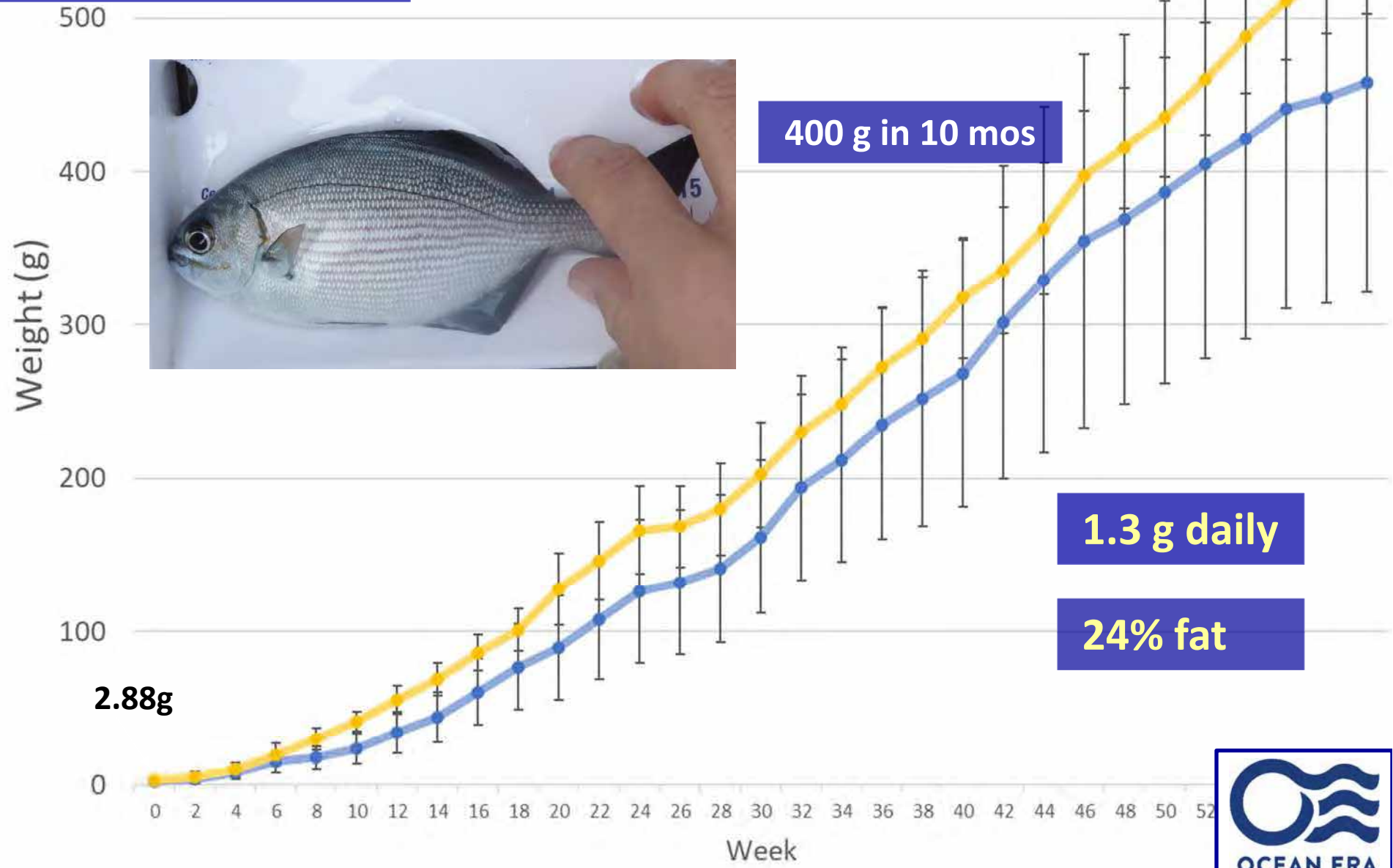
#### 4. Omnivorous

**Tilapia Diet FCR = 2.6**

● Tilapia Diet: 35% protein, 5% lipid

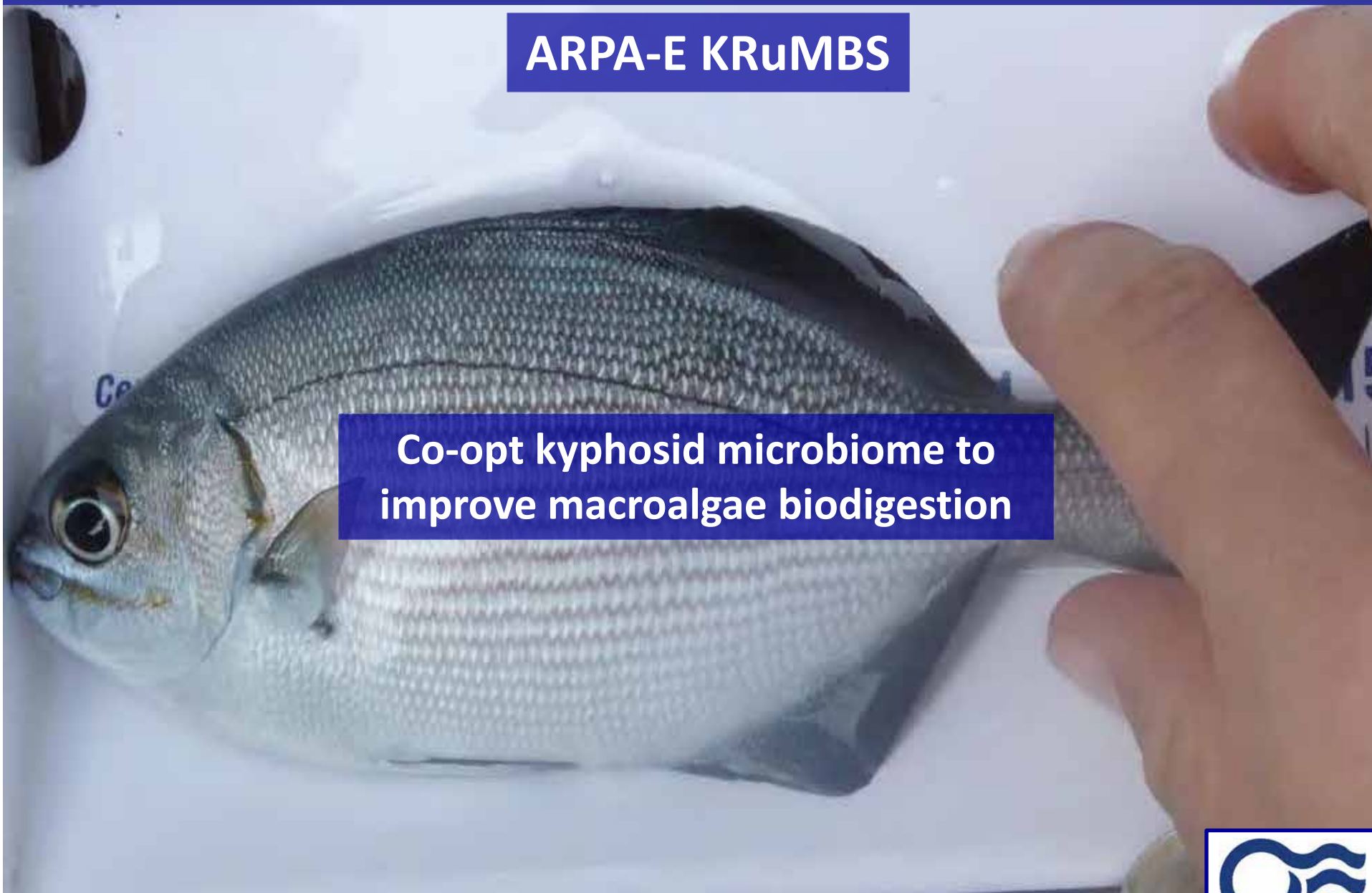
**Marine Grower FCR = 2.5**

● Marine Grower: 40% protein, 16% lipid



**ARPA-E KRuMBS**

**Co-opt kyphosid microbiome to improve macroalgae biodigestion**





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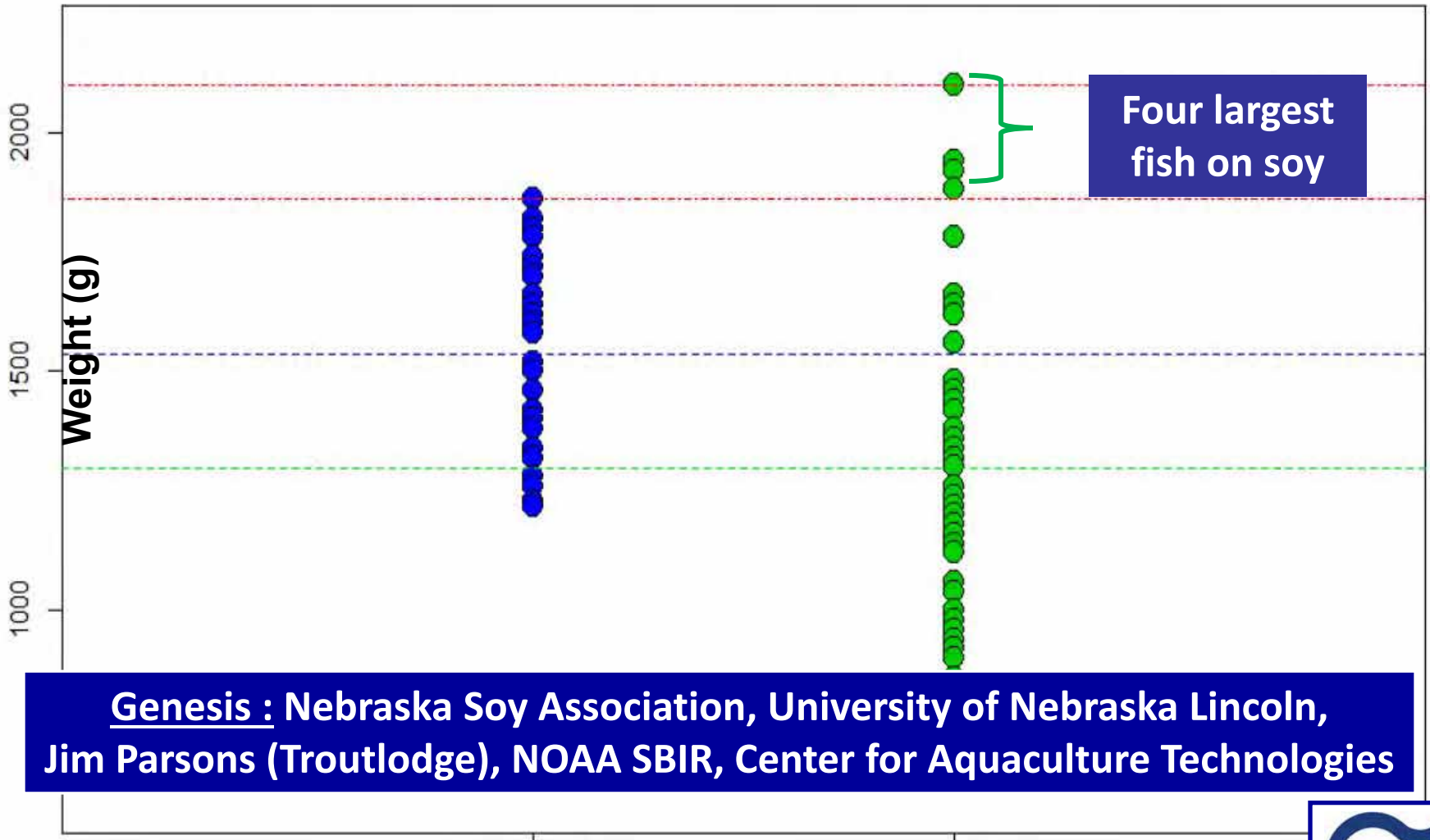
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# Selective Breeding for feed assimilation

## 2016 – 17 Soy (SPC) growth trial

### Penultimate Fish Weight



**Genesis :** Nebraska Soy Association, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Jim Parsons (Troutlodge), NOAA SBIR, Center for Aquaculture Technologies





## 5. Nimble

Selective breeding for  
growth, spinal  
deformities, etc:

6 SNPs linked to lordosis;  
one strongly significant.

In collaboration with  
Center for Aquaculture  
Technologies, under NOAA SBIR

**138**



**139**



**140**



**141**



**142**



**143**



**5. Nimble**

**Velella Gamma (Kona)**

**“Best fishing in my life!” - local Kona fisherman**





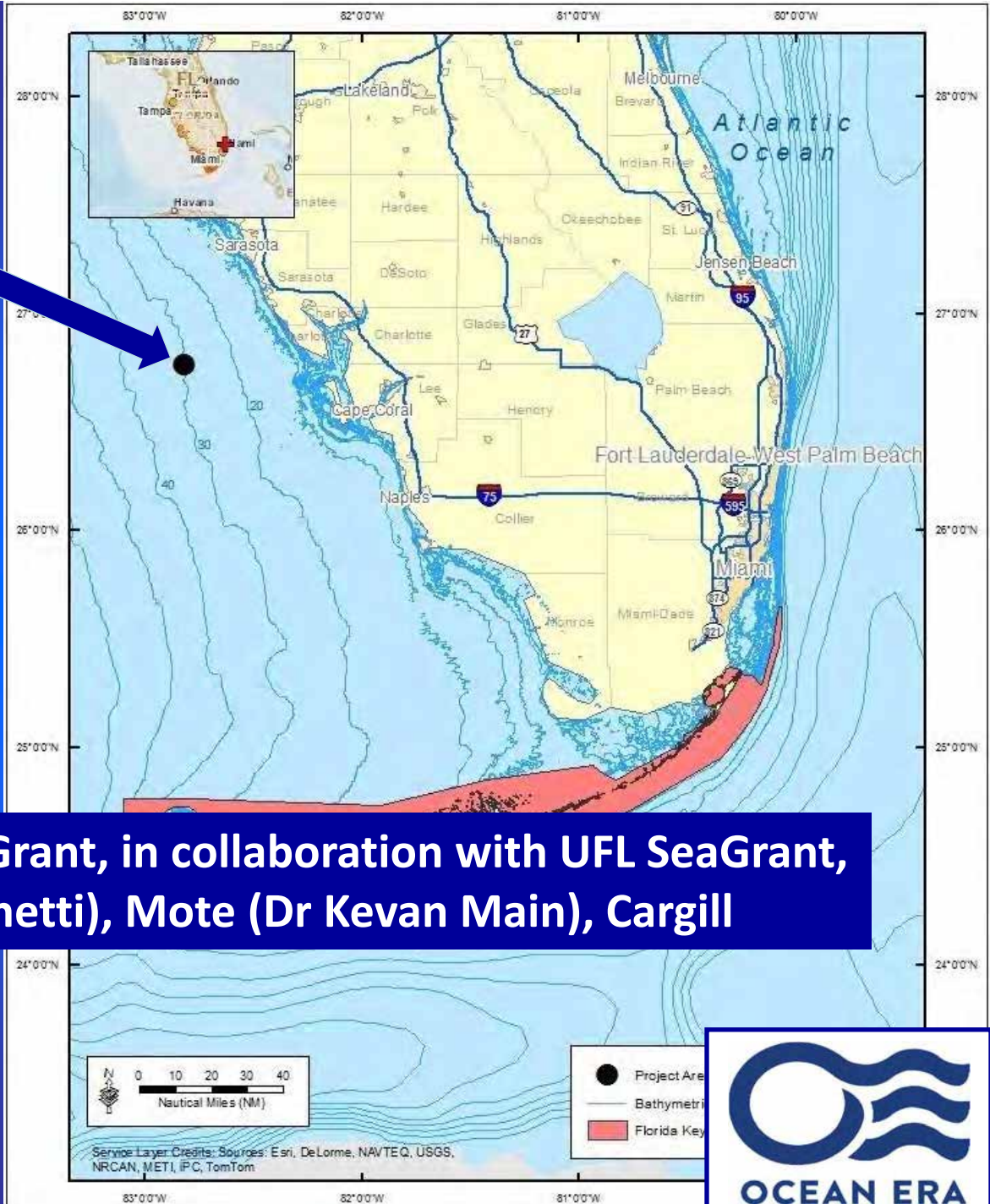
## 5. Nimble

### Veella Epsilon SPM net pen

Gulf of Mexico -  
demonstration permit  
application in process

Support from NOAA SeaGrant, in collaboration with UFL SeaGrant,  
RSMAS (Dr. Dan Benetti), Mote (Dr Kevan Main), Cargill

Seeking strategic partners







**What's next?**

**1. Collaborative**

**2. Critical commercial path**

**3. Mission driven**

**4. Omnivorous**

**5. Nimble**

**Thank you**

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