

Yellow Perch



Jim Held
UW-Extension
jaheld@wisc.edu



Favored sport fish, but not usually stocked for resource enhancement

Recreational pond stocking

Highly valued as a food fish

Traditional food supply - Great Lakes

Decline in landings

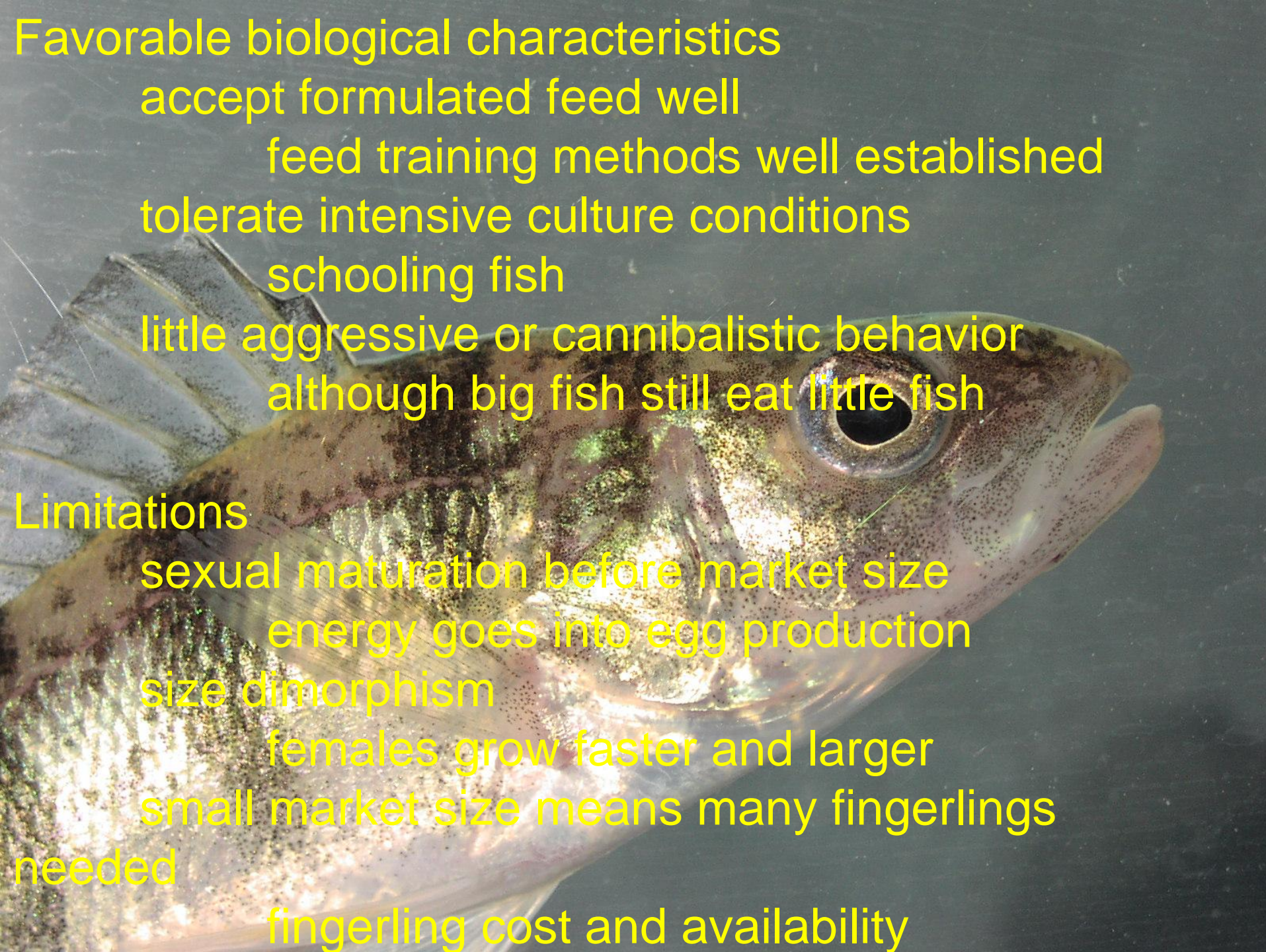
Market opportunity for farmers

Low supply/high demand

\$14/lb retail fillets

\$3/lb in the round wholesale

Easy to sell



Favorable biological characteristics

accept formulated feed well

feed training methods well established

tolerate intensive culture conditions

schooling fish

little aggressive or cannibalistic behavior

although big fish still eat little fish

Limitations

sexual maturation before market size

energy goes into egg production

size dimorphism

females grow faster and larger

small market size means many fingerlings

needed

fingerling cost and availability



QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.



www.wisconsinaquaculture.com

Pond Culture

tandem pond-tank method

small (1 acre) drainable ponds

water temperature 72°F (<80°F)

D.O. >4ppm

growth 0.5g/d ave.

2-3 growing seasons to market size (4/lb)

3,000 lbs/acre growth (20lbs of food/acre/day)

Recirculation Aquaculture Systems (RAS)

numerous attempts-little success

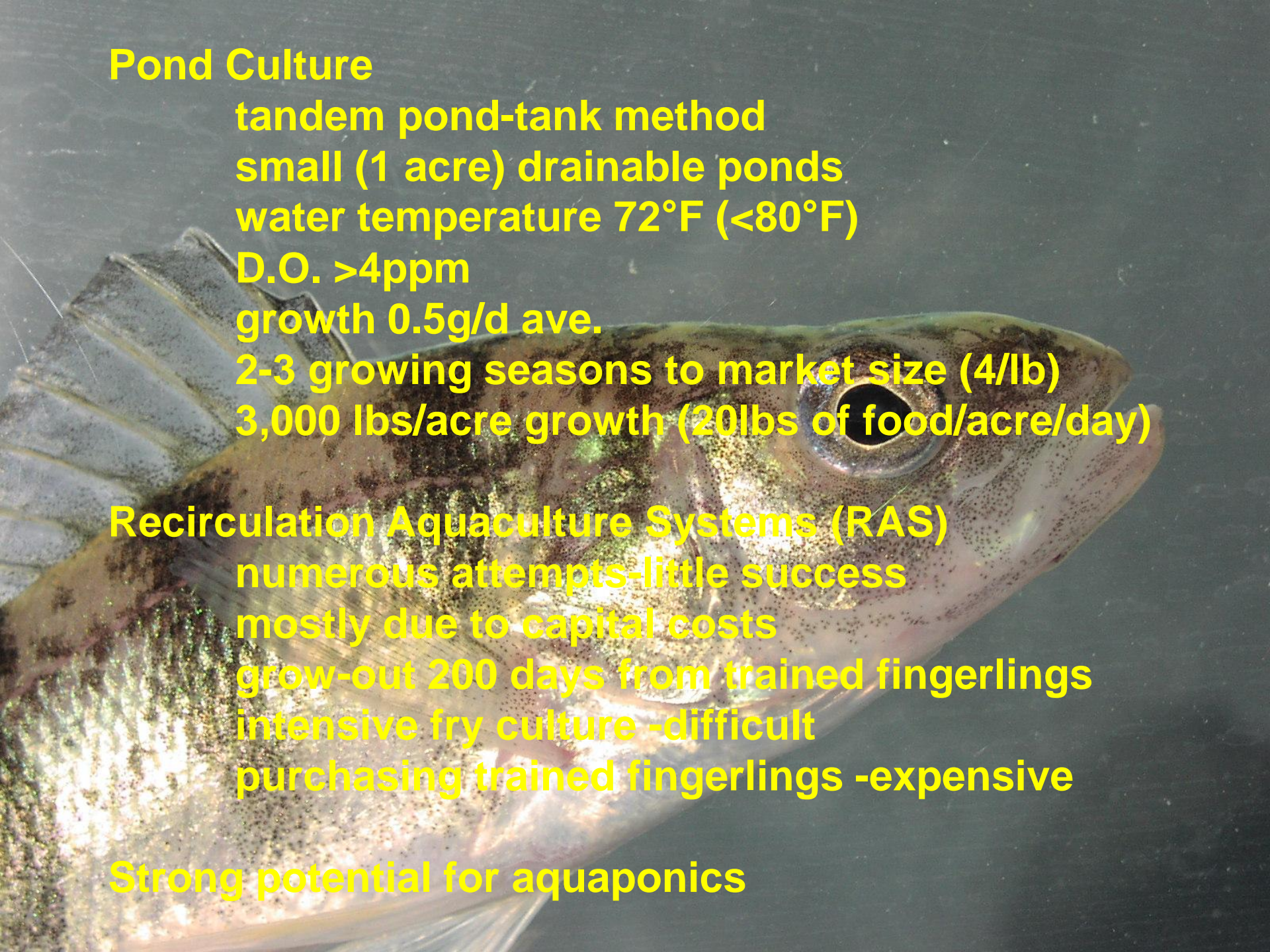
mostly due to capital costs

grow-out 200 days from trained fingerlings

intensive fry culture -difficult

purchasing trained fingerlings -expensive

Strong potential for aquaponics



A photograph of a yellow perch aquaculture pond. The water is calm and reflects the sky. In the background, there are trees and a building. A person is visible in the water on the left side, possibly working with the fish. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Successful Yellow perch operations:

Pond based

Make their own fingerlings

Use vertical marketing integration

fertilized ribbons (\$20 ea.)

hatched fry

trained fingerlings (\$.10/inch)

1 yr old stockers

market size

Value added product (fillets)

Direct sales in niche markets