Introduction

In October 1998, the Aquacultural Engineering Society (AES) and the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) co-sponsored a special session on Developments in Recirculation Systems at the EAS Annual Conference in Bordeaux. The session generated a great deal of interest and served as a preamble to a very successful technical Workshop on Recirculating Systems.

This special issue of Aquacultural Engineering includes a selection of some of the papers presented at the Bordeaux Conference. The papers cover a broad range of important developments in recirculation systems. The topics covered include system overviews for fresh and seawater. These overviews are significant in that commercial scale units are described. The papers that follow concentrate on various recirculation system unit operations, including solids removal, biofiltration, and gas transfer. The special issue is completed by a paper discussing bacterial populations in recirculation systems, and by two papers on nutrient removal and prediction in effluents.

The development of recirculation systems continues at an ever-increasing pace, creating a need for timely release of reliable information. In producing this special issue of Aquacultural Engineering, we wanted to ensure the wide distribution of the information available to those attending the Bordeaux conference. We would like to express our gratitude to our Societies, AES and EAS, to the organisers of the Bordeaux conference and to Elsevier for making possible the production of this special issue. Lastly, a special thank you to the experts who provided critical reviews of the papers.

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