

F3 Challenge Contestants Sell 3,000 MT of Fish-Free Carnivore Feed in First Reporting Period

Jan 26, 2022—Contestants competing in the [F3 Challenge – Carnivore Edition](#) have sold a combined total of over 3,000 metric tons (3 million kilograms) of fish-free feed in the first sales period. The F3 Challenge contests are designed to spark innovation in the aquafeed industry to find viable, cost-competitive aquafeed ingredients and feeds free of fishmeal and fish oil. The goal is to eliminate the need for wild-caught fish and other marine animals in aquaculture feeds.

The award is US\$100,000 in each of three categories—salmonid, shrimp, and other carnivorous species. The F3 Challenge is a sales competition to award prize monies to the contestants that produce and sell the most “fish-free feed” within their designated category. In this third on-going challenge, the first benchmark is to submit feed samples that are verified to be ‘fish-free’. The second is to submit sales quantities.

Companies can form teams with other companies. The Contestant teams [Star Milling Co./ The Scoular Company](#) are leading in the salmonid category; [Empagran/Veramaris](#) are leading in the shrimp category; and Jiangsu Fuhai Biotech Co., Ltd is in the lead in the other carnivorous species category with its largemouth bass feed.

A combined total of 145 metric tons (145,255 kilograms) of F3 feed was sold by the three competitors in the salmonid category, 2,951 metric tons (2,950,950 kilograms) of F3 feed was sold by the three competitors in the shrimp category, and 7.72 metric tons (7,720 kilograms) was sold by the two competitors in the other carnivorous species category.

Eight qualifying F3 feeds were submitted by the six contestants competing toward the \$300,000 in prizes. Contestants began recording sales as of Oct. 1, 2020 or after submitting their feed. The qualifying F3 feeds for all prize categories must not contain any ingredients consisting of or derived from marine animals, including but not limited to: fish, squid, shrimp, or krill.



“We are pleased to see commercial quantities of fish-free feeds being produced by major mills and used on large farms. I believe we are seeing the rising tide of novel ingredients coming online disrupting the industry as the decreasing costs of the novel ingredients are matching the increasing costs of fishmeal and fish oil,” said Kevin Fitzsimmons, F3 Challenge chair and professor at the University of Arizona. “We are especially pleased that environmental groups who have criticized the use of forage fishes in aquaculture feeds have contributed to the solution by supporting this contest and other efforts to improve the sustainability of the aquaculture industry.”

The F3 - Future of Fish Feed goal is to assure greater global food security by reducing the aquaculture industry’s reliance on fishmeal and fish oil derived from small forage fish such as menhaden and sardines and to future-proof it against shocks to the supply chain.

Reliance on wild-caught resources threatens the ability to grow many aquacultured species because the supply of small fish fluctuates globally. Reliance on wild-caught resources also threatens wild-caught commercial fisheries, such as tuna, salmon and cod, since these larger fish depend on smaller fish for their sustenance. Since aquacultured and wild-caught seafood comprises the entire supply of seafood, finding nutritionally equivalent alternatives to small fish is important for maintaining the supply of seafood globally.

All sales reported by companies remain unverified. F3 Challenge judges will verify F3 feed sales prior to announcing the winners per the [contest rules](#).

Sponsors of the F3 Challenge include the University of Arizona, The Campbell Foundation, Synbiobeta, The Nature Conservancy, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Anthropocene Institute, Dawson Family Fund, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, Tides Foundation, Cuna Del Mar, the National Renderers Association and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.