

Winners of F3 Challenge, Global Seafood Industry's Contest, Announced

Carnivores, the largest consumers of fishmeal, fish oil were focus of industry contest

Seattle— Oct. 5, 2022— [The F3 — Future of Fish Feed](#) announced today that three animal feed manufacturers—Star Milling Co, Empagran and Jiangsu Fuhai Biotech Co, Ltd.—each won a US\$100,000 grand prize in the F3 Challenge - Carnivore Edition. The F3 Challenge is the global seafood industry's leading contest to spark innovation in the development and commercialization of aquaculture feeds free of fishmeal and fish oil to eliminate wild-caught fish in aquaculture feeds.

“We congratulate all the contestants who rose to the challenge despite all the recent adversity and supply chain disruptions,” said Kevin Fitzsimmons, professor at the University of Arizona and chair of the F3 Challenge, during a special ceremony at the Global Seafood Alliance's GOAL conference. “Their hard work and flexibility paid off.”

Each year, an estimated 16 million metric tons of wild fish are caught exclusively for use as fishmeal and fish oil in global food production. Aquaculture now provides well over half of the world's seafood and is the dominant consumer of these oil-rich fish, like sardines, anchovies and menhaden called “forage fish.” Feed is the largest concern of aquaculture farms.

The prizes were awarded in each of three categories—salmonid, shrimp, and other carnivorous species—to the contestant that produced and sold the most “fish-free” feed made without wild-caught fish or any marine-animal ingredient.

About the winners:

- U.S.-based [Star Milling Co.](#) won for its non-GMO plant-based feed that contains omega-3 DHA-rich algae and heart-healthy flax oil for rainbow trout.
- The Ecuadorian company [Empagran](#) won for its vegetarian recipe **using** [Veramaris](#)' algal oil rich in EPA & DHA omegas for Pacific white shrimp.
- China-based **Jiangsu Fuhai Biotech** uses its unique Fatide® product with dehulled full fat soybean fermented by microbes and enzymes for its largemouth bass feed.

Japan-based Dainichi Corporation received an Honorable Mention Award, a US\$25,000 prize for their breakthrough feed for red sea bream.

Over three million kilograms of feed was sold in all seafood categories during the roughly 16-month contest, and over 95 million forage fish were spared from use in animal feed.

The F3 - Future of Fish Feed assures greater global food security by reducing the aquaculture industry's reliance on fishmeal and fish oil to future-proof the supply chain.

The next F3 Challenge focused on palatants will be announced in early 2023.

#

The Future of Fish Feed (F3) is a collaborative effort between NGOs, academic institutions, and private partnerships to accelerate the commercialization of innovative, substitute aquaculture feed ingredients to replace wild-caught fish. www.f3challenge.org