

Industry Promotion Important At Big Brown Fish Hatchery

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several state aquaculture advisory boards and committees. Conklin is a board member of the U.S. Trout Farmers Association where he previously served board chairman and

the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Advisory Board, where he has been appointed to the Fish Health Committee. Conklin's most important involvement is president of the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Association, a position for which Conklin is

well qualified. Having received several appointments to commissions by the Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture and his serving as board chairman of the Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC), Conklin has been and is still directly involved in aquaculture promotion, health issues, and legislative issues affecting his industry.

Through his work with industry associations Conklin is able to promote the health advantages of eating trout and is working on a hand-out dispelling some of the false statements that

aquaculture producers must correct if their product is going to take a larger share in the food market.

While promoting the product is essential to helping producers, protecting them from the ever-increasing burden of what often seem to be unreasonable regulations is just as important. Conklin sees more and more regulations that his industry must live with every day and believes strongly that most concerns and issues can be handled with what rules and regulations are in force. Unfortunately, a large percentage of those regulations

are not enforced.

Conklin said small business is the backbone of the American economy, but small businesses can't afford the money or time to comply with all the regulations. Many small businesses, such as family operated fish hatcheries which make up the bulk of the hatcheries in the U.S., have only four to five employees and can't afford a full-time compliance officer—something that seems necessary to keep up with all the regulations.

For more information on Big Brown Fish Hatchery and Fish and Pay Lakes, visit their Website at www.bigbrown-fish.com or by telephone at (570) 629-0427.

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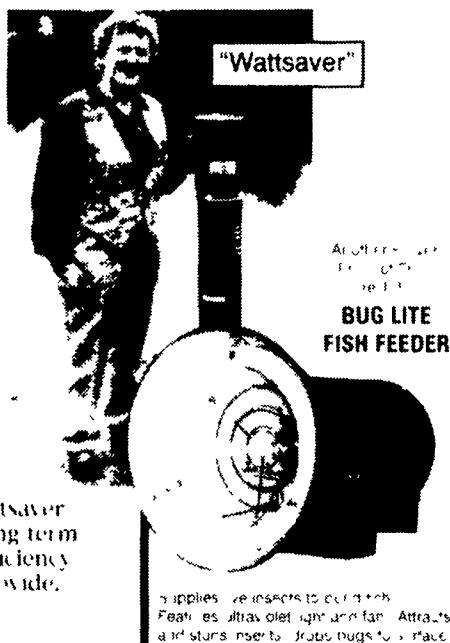
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