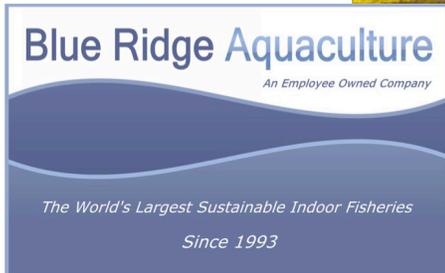


# A Plastatech® CASE STUDY

## Lining The Path To Success



Blue Ridge Aquaculture, Inc., located in Martinsville, Virginia, is known as one of the world's largest indoor fisheries – raising nearly four million pounds of Tilapia each year. Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer William Martin, Jr. and Chief Operations Officer Rocky Holley, they ship approximately 75,000 pounds of these hardy fish each week to markets in New York, Boston, Toronto, and other cities. The logistics of maintaining an operation of this magnitude did not come without its challenges, and the team at Blue Ridge turned to Plastatech® Engineering, Ltd. in Saginaw, Michigan to help them address their needs.

When developing their indoor nursery, Blue Ridge Aquaculture saw an opportunity to save on their overall costs and constructed wooden tanks for the fish, bypassing the commonly used fiberglass and hard plastic options found throughout the industry. Unlike epoxies, paints and fiberglass, liners are longer lasting and considerably less time consuming to replace if

needed. The Blue Ridge nursery now houses 16 wooden tanks that stock newly hatched fish between one and three weeks old.

Originally, the wooden tanks at Blue Ridge Aquaculture were lined with rubber material until 2010 when they switched to a new product. However, the Blue Ridge crew began experiencing trouble when their new material started shrinking after installation. Rocky Holley reached out to Plastatech for help, and they were able to find a PVC solution that performed effectively and met their budget. "This PVC is much easier to manage and is more durable," said Karl Sharp, Assistant Operations and Facilities Manager.

The Plastatech team worked closely with Blue Ridge to manufacture and custom fabricate liners made out of their 30 mil FG (fish grade) geomembrane material. Known for its tensile strength, flexibility, and aquaculture-safe properties, Plastatech's FG liners are ideal for use in both indoor and outdoor ponds and tanks. Tri-City

Vinyl, Inc. – a division of Plastatech – was able to fabricate the liners to fit the tanks at Blue Ridge Aquaculture precisely, significantly reducing installation time and the potential for leaks by completing a large majority of the seaming in a factory-controlled environment.

"Plastatech did a fantastic job with the manufacturing and fabrication of our new liners," said Karl. "The thickness is exactly what we were hoping for and we have not experienced any of the shrinking that we did with our other liners. We currently have four 800 gallon tanks operating with Plastatech FG liners, and will be replacing the rest with this same material when it's necessary."

Plastatech's ability to manufacture custom tank liners, combined with the material's durability provided Blue Ridge Aquaculture the solution they were looking for. By addressing a primary logistical challenge for the team, Plastatech has been instrumental in helping Blue Ridge Aquaculture optimize their daily operations.



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