

Why fish farms fail, and how to avoid becoming a statistic

By Leslie Ter Morshuizen

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27 February 2025 | 7:00 pm

The popularity of launching fish farms is not matched by their success. Leslie Ter Morshuizen, owner of Aquaculture Solutions, explores the factors that cause most of these businesses to go under.



While cost effective, cages can be tricky to manage accurately.

The farming of fish is an enjoyable activity as well as a potentially lucrative business, and this has attracted many entrants to the industry. Sadly, statistics tell us that more fish farms fail than succeed, so it is important for us to consider the reasons why fish farms fail and what potential or existing farmers and/or investors can do to avoid the known hazards.

Market-related challenges

The investment is often based on an assumption that a certain price can be obtained for the fish. However, in reality, sometimes the quantity of fish that can be sold at the anticipated price doesn't meet these expectations.

So before any significant investment is made, the fish farmer needs to confirm who will buy the fish, what species they want to buy, what size they want, the price they will pay, and the form in which these fish need to be supplied.

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