

Ken Beer is perhaps the most innovative and accomplished aquaculturalist in California. He started his career as a newly graduated aquatic biologist from the University of Washington who decided to attend graduate school at U.C. Davis where he studied under Dr. Serge Doroshov who had recently defected from the Soviet Union where he was a highly regarded authority on the reproduction of several species sturgeon in the Soviet Union. Ken was Serge's first graduate student and together they their association would be the basis for the immensely successful sturgeon and caviar industry that lead the nation in caviar production and that has been the origin of sturgeon production in Italy and Israel. After "boot strapping" rudimentary fish farms on rented properties with small loans from friends and family in Winters and then South Sacramento, Ken bought his first of three farms located in Galt in 1983. Today those three farms produce sturgeon and caviar, several million pounds of catfish, black bass, carp, and occasionally striped bass. It is one of the largest sources of caviar in the United States and the world.