

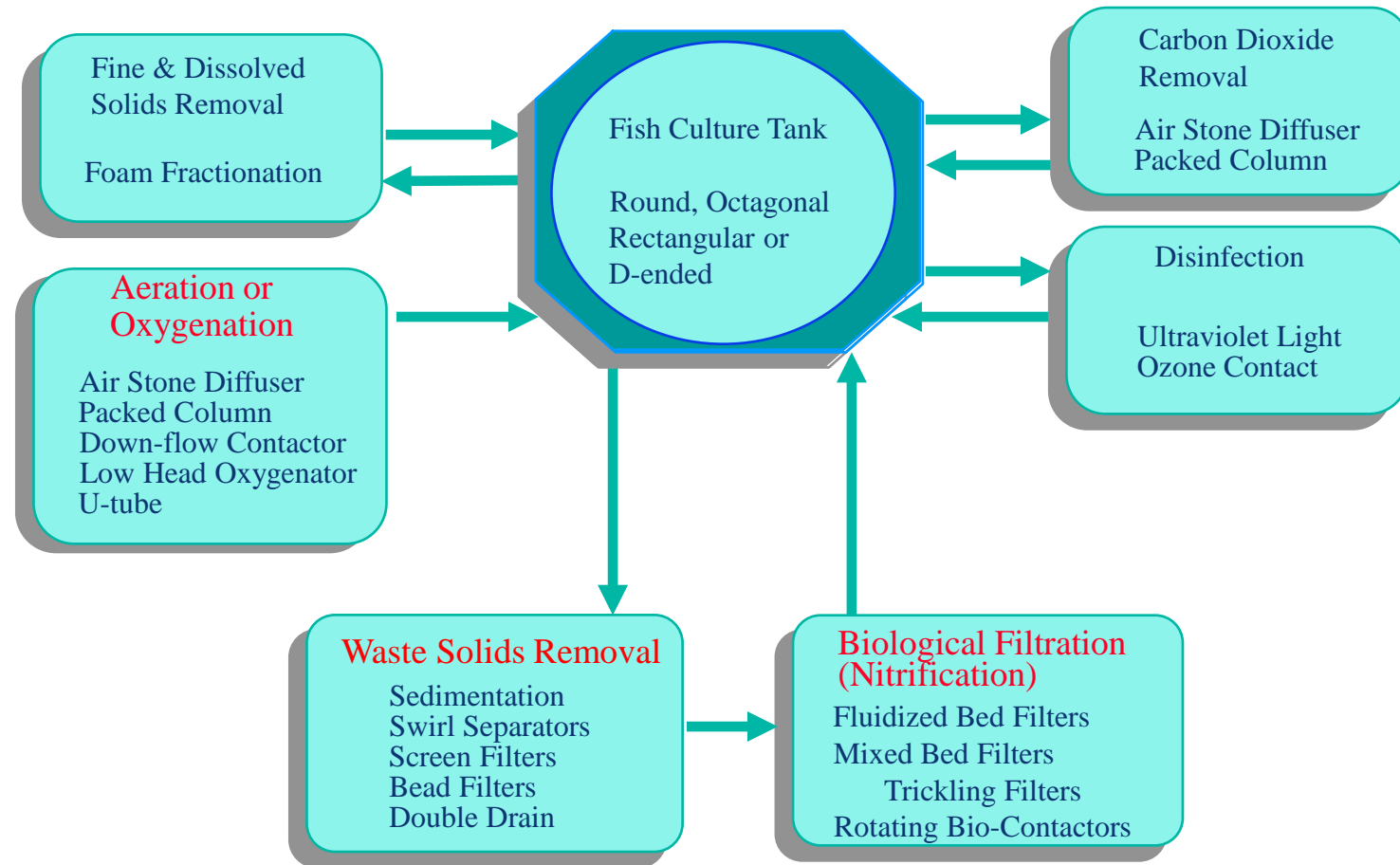
# Blending RAS and AquaPonics: Engineering Flexibility Into Fish & Plant Production Systems

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# Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)



- Intensive Fish Culture Tanks
- Solids Removal Components
- Biofiltration (Nitrification)
- Carbon Dioxide Removal
- UV Filters
- Oxygenation Components
- Denitrification Loop
- Wastewater Treatment
- Typical Discharge 10 – 20% of System Volume per Day

**The Basics of RAS Technology has been developing for over 40 years**

# Traditional Balanced AquaPonics Systems

- Fish Culture Tanks
- Solids Removal; Often Settling Technology
- Fine Solids Removal within Floating Plant Roots
- Nutrient Removal with the Plant Culture
- Aeration Provide at Fish Culture Tanks
- Typical 7 : 1 Plant Area to Fish Area Ratio

**University of the Virgin Islands System**  
**Annual Output**  
5,000 kg of fish  
1,400 Cases of Lettuce  
5,000 kg of Basil  
2,900 kg of Okra



## AquaPonics Usually Produces More Plants than Fish

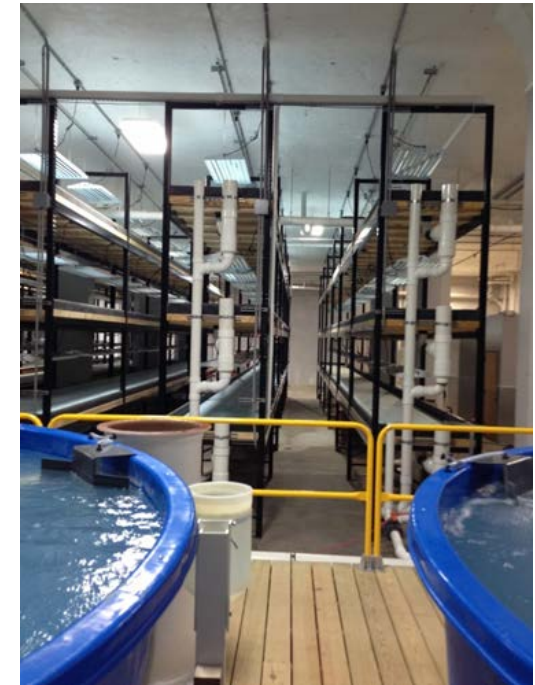
# Goals for this Project

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- Create a Fish and Plant Production Systems within the City
- Existing Building Provides Advantages of Lower Capital Costs & Subsidies for Redevelopment
- Create a System that Produces Fish and Plants at Rates to meet our Market Demand



←  
Making Abandoned This  
Into Productive This  
→



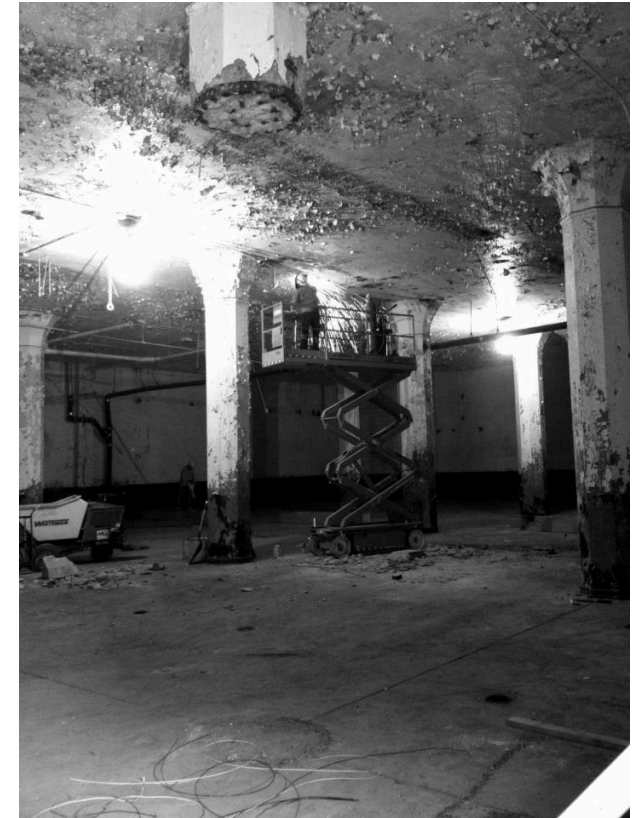
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Take Unproductive Urban Structures and Make I Productive Again



# We Started with This

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## A Well Insulated Sturdy Structure Close to Our Market at the Right Price

# Started by Adding Infrastructure

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A New Well for a Consistent Source of High Quality Water with High Alkalinity



Dependable Power with a Favorable Rate Structure



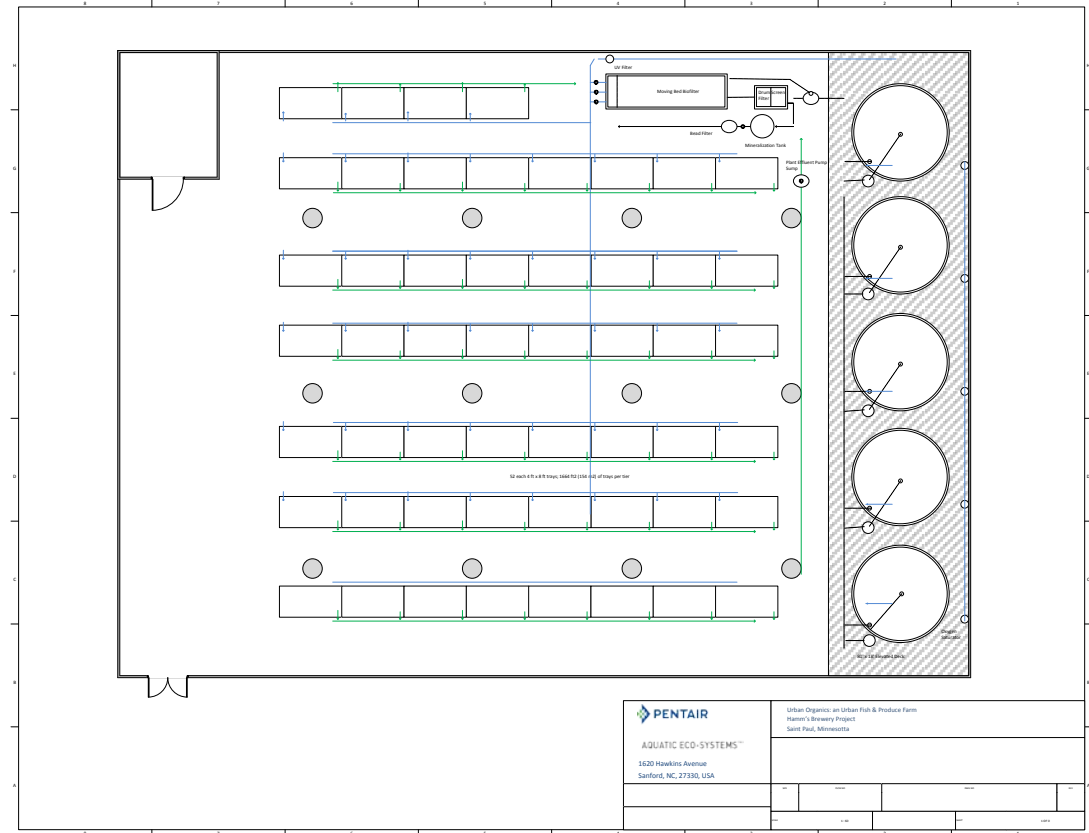
Updated and Modern Access

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## Newly Added Water, Power and Site Access

# Then We Evaluated the Facility for Biosecurity

- Where to draw the line for Biosecurity?
  - Between Systems: One tank per a few Lines of trays?
  - Or Biosecurity between floors and all tanks and trays combined?
- Decided on a 5 Tank per floor layout and a combined RAS and Plant Treatment System

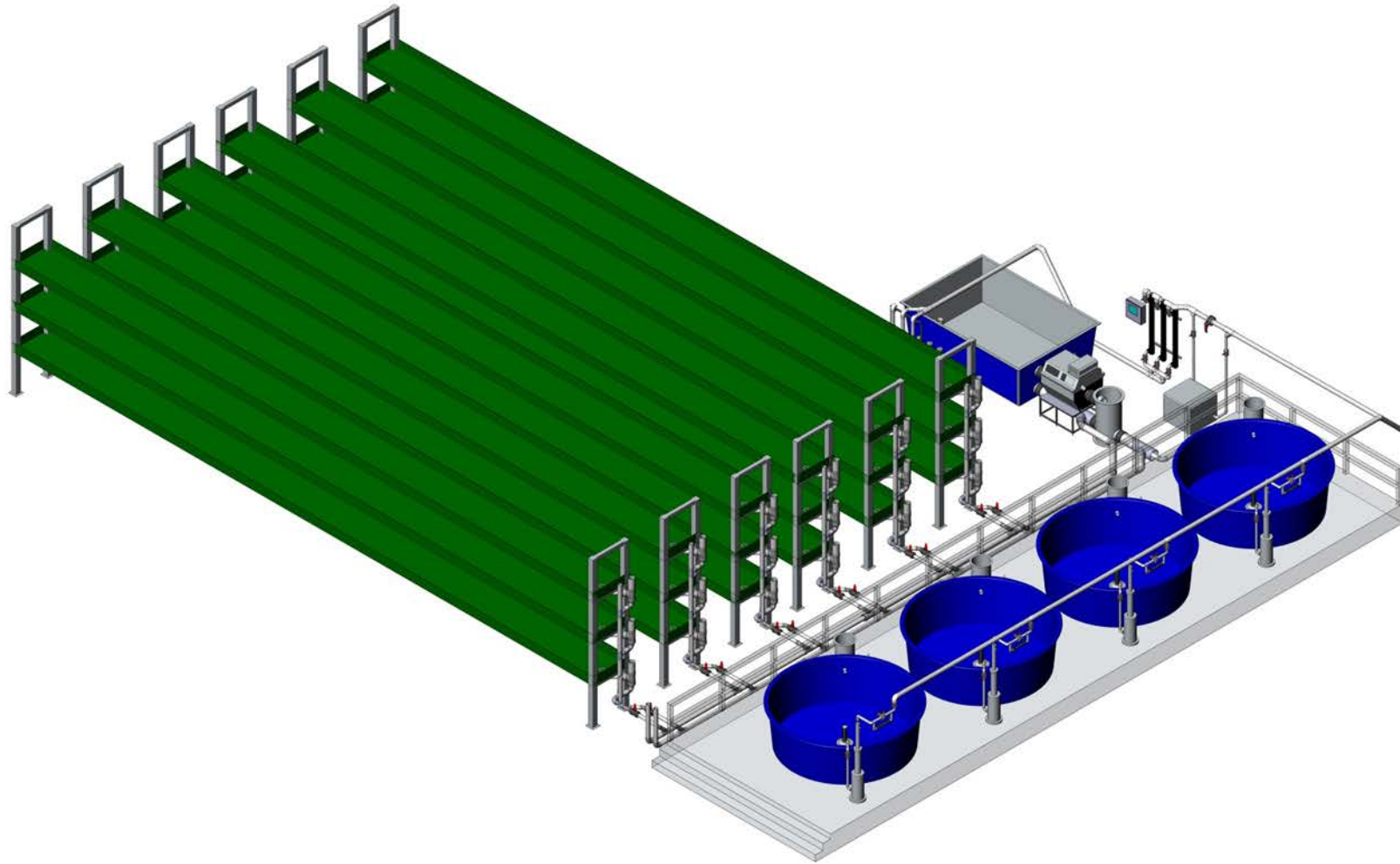


Biosecurity in this system is be between floors



# Created the Design: With CAD Solid Works

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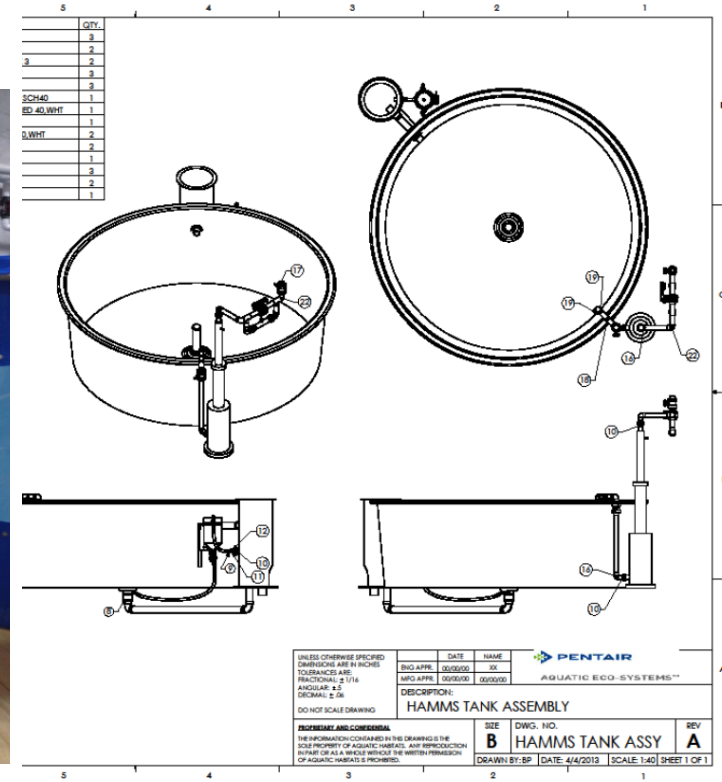
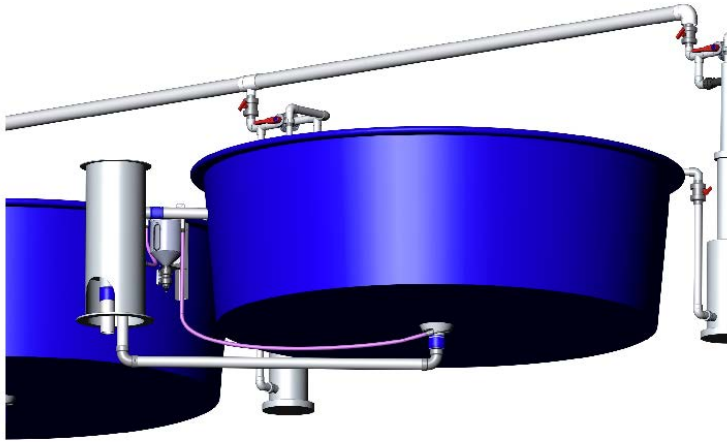


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Designing a system that would fit within the walls and between the columns



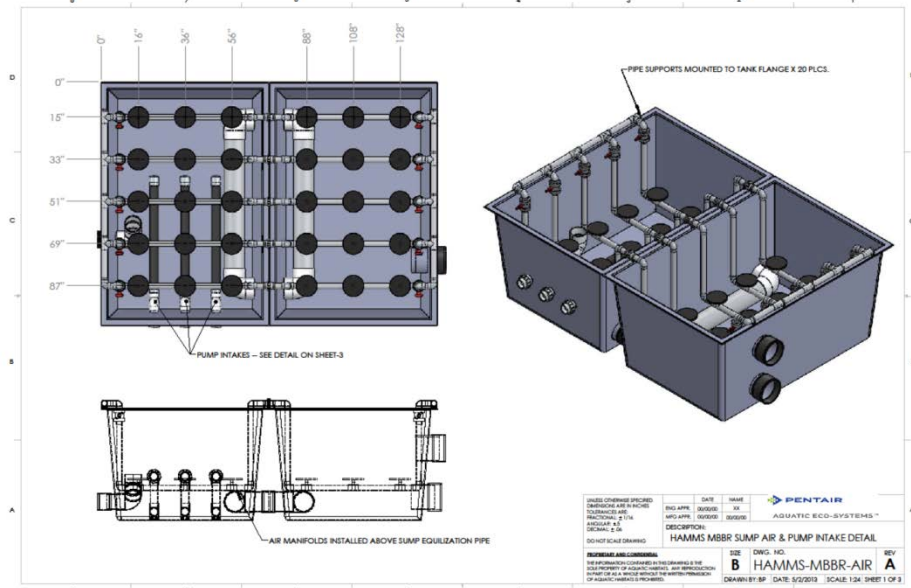
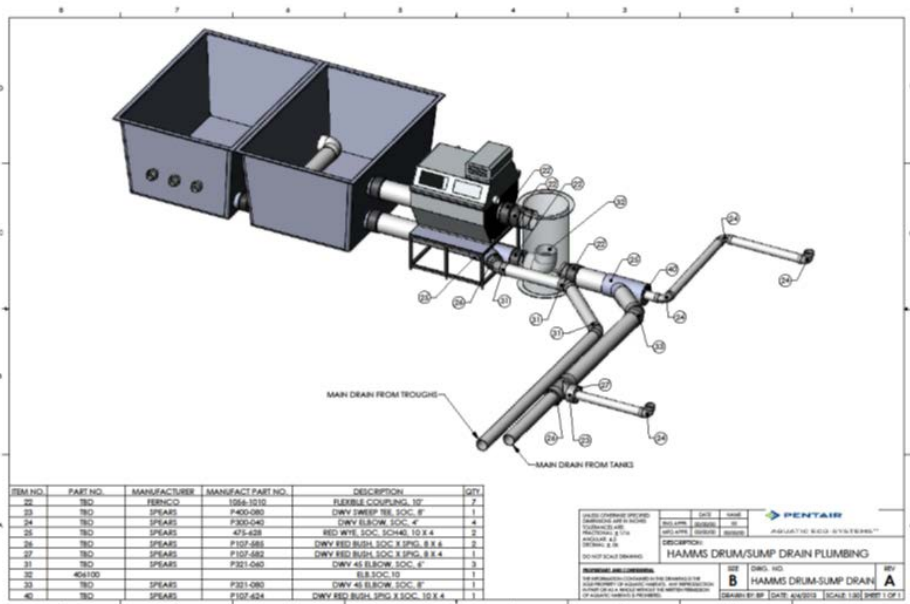
# Creating The Detail: 12.5 m<sup>3</sup> Polytanks with EcoTrap 110 Particle Traps



- Each Tank has a EcoTrap 110 Particle Trap, a Sludge Collector and external Stand Pipe

## Poly-tanks fitted with EcoTraps with Sludge Collectors & External Stand Pipes

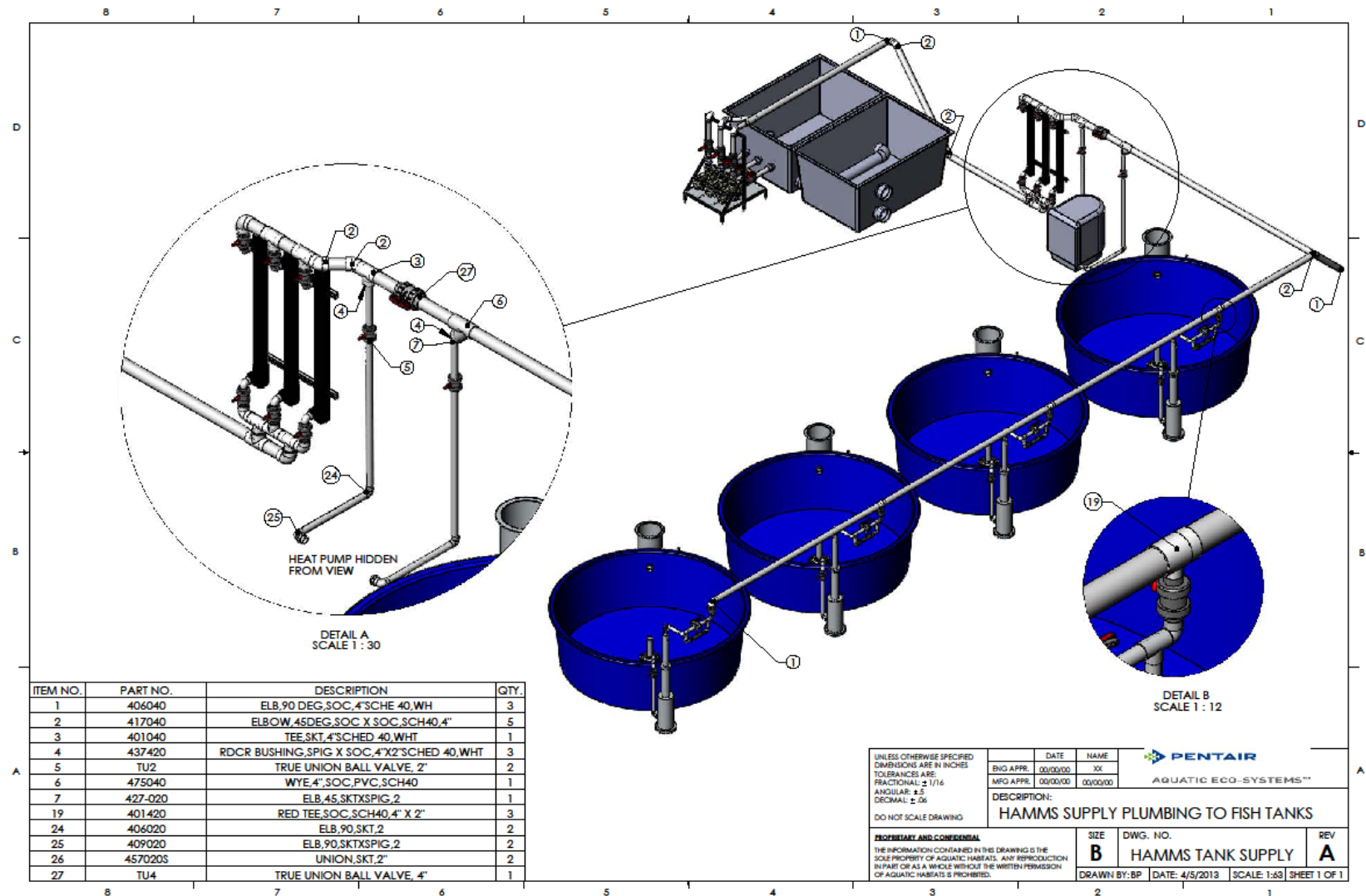
# Creating the Detail: Flow to Drum-Screen & MBBR



- Each Moving Bed Bio-Reactor Stage contains 2.5 m<sup>3</sup> Kaldnes media nitrifying ammonia from 40 kg feed / day
- Each Reactor contains 15 Disc Air Diffusers (90 cfm total)

Gravity flow through a Faivre Model 2-80 Drum Screen Filter with 60 micron screens

# Creating the Detail: Water Return System



## Constant Flow Pumps, UV Filters, Heat Pumps, Oxygen Contactors



# Creating the Detail: Pumping from the Moving Bed Reactors



- Three Pentair 3 kW Sparus Constant Flow Pumps
- Two for the RAS Loop
- One for the Plant Loop (530 lpm, 140 gpm)

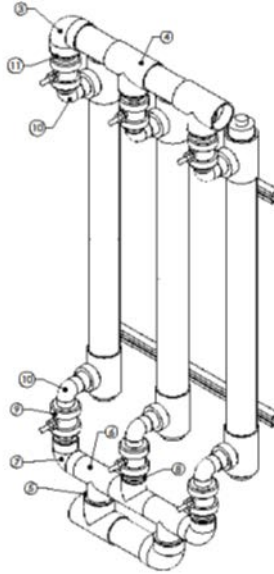


Constant Flow pumps supply water up to 1,060 lpm (280 gpm) to Culture Tanks



# Creating the Detail: UV Filters and Heat Pump

- Three Emperor Aquatics 150 W High Output UV Filters
- One Pentair UltraTemp Titanium Heat Exchanger Heat Pump for heating the culture tank and room dehumidification. 125 K BTU of heating, 71 K BTU of Cooling



UV Filters to provide a UV dose of  $30 \text{ mJ} / \text{cm}^2$ , Heat Pump utilizes latent heat

# Creating the Detail: Water Return to the Culture Tanks



- One Oxygen Saturator PAES Model OY75 per Tank

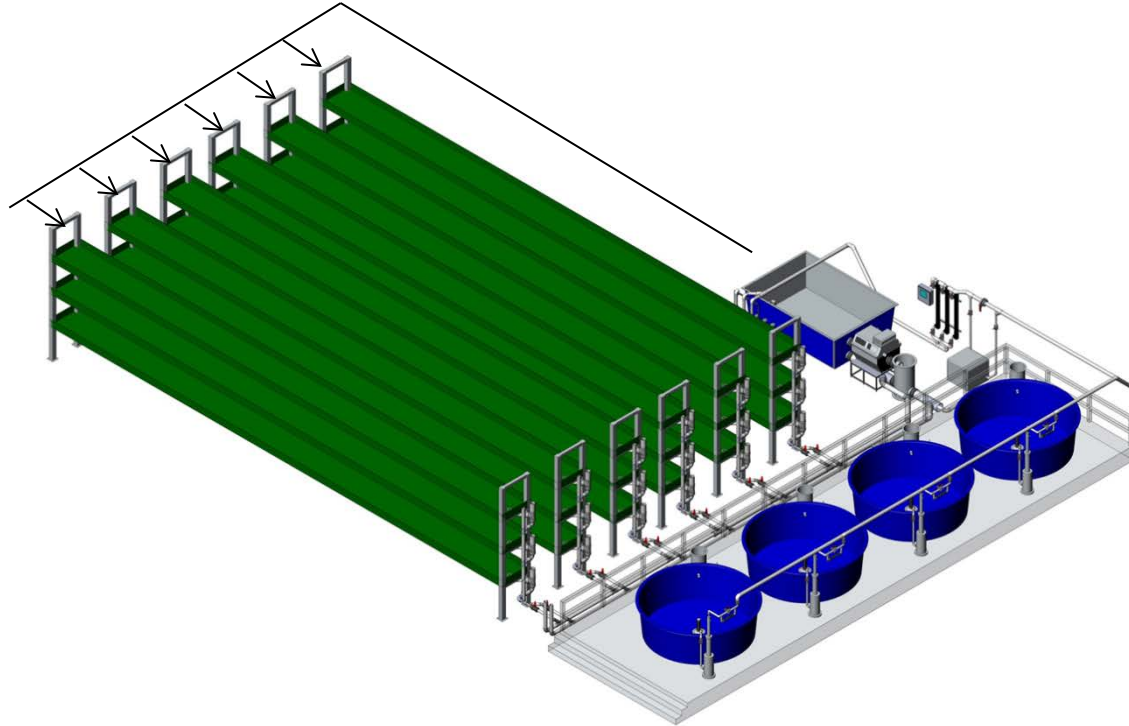


- Water returns from the OY75 through a Vertical Manifold w/ flow manometer



OY75 Saturators transfer up 0.25 kg O<sub>2</sub> / hour; Vertical Manifolds Create Self Cleaning Flow Conditions

# Creating the Detail: The Link to the Plant Production System



- Water from the second Moving Bed Filter is pumped by the closest Sparus CF pump to the head of each tray



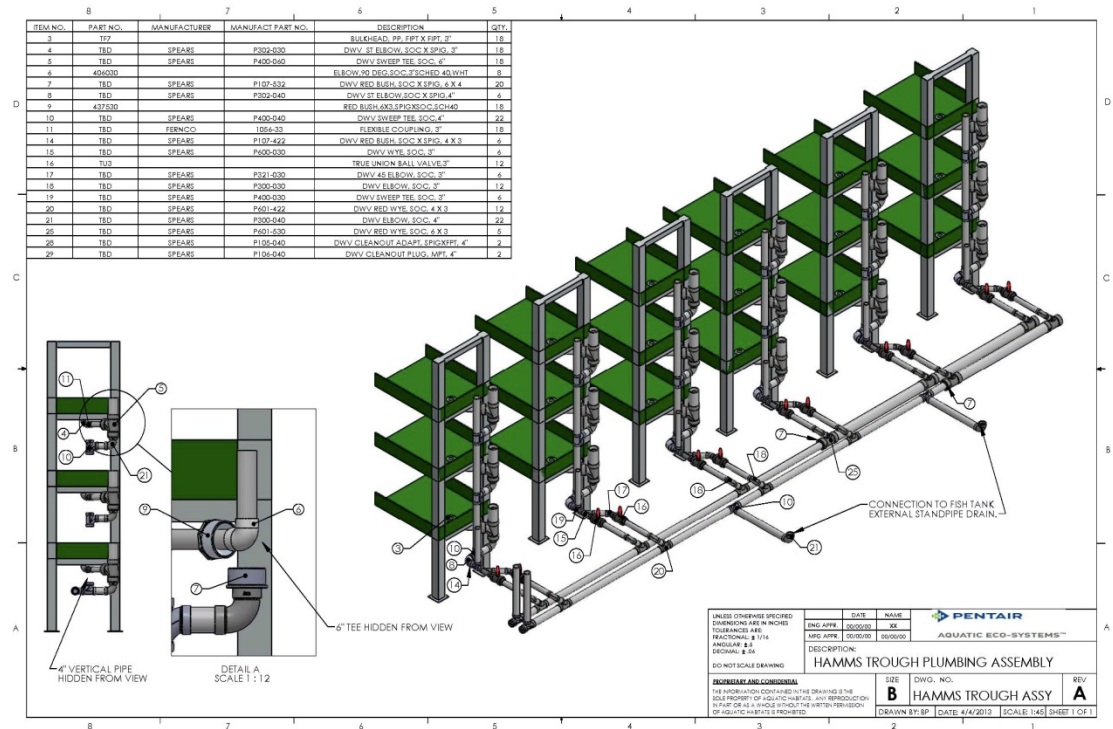
Water flows equally through each of the three levels of trays



# Creating the Detail: Trays , Water Flow and Plants



- Water from the second Moving Bed Filter is pumped by the closest Sparus CF pump to the head of each Tray



- The plants float on polystyrene rafts in 18.3 x 1.2 meter long plastic troughs. Three tiers on a rack, and six to eight racks per floor with up to 24 000 plants.

Water is pumped to the Trays and flows by gravity back to the Biofilters



# Creating the Detail: Trays and Lighting



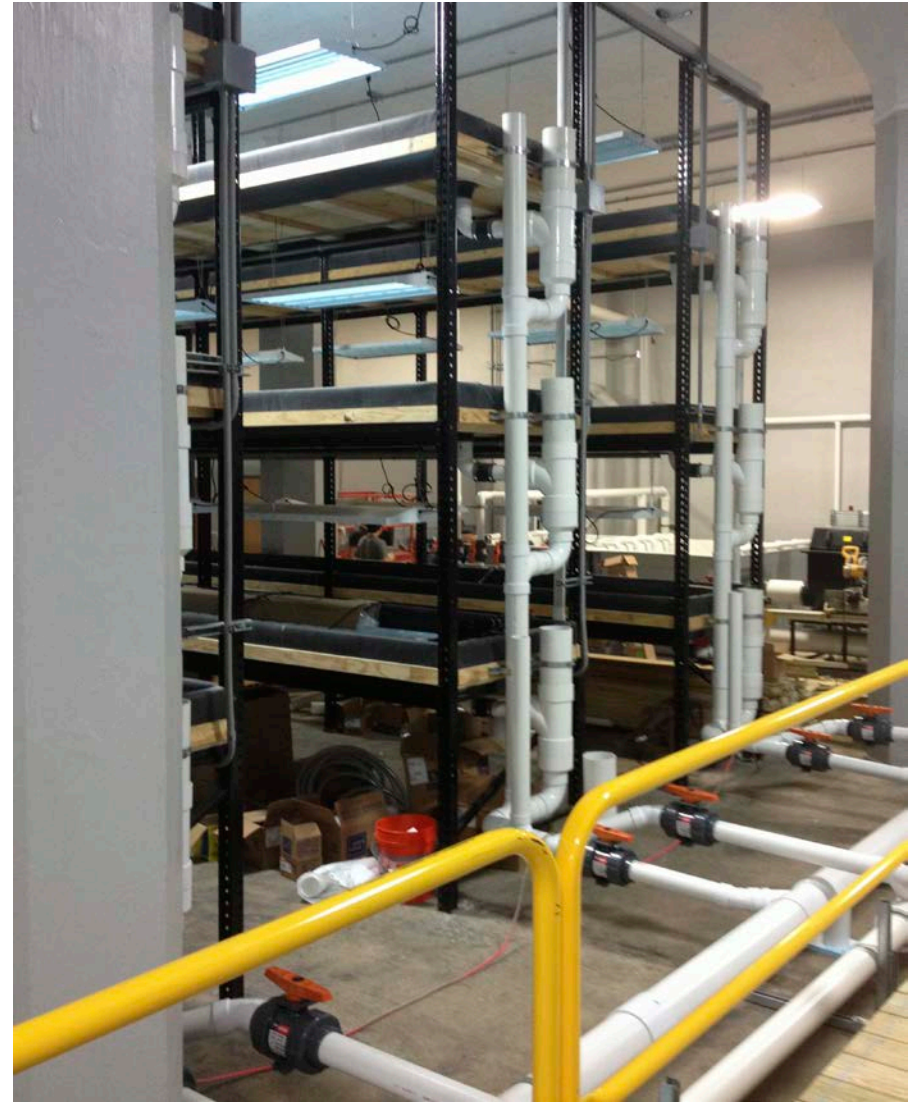
- Each Tray is lit with twenty 250-watt 6500k T5 Grow Lights suspended about 0.5 m above the plants; A total of 300 bulbs per floor.



- Pictured above are the drain lines leading from the Trays to the Drum Screen Filter or first stage of the Moving Bed Bio Reactor (MBBR)

Plant receive an optimum level of light yielding optimum growth rates

# Plant Grown Trays and Lights (T-5)



90-110g feed/m<sup>2</sup>, plant to fish surface area 6.3:1



# Expected Production from this Facility

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- Fish production from the facility is expected to be 23 – 28 mt per year
- Annual plant yield of 450 mt of lettuce and fresh herbs

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Waste water will be collected in the basement of the building, solids removed and some water reused

# Acknowledgements



The Urban Organic Team

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