

The CRAB Consortium

Associations

European Aquaculture Society
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers
Irish Salmon Growers Association
Norwegian Seafood Federation – Aquaculture Division

RTD Providers

Global AquaFish SL (ES)
Materials Innovation Center (NL)
Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research TNO (NL)*
University College Cork (IRE)
University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK)

SMEs

Alevines Y Doradas SA (ES)
AquaTT UETP Ltd (IRE)
Bømlo Skjell AS (NO)
Boris Net Company Ltd. (UK)
James Newman - Crookhaven Fisherman's Association (IRE)
Cudomar SL (ES)
Curryglass Enterprises Ltd (IRE)
Fastnet Mussels (IRE)
Lakeland Marine Farms Ltd. (UK)
Promociones Marsan SL (ES)
Quinta Formosa, Produções Aquícolas, Lda (PT)
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**Providing the European marine
aquaculture industry with low cost
practical solutions to control
biofouling**

EU contract COLL-CT-2003-500536

www.crabproject.com

The Biofouling Problem

Biofouling is a complex and recurring problem in all sectors of the European fish-farming industry. Problem areas include biofouling on INFRASTRUCTURE (Immersed structures such as cages, netting and pontoons; equipment and structures such as pipelines, pumps, filters and holding tanks) and FARMED SPECIES (mussels, scallops, oysters etc).



Underwater net cleaning



Shellfish fouling

In the next 10 years the choice and availability of biocides for use as antifoulants will become much more restrictive within Europe with the application of the Biocides Products Directive EC 98/8/EC. Better knowledge within the sector will allow farmers to make informed choices and seek sustainable alternatives to current toxins that can cause pollution problems.

Reduction in biofouling raises the market value of shellfish

An Alternate Approach

This pan-European initiative will develop effective biofouling management strategies for the aquaculture industry. It will review current fouling control techniques and technologies and then select and optimise suitable strategies to combat biofouling in aquaculture. These include biological control (using natural grazers); new materials such as non-toxic antifouling coatings; electrical methods (generating biocides (Cl⁻) or pH shifts) and new shellfish handling and immersion techniques.

Effective control and management of biofouling can reduce annual production costs by 5-10%

Expected Outcomes

Key deliverables include best practice guidelines; training courses and materials for industry workers on biofouling and suitable control techniques, sustainable antifouling strategy management and decision support tools.

A key ambition is to increase the knowledge base of the European aquaculture community. Informing farmers about the importance and extent of biofouling at a local and regional level, combined with effective training in management tools, will give farmers the skills and know-how to make informed appropriate choices for their farming situation.