

NORTH COD

Sustainable Development of Cod Farming

Historically, the most important fish species in the northern periphery has been cod. However, recent years have witnessed a decline in wild fish stocks. With the decline in wild fisheries for cod, aquaculture of this species has become commercially realistic and is now an emergent industry in northern periphery countries. Aquaculture of cod has a valuable potential role in the development and employment opportunities in the northern periphery area and could provide alternative employment for displaced fishermen and breathe new life into rural communities currently suffering due to the declining fishing industry. However, for that to happen, the hatcheries have to be enabled to become commercially viable through improvements in survival of cod larvae and juveniles in the hatcheries. NorthCod aims to achieve this through co-operation, joint research and organised exchange of information in the northern periphery area.

Objectives

The success of cod farming depends on a good supply of cod fry. While advances have been made in production of fry, mortality in the larval and juvenile periods is still high and limiting production. Different hatcheries and countries use different culture regimes. The NorthCod project is therefore aimed at exchanging and standardising fish production information in the northern periphery area to maximise knowledge of production systems and improve the efficiency of the production systems. This will involve benchmarking across hatcheries in the area and production of a cod hatchery production manual utilising best practice and ensuring best standards of fish welfare.



Project activities

The northern periphery countries of Iceland, Norway and Scotland, along with Russia, aim to establish a sustainable production of cod fry to promote successful cod farming in northern areas. Several technical obstacles have to be overcome before cod hatchery production can be made efficient and sustainable. These will be examined by the multi-country team and findings transferred to the commercial hatcheries throughout the northern periphery area. These include addressing high levels of abnormal development of cod juveniles, improving growth rates and production through control of maturation, benchmarking of fry production and collaboration in producing a cod hatchery manual.

This will be done through transnational co-operation in the following projects:

1. Standardisation of production methods
2. Cod broodstock management
3. Manual on hatchery production of cod

Expected results

The ultimate aim of NorthCod is to increase the likelihood of success for the aquaculture of cod in remote communities of the Northern Periphery area. It will promote sustainable cod cultivation in remote communities and increase the sector's employment potential.

Partners

University of Stirling. Institute of Aquaculture / Macrihanish - Scotland

Scottish Association of Marine Science - Scotland

IceCod Ltd - Iceland

Bunes Marine AS - Norway

Lofilab AS - Norway

Orkney Marine Hatcheries Ltd - Scotland

Nufish Ltd - Scotland

Bodo Regional University - Norway

Murman Marine Biological Institute - Russia

Measure

2.2

Total Budget

1 399 014

NPP Award

631 941

Project Period

01/01/2005 - 31/12/2007

Countries Involved

Norway, Iceland, Scotland,
Northwest Russia

Lead Partner

Organisation

Nordland Research
Institute, Norway

Project leader

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