

North of Scotland KTP Centre Case Study

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Shetland Aquaculture Producers Organisation

The was to develop a range of management/husbandry protocols ensuring the efficacy and welfare of wrasse used for the control of sea lice in the aquaculture industry.

Challenge

One of the most significant production issues that the Scottish finfish aquaculture industry contends with are mortalities, damage and the associated loss of productivity of stocks affected by sea lice infections. The sea lice issue has been estimated to cost the Scottish farmed salmon industry c. £ 30 million p.a. and continues to be a significant threat to the economic and environmental sustainability of businesses. The industry currently utilises a number of chemotherapeutic treatments to address these lice issues with varying degrees of success.

Results

This KTP contributed to a broader strategy to introduce the use of 'cleaner fish' (Wrasse) into the routine management of the parasite challenge from the sea louse. The KTP allowed the industry to evaluate best husbandry techniques in using Wrasse in a farm environment and also to examine the fish welfare implications of co-habitation of the two fish species. There was good evidence of direct cost savings within the overall area of lice management.



Benefits

The information disseminated to industry partners, its subsequent use applied in situations to safeguard welfare and increase cost effectiveness and the network of meaningful contacts created by the successful delivery of the project were the most notable achievements. This project was delivered at a time that coincided exactly with the uptake of the practice by a number of local companies and the outputs informed the process in a positive way.

Knowledge
Transfer
Partnerships



The Company is a grouping of salmon farming businesses in the Shetland Isles. The core activity is the on-growing of farmed salmon through the marine stage, utilising net pens moored in coastal waters.

"This KTP helped to focus our industries desire and willingness to evaluate a potential production tool and convince owners and managers to further invest in the process."

David Sandison,
General Manager

Innovate UK