



Prevent Escape - Assessing the causes and developing measures to prevent the escape of fish from sea-cage aquaculture

Project Details

Funding Programme: 7th Framework Programme (FP7)
 Sub-Programme: Cooperation, Theme 2: Food, Agriculture Fisheries and Biotechnology
 Funding Scheme: Small to medium scale collaborative project
 Project Duration: 36 Months (2008-2011)
 Total Project Value: €3.9m
 EU Grant-Aid: €3m
 Funding to Ireland: €201,173
 Website: www.sintef.no/Home/Marine/Fisheries-and-Aquaculture/Aquaculture-Technology/Aquaculture-constructions/Prevent-Escape/



Project Description

The escape of fish from sea-cage aquaculture is perceived as a serious threat to natural biodiversity in Europe's marine waters. Escaped fish may cause undesirable genetic effects in native populations through interbreeding and ecological effects through predation, competition and the transfer of diseases to wild fish. The Prevent Escape project will conduct and integrate biological and technological research on a pan-European scale to improve recommendations and guidelines for aquaculture technologies and operational strategies that reduce escape events. Through research focused on sea-cages and their immediate surrounds, the project will:

- Assess technical and operational causes of escape incidents;
- Assess the extent of escapes of reproductive gametes and fish;
- Determine the inherent behaviours that pre-dispose certain species of fish towards escaping; and
- Document the dispersal of escapees to develop and test recapture strategies.

The project will benchmark the performance of equipment under farming conditions and improve operations and equipment production, thereby advancing national and international standards for the design, construction and use of aquaculture equipment. This will ultimately benefit the cage farming aquaculture industry through practical, achievable measures to prevent escapes and mitigate against the genetic and ecological impacts which result from farm escapes.

Project Partners	
Project Coordinator	SINTEF Fiskeri og havbruk AS (Norway)
Ireland	Marine Institute
Spain	Universidad de Alicante Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Tecnalia-AIE
Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) Norwegian Institute of Fisheries and Food Research (NOFIMA)
Greece	University of Crete Hellenic Centre of Marine Research (HCMR)
UK	Scottish Association for Marine Science
Malta	University of Malta

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