



SIXTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME

Collective Research on Aquaculture Biofouling

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19th June 2005, ASLO Conference, Santiago da Compostela, SPAIN



What is collective research?

Aim: To expand the knowledge base of large communities of small & medium sized enterprises (**SME's**)

Carried out by **RTD** performers on behalf of industrial associations or industry groupings (**IAG's**) in sectors where SMEs are prominent.

The CRAB consortium

■ Co-ordination

- ◆ TNO Science and Industry (NL)

■ IAGs

- ◆ Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FR), Fiskeri og Havbruksnaeringens Landsforening (NO), Irish Salmon Growers Association (IRE), European Aquaculture Society (BE)

■ RTD Performers

- ◆ University College Cork (IRE), University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK), Global Aquafish S.L.(ES), TNO Science and Industry (NL)

■ SMEs

- ◆ Aquatt Uetp Ltd (IRE), Boris Net Company Ltd (UK), Materials Innovation Centre (NL), Bømlo Skjell AS (NO), Val Akva (NO), James Newman (IRE), Curryglass Enterprises Ltd (IRE), Fastnet Mussels Ltd (IRE), Promociones Marsan SL (ES), Cudomar SL (ES), Alevines y Doradas S.A. (ES), Viveiros Ana Manjua Lda (PT), Quinta Formosa Lda (PT), Lakeland Marine Farms Ltd (UK), Sagremarisco Lda (PT)

The CRAB consortium



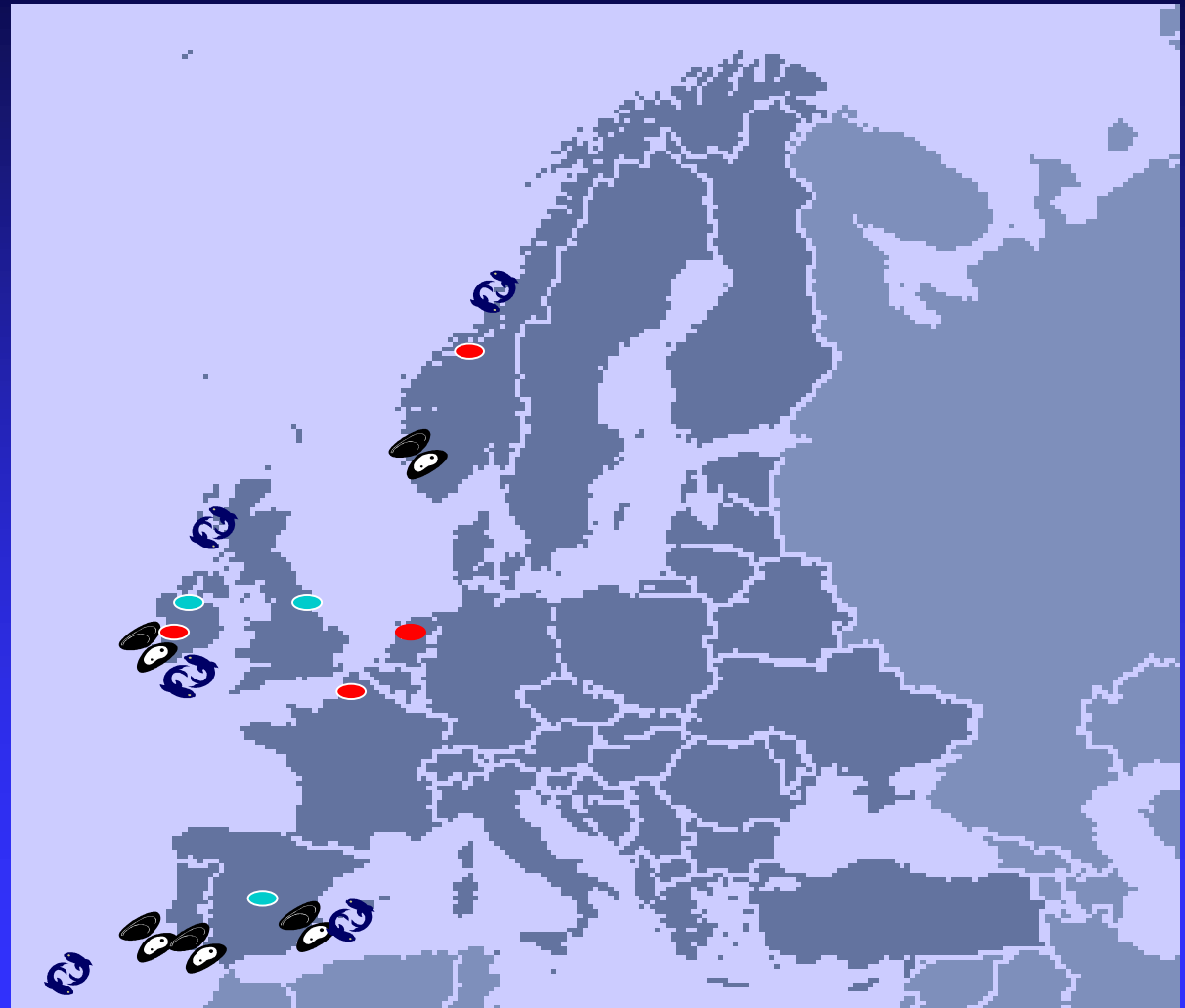
RTD



Co-ordinator and IAG



SME (15)



CRAB objectives

- To develop **effective antifouling management strategies** for the European Aquaculture Industry
- To develop and disseminate **best practice guidelines** and support moves towards sustainability and environmental responsibility

Biofouling costs the industry!

■ Infrastructure:

- ◆ Cages, netting, pontoons
 - ◆ Replacing nets = €120,000.
 - ◆ 2% salmon mortality after net replacement
- ◆ Tanks, pipes, pumps, filters

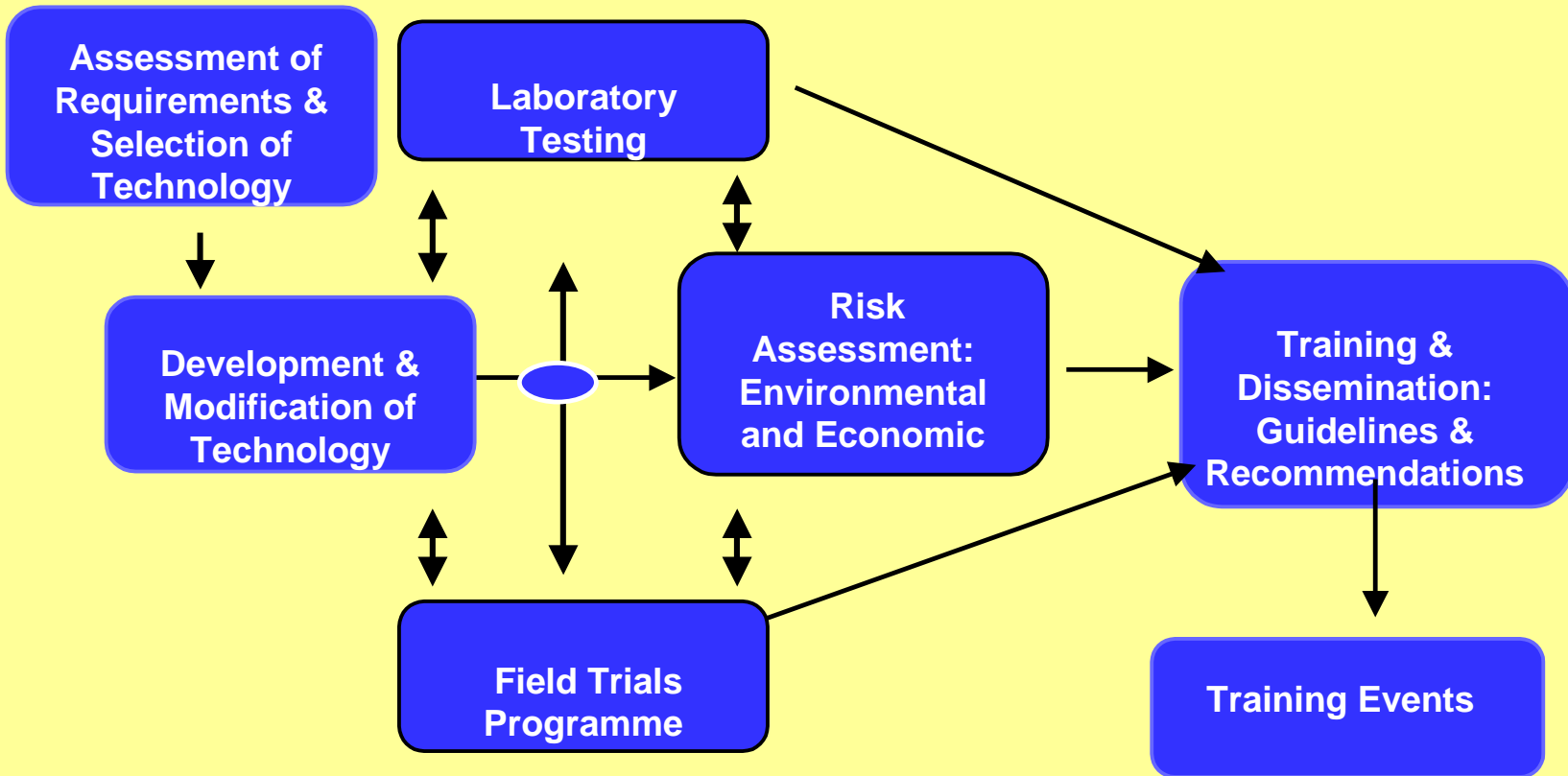
■ Stock species:

- ◆ Particularly shellfish
 - ◆ Cleaning oyster cultures = 20% of market value
 - ◆ Biofouling can reduce growth rates by over 40%.



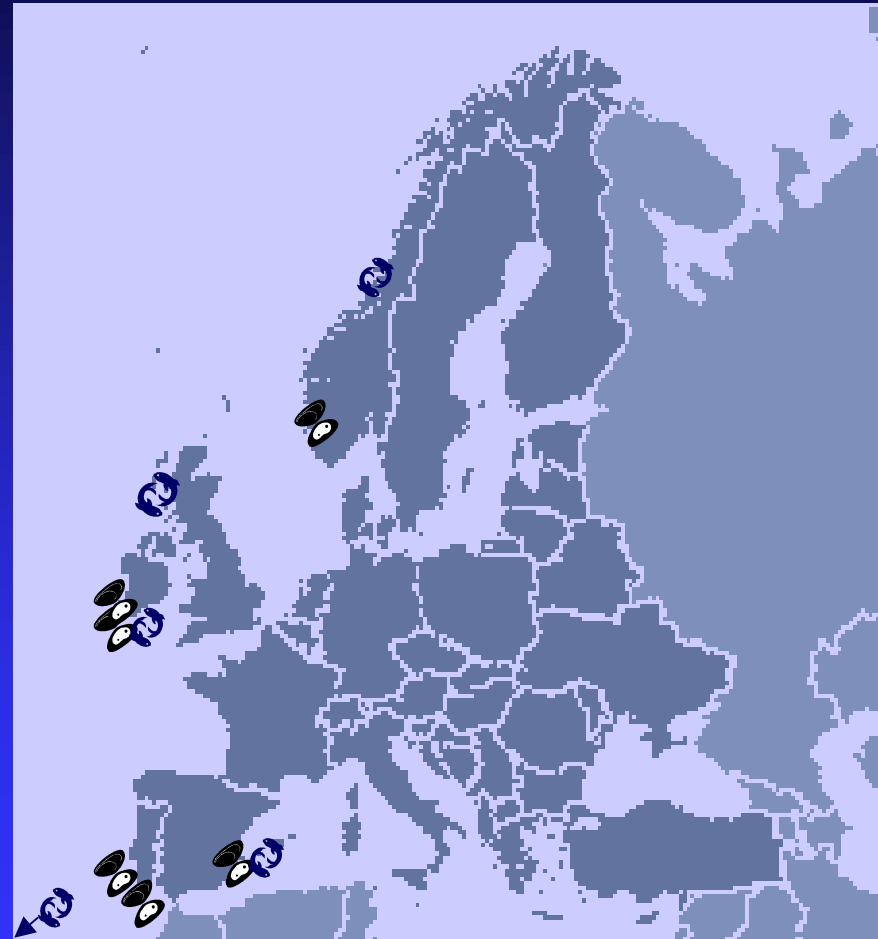
Potential cost savings in Europe €130-€260m

The approach



Biofouling pressure at selected sites

- Short term experiment; monthly deployment of settlement panels over 18 months.
- Long-term experiment; deployment of panels over 18 months with systematic removal of panels after 6 months.
- Every month all panels are photographed, weighed, and measured for thickness of fouling.



Biofouling March 2005



Technologies

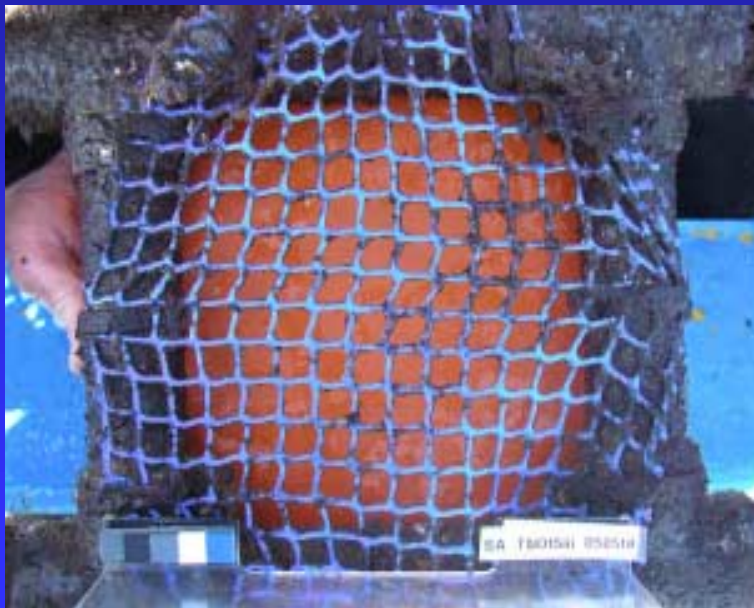
- Biological control
 - ◆ natural grazers such as sea-urchins
- New materials
 - ◆ non-toxic antifouling coatings
- Electrical methods
 - ◆ generating biocides (Cl-) or pH shifts
- New shellfish handling and immersion techniques
- Optimised cleaning techniques
 - ◆ enzyme technology to weaken the bond between biofouling and stock organisms
- Improved knowledge base
 - ◆ allowing avoidance measures



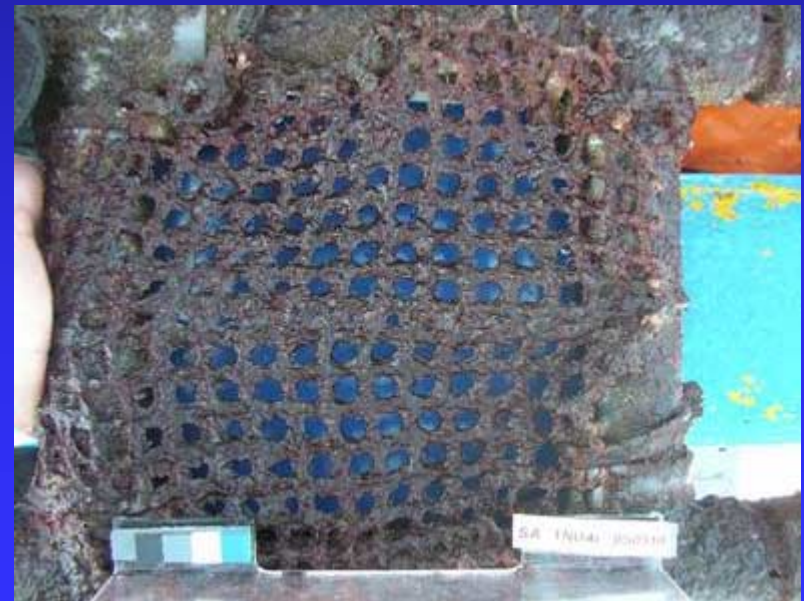
New materials

Non-toxic fouling-release coatings:
Efficacy testing at Sagres, Portugal

**Net with coating
(after 4 months)**

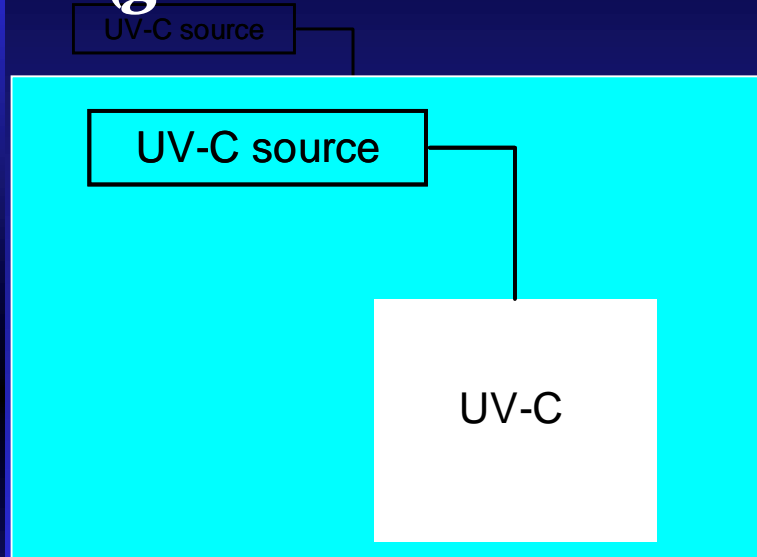


**Net without coating
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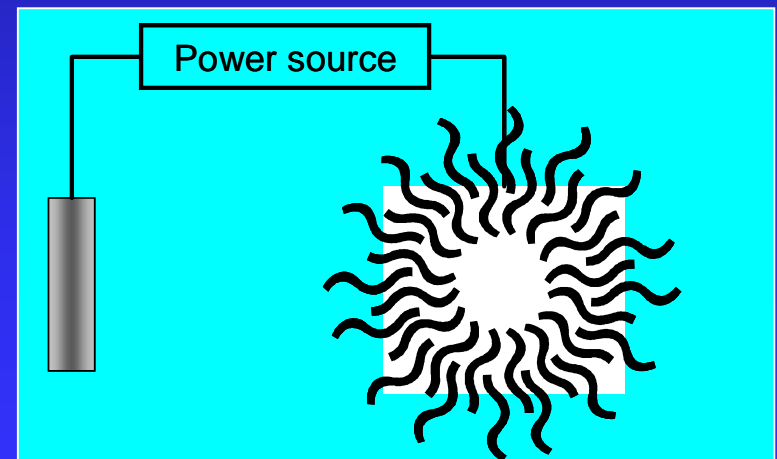


Examples of Electrochemical Methods

UV-C (glass fibers in the netting?)



Electromagnetic fields



EFFECT OF BIOFOULING & ANTIFOULING TREATMENTS ON MATERIALS

Approach

- Standard materials (nets, ropes, shellfish bags)
- Mechanical tests on materials
- Visual inspection of materials

Status (Laboratory testing)

- 1: condition + performance of standard materials
- 2: condition + performance of anti-fouling materials



Expected outcomes

- CRAB will **select and optimise the most suitable strategies** to address biofouling problems in aquaculture.
- Key **deliverables** :
 - ◆ best practice guidelines
 - ◆ training courses and materials for industry workers
 - ◆ sustainable antifouling strategy management and decision support tools

Training aquaculture managers and workers to make optimal use of the CRAB findings

More information

THE CONSORTIUM WOULD WELCOME FEEDBACK

Co-ordinator - TNO (NL)

<http://www.tno.nl> (peter.willemsen@tno.nl)

Web site - www.CRABproject.com

EC SME Measures (Collective research)

<http://sme.cordis.lu/home/index.cfm>

(EC Contract no: COLL-CT-2003-500536)

Thank you for your attention.