

# ***The Development of Atlantic Halibut Aquaculture – an International Perspective***

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## Stages of development of aquaculture of new species

- 1. **Can it be done?** (scientific challenge - very large risk)
- 2. **Can it be done reliably?** (technology challenge – substantial risk)
- 3. **Can it be done reliably and make a profit?** (both a business and an optimization of technology challenge – more manageable risk)

## Aquaculture of Atlantic Halibut

- Until approximately 20-25 years ago – total uncertainty of ability to bring halibut into culture
- About 10 years ago – evidence of sporadic success but largely unreliable, particularly in terms of juvenile production
- Over the past 5 years, growing evidence of reliable production. The focus is now on the development of the best possible models for successful commercial production

## An International Perspective

- There have been rumours that the northern European countries have backed off on investment and activity in aquaculture of Halibut
- Wrong!! In fact, there is strong evidence of:
- Development of major strategic international partnerships (incl., for juvenile production)
  - Development of sophisticated grow out technologies, incl. both on land tank and sea cage culture

## Some of the European companies visited

- Iceland – **Fiskeldi**: hatchery, nursery and growout operations)
- Norway – **Nordic Seafarms** and **Marine Harvest Rogaland (Nutreco/Skretting)**: nursery and grow out facilities
- Scotland – **Otter Ferry** (juvenile production), **Kames Halibut Farms** (grow out) and **Marine Harvest (Nutreco/Skretting)**: nursery and grow out)

## Some examples of commercial-scale growout

- **On land tank farms** – ex-salmon tank farms adapted for later stage (e.g., from 300-1000 g) nurseries. Typically with sunshade covers, shelves, autofeeders and camera systems.
- **Sea cage culture** – modified salmon cages with covers, bottoms, shelves, autofeeders and camera systems. Both:
  - large steel cage arrays
  - independently moored, poly polar circle cages

## Summary

Strong evidence in Europe of:

- Major confidence and recent investment in Halibut aquaculture
- Formation of strategic international partnerships
- Widespread adoption of sophisticated culture technologies
- Expansion of on land facilities and sea cage sites, and

**SUCCESS!!**

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