

Aquaculture is “indispensable to feed the EU and world population”

Growing dependence on seafood imports must be reduced and our technological edge must lead to the creation of jobs and growth

Aquaculture is “indispensable to feed the EU and world population”, according to EU Fisheries Commissioner Dr Joe Borg.

Speaking at the *‘European Aquaculture and its Opportunities for Development’* conference in Brussels on 16th November 2007, Dr Borg commented: “...we must think of aquaculture as an industry - involved in producing high quality and healthy food.”

“There is growing demand for seafood worldwide not only due to population growth but also because per capita consumption of seafood is expected to grow between now and 2030 by 50%... aquaculture appears to be the only viable option to meet this growing demand.

Per capita consumption of seafood is expected to grow between now and 2030 by 50%

“According to the FAO, global aquaculture production will have to double by 2030 to keep pace with the demand. This represents, in absolute terms, an increase of almost 40 million tons.”

However, Dr Borg noted that the EU aquaculture sector is in a paradoxical situation. “On the one hand, we are world leaders in aquaculture research and technology so that we have a lot to contribute to the sustainable development of aquaculture. On the other, we are net importers of almost 3 million tons of seafood... this figure is set to increase to 12 million tons by 2025,” he said.

“It is also disturbing to note that our know-how is often transferred to other countries and helps to contribute to the sharp increase of their production, while the growth of our own industry is constrained by several factors.”

Dr Borg added: “We need to reduce our growing dependence on seafood imports and to turn our technological edge into jobs and growth within the aquaculture market.”



Line of mussel floats


World aquaculture booming but Europe's market share declining

Aquaculture only way to meet surging demand, but challenges to future growth loom

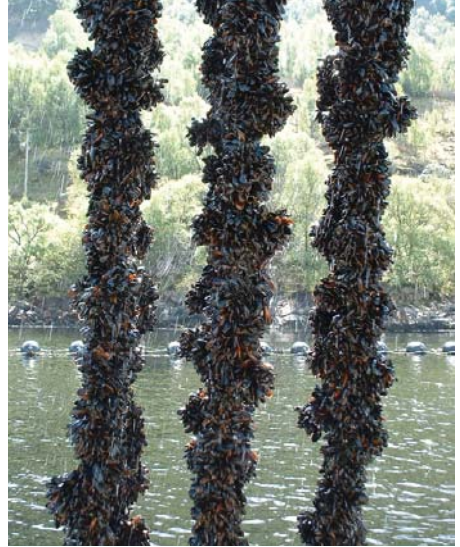
The growth of world aquaculture is booming but the European Union (EU) is losing market share and socio-economic benefits, according to a leading Scottish industry figure.

Speaking at the recent *'European aquaculture and its opportunities for development'* conference in Brussels on 16th November Dr Neil Auchterlonie, European and Technical Manager for the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) said: **"The strategic importance of the industry to Europe is well recognised, but Community operations are being constrained."**

In the world league table of food production, aquaculture is the fastest growing sector. Five years ago, the EU set an annual growth target of 3-4% but neither Scotland nor Europe as a whole has achieved it.



Nearly half of all fish eaten today is farmed, not caught



A mussel line ready for harvest

European aquaculture grew at between 3-4% between 1995 and 1999, and then not at all between 2000 and 2004. In direct contrast, global aquaculture has developed at a rate of 9% increase per annum over the period 1995 to 2004. A large volume of product produced outside of Europe is then imported into Member States to meet the ever-growing demand for seafood.

"Europe needs to be meeting more of its own demand through domestic production," said Dr Auchterlonie, **"and Scotland is ideally placed to be one of the major producers of quality seafood,"** he added.

"If we can overcome the current disparity, the economic benefits of aquaculture could have a much brighter future in Scotland and Europe. Improved implementation of the legislation affecting aquaculture at member state level, adhering to the principles of better regulation, could have a significant positive effect," he added.

In 2006 the UN FAO reported that in 1980 only 9% of the fish consumed by people came from aquaculture, now it is 43%. The UN FAO also noted that aquaculture is the only way to meet the surging demand for seafood.

Hunt on for top aquaculture learner

New national award to recognise top aquaculture learners

Aquaculture employees are being encouraged to enter for a new award in a national competition that aims to identify Scotland's top learners.

Organised by Lantra, the Sector Skills Council, the *'Aquaculture Learner of the Year'* award will recognise and reward outstanding learners in the sector at a ceremony in February 2008.

Local employers and training providers are now being urged to nominate, ahead of the 30th November deadline, employees and students who have shown outstanding commitment to training, overcome the odds to succeed or have inspired others through their hard work and determination.

Lantra's National Director for Scotland, William Fergusson said: **"The Award is the best platform for raising awareness of the many talented and committed employees and students working in aquaculture.**

"Attracting high calibre new entrants is vital for the future growth of the sector. To do this, we must promote the many exciting career and training opportunities that are available," he added.

Supporting the creation of the new award, Sid Patten, Chief Executive of Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO),

"Attracting high calibre new entrants is vital for the future growth of the sector"

William Fergusson, Lantra's National Director for Scotland



The first ever *'Aquaculture Learner of the Year'* is to be named at a ceremony early next year

added: **"The hunt for the top aquaculture learner is a wonderful opportunity for companies to increase motivation in their already highly committed and dedicated workforce.**

"The top aquaculture learner could be a comparatively new recruit to the industry or someone who has taken their skills to the next level through on-the-job training offered by their company," he added.

Winners and finalists will be selected by a panel of independent judges. The *'Aquaculture Learner of the Year'* will then compete for the overall title of *'Scottish Land-based Learner of the Year'*.

Prospective applicants should visit www.lantra.co.uk/scotland for further information.



Scotland is the third largest salmon producer in the world with approximately a 10% global market share

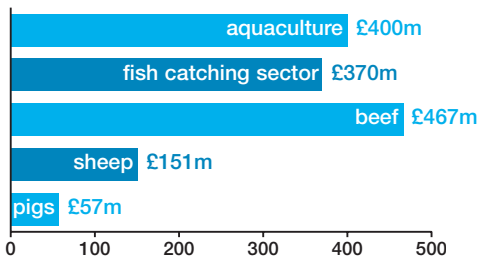
Did you know?

Today's aquaculture industry is a major contributor to the economy and a key player in the food industry. Here are some key facts, figures and statements:

- In 1980 only 9% of the fish consumed by people came from aquaculture, now it is 43%
- "Aquaculture is the only way to meet the surging demand for seafood" - UN FAO
- The UK accounts for 30% of EU aquaculture
- Aquaculture products represent 50% by value of all Scottish food exports
- The UK is the largest aquaculture producer in the EU
- Aquaculture is a major employer in Scotland
- Significant, growing source of global seafood supply
- The significance of the aquaculture industry to our rural economy cannot be overstated
- In many remote areas of Scotland the presence of aquaculture supports the necessary infrastructure of community life
- "That modern Scotland needs a thriving aquaculture industry is clear and irrefutable"
- Per capita consumption of seafood is expected to grow between now and 2030 by 50%
- Global aquaculture production will have to double by 2030 to keep pace with demand - UN FAO

For example, aquaculture's contribution to Scotland in terms of size and strength is properly understood when compared with other equally important contributors to Scotland's rural economies:

- The ex-farm value of aquaculture was in excess of £400 million in 2006;
- The total value of fish landed by Scottish vessels was £370 million in 2006;
- The output from the beef sector totalled some £467million in 2006;
- Sheep contributed approximately £151million in 2006, and;
- Pigs contributed approximately £57million in 2006.



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