

## **Aquaculture Forum Bremerhaven (2012-2013)**

### **NEWS RELEASE - Workshop (I)**

#### **OPEN OCEAN AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

(from visions to reality: the future of offshore farming)

(March 26-27, 2012)

The programme of the first workshop of the Bremerhaven Aquaculture Forum is now complete. The world expertise on “Open Ocean Aquaculture” will discuss the state-of-the-art and future directions to be taken. As announced early on, the workshop design includes the formulation of recommendations to be included into the

### **Bremerhaven Declaration on the Future of Global Open Ocean Aquaculture**

to be discussed in plenary and adopted by all participants.

In order to facilitate an effective discussion to reach firm conclusions during the Forum Panel Session (day 2 of the Workshop), the programme chair, together with the invited speakers and members of the Scientific Programme Committee, drafted the principle frame of this Declaration for general consideration so that participants do have a chance to familiarize themselves and prepare solid inputs during the session.

**All interested in the subject are cordially invited to participate in the workshop and help formulating these recommendations and the accompanying justifications.** The final document will be distributed to potential investors, academia involved in R&D, regulatory authorities and other coastal and ocean stakeholders.

Please note, that this Declaration will have global implications on the development of this industry **and your participation is of central importance to help shaping this sector.** Therefore, we invite you to **register now** (although participation is limited, several seats are still available).

The idea of the “Bremerhaven Declaration“ was conceived at the “Mariculture Innovations” Session 2011 organised by IMARE - Institute for Marine Resources (Sub-Session “Offshore Aquaculture”, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2011, Bremerhaven, Germany). Recognizing that the gap between demand and supply is, on a global scale, increasing, it is not surprising that the pressure on offshore aquaculture development are growing. Offshore aquaculture will require input from a wide range of social, technological, economic and natural resources and will have to be fully integrated with land-based aquaculture activities that include strategically the production of juveniles (in RAS- recirculating aquaculture systems) for stocking offshore grow-out facilities while also taking an “*Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture*” (IMTA) that incorporates and interlinks different ocean users with aquaculture while also addressing the pertinent socio-economic and cultural interactions with local communities on which this development will depend.

It is strongly believed that

- offshore farming offers ample opportunities to bring aquaculture production to new levels.
- open ocean farming systems could also be developed as co-managed systems with strong participation of other stakeholders interested in offshore natural resource uses (e.g. multi-use concepts for spatial efficiency of the ocean realm such as offshore windfarms or other structures).

**A tentative list of recommendations is presented here for further discussion:**

- (1) it is strongly recommend to develop a global strategy for sustainable open ocean aquaculture development in light of the rapidly growing water resource restrictions in inland and coastal habitats
- (2) Planning open ocean farming systems and operation should from the start carefully consider the economy of scale to determine the required conditions for sustainable development vis á vis its social and economic viability
- (3) There is an urgent need to identify suitable species to be considered for offshore farming, as well as suitable actors and framing conditions that are crucial to establish sustainable and well-managed offshore enterprises
- (4) Open ocean aquaculture candidates may include species of various trophic levels (IMTA = Ingegrated Mult-Trophic Aquaculture) that are not only suited for the food market but also serve as bioreactors for products urgently needed by other industries

Certainly, there are a number of other issues requiring the formulation of firm recommendations. The presentation here can be considered as a starting point for discussion. At the Workshop. Also, the priority setting will still have to be discussed. We will post further recommendations as they evolve.

Please join us at the Workshop (1) of the Bremerhaven Forum on Aquaculture and register now. Your expertise is needed to finalize this important document

**Harald Rosenthal**

Chair of the Programme Committee  
Aquaculture Forum Bremerhaven (2012-2013)