

## La Rochelle Meeting Indicates Real Progress

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The SEAFARE partnership held its fourth project meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May in La Rochelle, France. Real indications of progress were presented at the meeting as representatives from IPIMAR (Portugal), IFAPA (Spain), IFREMER (France), Bangor University (United Kingdom) and AquaTT (Ireland) discussed the work that has been completed in recent months.

The first day of the meeting concentrated on discussing the research that has been undertaken to date. Participants discussed the expected results and how these findings may contribute to achieving a more sustainable and environmentally friendly aquaculture. Sylvie Lapegue, representative from IFREMER, and organizer of the event, said: *"The SEAFARE project is dealing with a wide spectrum of studies from different fields. These studies can be complementary and it's great to see how the potential interactions that may occur could contribute to deliver innovative solutions for coastal zone management and aquaculture"*.

The second day of the meeting initially focused on methods to increase cooperation among the partnership. The group analysed several options and provided feedback on solutions to increase the partnership's effectiveness through heightened cooperation. Then the focus switched to discussing how the partnership can further develop the research carried out so far. The Project Coordinator, Daniel Lee, stated: *"I am happy to coordinate such a great team. Extremely interesting results are emerging from SEAFARE. We are planning to organize an event within the SEAFARE project where we will present these results and ensure an effective knowledge transfer to those stakeholders that may be interested in them"*.

The SEAFARE project has been granted a one year extension in order to fulfil the tasks that are currently being implemented and to ensure an effective knowledge transfer of the main results occurs once all the experiments are finalised.

SEAFARE is designed to provide small-to-medium enterprises and public authorities with tools for sustainable and environmentally friendly aquaculture. It will strengthen links between researchers and industry, and influence policy development at regional and national levels. It will deliver innovative solutions for coastal zone management and the sustainable management of economic activity.

**For further details, please see below.**

**Note to Editors**

The project is coordinated by specialists from the Centre for Applied Marine Sciences ([www.cams.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.cams.bangor.ac.uk)), a division of Bangor University with long experience in the management of marine R&D projects. AquaTT is the project's dissemination partner. The SEAFARE project is co-funded by the European Union Atlantic Area Transnational Programme (2007-2013).

The Centre for Applied Marine Sciences (CAMS) takes a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to the investigation of coastal seas through the interface between biology, physics, chemistry and geology. It has an excellent track record and strong capabilities in the application of science to natural resource management, environmental planning, impact assessment, education and training.

SEAFARE is a transnational project that will address the problem of how to develop a thriving and environmentally friendly aquaculture industry across the entire Atlantic Area. Cooperation between the partners will solve important questions relating to how to conduct sustainable aquaculture. This knowledge will then be effectively transferred to the private sector and to other stakeholders.

The added value of SEAFARE will generate synergies and focus on knowledge transfer between researchers and industry and between different countries and regions. Project activities will promote alternative production options such as off shore systems. The partnership will also evaluate the issues associated with introducing aquaculture species, using Pacific oysters as a model case study.

Detailed partner profiles are available on request.

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