

MANAGEMENT OF BIOFOULING IN SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE

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Biofouling poses an ongoing problem for aquaculture operations and, in particular, for shellfish farmers. Fouling of the structures and the farmed organisms increase maintenance costs, slow growth, reduce marketability and, in extreme cases, cause mortality of the farmed animals. The goal of this session is to bring together industry members and researchers to share knowledge, exchange ideas and guide timely and targeted research. Industry members are strongly encouraged to participate in these discussions as an essential means of both focusing research efforts currently underway and of keeping shellfish farmers informed of new efforts to thwart biofouling.

To this end, the session will include: 1) a presentation of a national survey of shellfish farmers, identifying costs, problem species, current means of mitigation and control and areas of concern; 2) an update on the current status of development and field testing of environmentally friendly anti-fouling coatings for aquaculture gear, and; 3) a presentation on the problems posed by ascidians.

These brief presentations will lead into a cooperative discussion among audience and panel members, identification of problems, discussion of various management methods and assimilation of information for future research and mitigation strategies.