Bivalife

Improving European mollusc aquaculture: disease detection and management

Deliverable D6.4
Organisation of a workshop

THEME [KBBE.2010.1.2-08]
[Improving European mollusc aquaculture: disease detection and management - Call: FP7-KBBE-2010-4]
Project acronym: BIVALIFE
Project full title: " Controlling infectious diseases in oysters and mussels in Europe "
Grant agreement no: 266157

WP6. Dissemination and exploitation

WP 6 - T1: Dissemination activities beyond the consortium (publications, conferences, workshops and web-based activities aimed at disseminating the knowledge and technology produced)

In 2012, as part of the International Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE) Forum priority on mollusc aquaculture (within KBBE Fisheries & Aquaculture work stream), an international workshop was organised on "Disease mitigation and prevention in mollusc aquaculture" (Nantes, France, 11-15 June 2012). The workshop was attended by 31 participants from European Union (21), New Zealand (5) and Australia (5) and provided a forum where mollusc production and diseases in EU, NZ and AU were discussed together with current research activities, knowledge gaps, research priorities, opportunities for international cooperation, and research funding.

Two proposed actions were recommended from the 2012 Nantes workshop:

- *Elaboration and launching of a joint research initiative on mollusc diseases, with emphasis on ostreid herpesvirus 1 (OsHV-1)*

a) To draft a common text for a call for proposals to be endorsed by the KBBE Forum and funded by the respective governments of AU/NZ/CA and the EU. Based on the analysis of the priorities identified by Australian, New Zealand and European Nantes workshop participants, 2 main subjects were found suitable for such a call: (i) investigation of genetic diversity of OsHV-1 and related viruses in order to better understand virus spread, pathogenicity and key drivers of virus emergence (in different parts of the world) including effects of global change, (ii) investigation of genetic basis of bivalve resistance/ tolerance to OsHV-1 and related viruses in order to define effective anti-viral defence mechanisms, to develop programs on genetic selection of shellfish strains resistant/ tolerant to these viruses and to study the resistance of selected animals to other pathogens including bacteria and parasites.

b) Developing a network between Australia, New Zealand, Canada and EU in order to share information about oyster mortality events related to OsHV-1 and its different genotypes.

c) Launching of the call AU/NZ/EU (Summer, 2013). Instruments aiming at ensuring efficient clustering between the projects that will be selected in AU, NZ, AU, (CA) should also be foreseen in the call.

d) Submission/Evaluation/Selection of proposals and implementation of the parallel research initiatives (projects in AU/NZ/EU/CA) (2014).

- *Workshop on diagnostics of mollusc diseases (Australia, 2013)*

Thus to address action 2, an international KBBE workshop on “Mollusc Disease Diagnosis” was organised and held in Geelong, Australia, 21-24 October 2013.

The workshop was attended by 27 participants from EU (10 participants, all the European participants are members of the Bivalife consortium), NZ (5) and AU (12).

The aim of the WS was to share experiences and best practices, benchmark existing diagnostic methods and tools and pave the way to the standardisation of diagnostic approaches. The Workshop objectives were to exchange information to determine mollusc disease priorities and diagnostic capabilities of participating countries, to identify mollusc disease diagnostic problems and to identify research strengths and opportunities for collaboration to address diagnostic problems.

A report was produced and was included in the present report as an annex.