Enhancing the European aquaculture production by removing production bottlenecks of emerging species, producing new products and accessing new markets (DIVERSIFY) (39132) - DTU Orbit (05/03/2018)

Following the objectives of this Call, DIVERSIFY identified a number of new/emerging, large and/or fast growing finfish species, which are believed to be excellent candidates for the expansion of the aquaculture industry of Europe. The emphasis is on the Mediterranean or warm-water cage culture industry, but also addressed is pond/extensive culture, fresh water recirculation systems and cold-water species. These new/emerging species are marketed at a large size and can be processed easily into a range of products to provide the consumer with both a greater diversity of fish species and new processed products. In collaboration with a number of SMEs, DIVERSIFY will build on recent/current national initiatives for species diversification in aquaculture, in order to overcome the documented bottlenecks in the aquaculture production of these selected species.

DIVERSIFY will provide knowledge where needed to solve bottlenecks in juvenile production, grow-out, nutrition and feeding husbandry, new product development and marketing.

The programme will also provide tools for genetic improvement and disease control. This will provide improved efficiency in production and reduced costs, and identify markets for the new products.

The expertise in the consortium and lessons learned, could provide in a 5 year period what took the Atlantic salmon industry 20 years of development. DIVERSIFY focuses on meagre (Argyrosomus regius) and greater amberjack (Seriola dumerili) for marine warm-water cage culture, wreckfish (Polyprion americanus) for warm- and cool-water marine cage culture, Atlantic halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus) for marine cold-water culture, grey mullet (Mugil cephalus) a euryhaline herbivore for warm-water pond, extensive and integrated culture, and pikeperch (Sander lucioperca) for freshwater intensive culture using Recirculation Aquaculture Systems (RAS).

The project is coordinated by the Hellenic Center for Marine Research. 31 research institutions etc. are involved in the project.

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