

Joint Ocean Frontier Institute-SINTEF Norway-Canada Dialogue on Marine Aquaculture Hazards and Risk Assessment



Background

The Joint Ocean Frontier Institute-SINTEF Norway-Canada Dialogue on Marine Aquaculture Hazards and Risk Assessment is a series of virtual researcher-stakeholder dialogues on hazards and risk assessment in aquaculture (broadly defined), based on Canadian and Norwegian research and encompassing emerging issues. The Dialogue is supported in part through an Industry, Energy and Technology leverage grant provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and by research funded through the Ocean Frontier Institute with support from the Canada Research Excellence Fund.

Rationale

Researchers in the Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI) in Canada and at SINTEF in Norway have been collaborating on research and knowledge exchange related to hazards and risk assessment for marine aquaculture for several years. The Dialogue will provide an opportunity to present findings from this and other research and give key aquaculture stakeholders (industry/government) from the two countries and researchers opportunities to comment on those findings and contribute to discussions about future research needs and exchange opportunities between the two countries.

Process

Dialogue sessions will be in English. The four virtual sessions will occur once a month, starting in January 2024. Each dialogue session will last up to two hours maximum and will generally have a similar structure: 2 interventions/presentations (each approximately 15 minutes), followed by brief comments from a nominated discussant and one or more stakeholders. Discussants and stakeholders will receive copies of the presentations and related publications in advance of the session. The last part of the session (minimum 30-45 minutes) of each session will consist of a moderated discussion open to all participants. Formal presentations will be recorded for posting on our OFI website (coastalfutures.ca) along with session summaries (including non-attributed insights and comments captured in written notes) and a final synthesis report on the Dialogue that will include a list of relevant reports and publications.

Participation

Participation in the dialogue series will be free but via registration and will be limited to a maximum of 40-50 participants. We will seek to ensure balanced participation across countries and groups. Interested researchers and stakeholders should contact Charlie Mather (cmather@mun.ca) or Trine Thorvaldsen (trine.thorvaldsen@sintef.no) and request a link to register. Participants will be encouraged to engage with as many as possible of the dialogue sessions.

Draft Program

Session #1 – Safety Management and Risk Assessment in Marine Aquaculture

Welcomes, Land Acknowledgement, Introduction to the Dialogue

Date and time: Monday, 22 January 2024, 9am (NDT), 1.30pm (CEST)

Dr Barb Neis for OFI and Dr Ingunn Holmen for SINTEF: Welcome and Introduction and overview of the dialogue series

Presenters:

Dr Charlie Mather (OFI/Canada): What do we mean by risk?

Dr Ingunn Holmen (SINTEF): On regulation and implementation of safety management and risk assessments within Norwegian fish farm companies

Discussant: Dr Andrew Watterson, University of Stirling, Scotland

Stakeholder reflections: Darrell Green, Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association

Session # 2 – Emergency Preparedness in Norwegian and Canadian Marine Aquaculture

Date and time: Monday, 19 February 2024 9am (NDT), 1.30pm (CEST)

Presenters:

Dr Trine Thorvaldsen (SINTEF): Emergency preparedness in Norway including the Emergency guide for the Norwegian aquaculture industry

Dr Gerald Singh (OFI/Canada): Risk Assessment for Mass Mortality Events in Salmon Aquaculture

Discussant: Dr Heather Burke (Marine Institute, Memorial University)

Stakeholder reflections: Michael Szemerda, Global Chief Sustainability Officer, Cooke Inc

Session #3 – Climate change, industry change, weather and risk in aquaculture

Date and time: Monday, 18 March 2024, 9am (NDT), 1.30pm (CEST)

Presenters:

Dr Joel Finnis (OFI/Canada): Risk-related weather and climate considerations for Atlantic Canadian Aquaculture

Dr Thorvaldsen and Dr Holmen (SINTEF Norway): Holistic risk perspectives and new production systems.

Discussant: Dr Tiina Ikaheimo (Arctic University of Norway)

Stakeholder reflections: Claire Brown, Raspberry Point Oyster Company

Session #4 – Strategies to reduce risk

Date and time: Monday, 15 April 2024, 9am (NDT), 1.30pm (CEST).

Presenters:

Dr. Barb Neis (OFI/Canada), Dr Trine Thorvaldsen (SINTEF), Dr Ingunn Holmen (SINTEF), Dr. Lissandra Cavalli (OFI/Canada) and Angela Antle (OFI/Canada): Identifying regulatory strengths and weaknesses: Insights from a comparative analysis of aquaculture risk-related regulatory regimes in Atlantic Canada and Norway.

Dr. Hans Bjelland, Research Director (SINTEF): Holistic governance of aquaculture to achieve sustainable value creation – recommendations from a Norwegian Official Committee

Discussant: Dr. Dave Love, Department of Environmental Health and Engineering, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Stakeholder reflections: David Legge, Director of Occupational Health & Safety Division, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dialogue conclusion and final report