

## Project Overview:

SUDEVAB is a research project developed by SMEs engaged in abalone aquaculture in Europe, for the sustainable development of the sector.

The SME's recognized that to undertake this research work they would need the assistance of Research Institutes (RTDs), and that this work could be supported by grant funding from the European Commission (EC) under the FP7 "Research for the Benefit of SMEs" – capacity program.

The project was successfully submitted to the EC in 2007, and started in June 2008.

## Meetings to Date & Planned:

Exeter, UK – June 2008: Kick off and stakeholders briefing – visits to potential sites in SW England

Gran Canaria – November 2008: project partner meeting and visit to GIA facilities

Galway, Ireland – May 2009: Partner meeting and open symposium for abalone producers and interested partners – visit to Irish abalone producers



SUDEVAB conference at Galway – May 2009

Ahrensburg, Germany – February 2010: Partner meeting and visit to Sylt Algen Farms

Brest, France – October 2010: Final partner meeting and open conference presenting research results from

project – visit to France Haliotis and other abalone producers in region

## Publications & Presentations to Date:

Articles on and related to SUDEVAB have appeared regularly in European trade press e.g. Fish Farmer; Fish Farming International, and a list is available on our website [www.sudevab.eu](http://www.sudevab.eu). France Haliotis has also regularly "starred" on French TV, and more presentations will be taking place in Thailand, July 2009 and Spain, September 2009.



France Haliotis abalone prepared on French TV

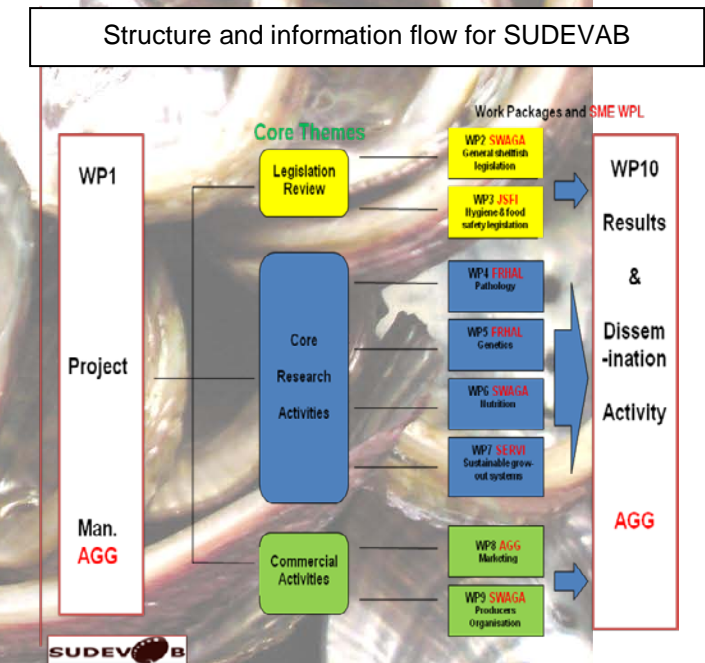
## Project Partners:

Aqua-Gold Fisheries GmbH, SME – Germany, Coordinator  
France Haliotis, SME - France – Technical Coordinator  
South West Abalone Growers Association, SME – UK  
Jersey Sea Farms (Ireland), SME - Channel Islands & Ireland  
Servimar Norte, SME – Spain  
IFREMER – Laboratoire de Genetic et Pathologie, RTD, France  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, RTD France  
Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia, RTD Spain  
Grupo de Investigacion en Acuicultura, RTD, Gran Canaria, Spain  
Martin Ryan Institute, RTD, Ireland  
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP)  
Tower Aqua Products, Ireland – Producer  
Sylt Algen Farms, Germany, Producer

## Project Structure and Research Packages:

The project has been established to cover the main issues that are holding back the development of sustainable abalone aquaculture in Europe. The project is sub divided into discrete Work Packages (WPs) that have research objectives which result in a series of deliverables – publishable documents.

WP1 is the management of the project, and WP10 is the dissemination activities of the project. All other WPs are research activities and SUDEVAB has three key research areas:



**Legislative issues** affecting abalone aquaculture and abalone hygiene and food safety – WP 2 & WP3

**Core research activities:** WP 4 – Pathology; WP 5 – Genetics; WP 6; Nutrition and WP 7 – Sustainable Culture systems.

**Commercial Activities:** WP 8 – Marketing; WP 9 – Scoping a Producers Organisation

## Progress and Results to Date:

**WP 2** – Shellfish Legislation – Belatedly in July 2008, new EU shellfish legislation was agreed (EC 2006) and this was eventually enacted by all member States in February 2009. This has allowed the movement of abalone from a certified disease free hatchery in France to an on-growing site in the UK, and more movements of seed abalone to Ireland are due to occur in the next months. This is a major step in allowing producers to source the seed they require for on-growing, as well as providing abalone hatcheries with an economic opportunity to sell seed.



Seed abalone arriving in South West UK, March 2009

**WP 3** – Abalone have long been classed with other bivalves e.g. oysters, mussels, but being gastropods do they pose the same risks to human health by consumption? Tests are currently underway that will provide base data in comparison with oysters and mussels for *E. coli* and other potential contaminants.

**WP 4** – Pathology research into potential abalone diseases has shown that the European abalone stocks are only severely affected by a specific strain of *Vibrio harveyi*, and that this is definitely temperature related. Further analysis is being undertaken to establish the level of *Rickettsia* present in stocks, and its potential for creating mortalities.

**WP 5** – The genetic WP has identified the micro-satellite markers which can be used to track all of the genetic stocks of *H. tuberculata* in aquaculture production in Europe. This will be used in conjunction with growth and disease resistance trials to indicate the best families for future aquaculture operations.

**WP 6** – Nutrition – It has long been recognised that there is a super-abundance of algae suitable for abalone culture in European waters. Samples of the preferred weed for abalone have been collected and analysed for its nutritious value, with the objective of developing a nutritionally balanced and stable abalone diet, which can overcome the potential limiting factors of seasonal availability.

**WP 7** – In conjunction with WP 5 and WP7, abalone are being trialled in several growth tests in France, UK, Ireland and Spain. This is also testing potential structures including cage systems, lantern nets and small suspended structures - Ortacs. This will continue for a minimum 12 month period and result in growth data.



Ortacs and cages installed in the Channel Islands as part of growth trials

**WP 8** – A detailed review of the world and European abalone markets has been undertaken along with an exercise in setting standards for future abalone production in Europe. This has resulted in SUDEVAB being in close contact with the WWF abalone dialogue initiative. During the next year, abalone will be tested and introduced to more gastronomy outlets in Europe for product familiarisation and menu testing.



## Sustainable Development of European SMEs Engaged in Abalone Aquaculture



[www.sudevab.eu](http://www.sudevab.eu)

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