

Selection method of new candidates for finfish aquaculture: the case of the French Atlantic, the Channel and the North Sea coasts



At present, European marine fish farming is based on sea bream and sea bass. A trend for diversification is sustained by the diversity of environmental conditions, by the availability of new production techniques such as recirculating systems, by an increase in rearing yields, by new market trends and by the possibilities to reduce risks of disease outbreak. Already reared fish species were chosen considering a limited number of criteria such as a high selling price and the availability of juveniles or breeders in the wild. This paper proposes a new selection method of fish species as candidates for aquaculture development on the French Atlantic, the Channel and the North Sea coasts. Using a three-phase procedure, candidates were selected among 20000 fish species. Final classification was carried out using a panel of 22 criteria, taking into account inquiries conducted in France with aquaculturists but also with the main actors of distribution and transformation channels and with consumers. Cod (*Gadus morhua*) was selected by the present work as the first candidate for aquaculture development on the western coasts of France. This work also highlights the

high interest of Gadoids for aquaculture development in this area.

Auteurs du document : Loïc Quémener, Marc Suquet, David Mero, Jean-Louis Gaignon

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