



'SuperSmolt' technology gaining in Chile

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Chilean salmon companies are increasingly more willing to incorporate "SuperSmolt" technology developed by the U.S. biotechnology company MariCal into their production processes. Some companies are even using it throughout their entire production operation.

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"We now have an increasing number of customers in Chile and we can say some of them are already producing almost all their fish with this technology," Eduardo Aguilera, the general manager of Ciencia Mar, an affiliate of MariCal in Chile, told **IntraFish**.

MariCal CEO William Harris, who was in Chile to holding meetings with academics and salmon companies, told **IntraFish** not only Chilean salmon companies are using the SuperSmolt tool, as companies in Norway and Scotland also are employing the system.

Harris said he didn't know exactly what percentage of all salmon farmed in Chile or other countries is produced with SuperSmolt technology, but said "over 50 million fish in the world have been farmed using this tool."

"The fact that a few weeks ago Norwegian and U.S. investors committed to invest \$3.1 million (€2.4 million) to support MariCal's research shows they really believe SuperSmolt is becoming a very valuable tool for global salmon production. This investment is also an incentive to continue our research in this area," Harris said.

Countries such as Norway and Scotland, which really want to boost their output, see SuperSmolt as a way of achieving this. he said.

When asked about the success of SuperSmolt in Chile, Harris said, "The reasons why more and more companies in Chile are also adopting our technology is firstly due to the fact that we have already undertaken site tests and proved this technology enables them to reduce production costs. Secondly, the Chilean industry also wants to increase its biomass, and thirdly many companies are shifting their production to recirculation hatcheries on land and SuperSmolt is ideal for this kind of installation."

In a few weeks, a Norwegian company is expected to become the representative of SuperSmolt in Norway, which will bolster MariCal's presence in that country, he said.

What is SuperSmolt?

MariCal is a life sciences biotechnology company that develops and licenses innovative solutions to address critical problems in the aquatic health and nutrition fields. Over the past 10 years, the company has focused both its product development and licensing efforts in the fields of aquaculture, fisheries, and marine products.

The SuperSmolt program uses a proprietary process incorporating a water treatment and specialty feed process applied to farmed salmonids for a three- to six-week week period that pre-acclimates fish to seawater despite the fact the fish remain in freshwater.

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