



## Aquaculture enters Global Forum on Biotechnology

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Paula Carvajal Puerto Montt, Chile: Aquaculture was a topic at the Global Forum on Biotechnology, which recently took place in Chile and was organised by the United Nations Organisation for Industrial Development (ONUDI). The aquaculture talk was on Marical's Supersmolt process.

More than a thousand scientists, business leaders, academics, students and others interested in biotechnology participated in the Global Forum. 76 countries were represented at the meeting, which mainly dealt with advances in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

However, the biotechnological advances that have been made in aquaculture, although no less important, had less representation. In fact, there was only one speaker who broached the topic of aquaculture. Dr. William Harris, co-founder and CEO of the company Marical, Inc., was invited by the ONUDI to speak on his patented Supersmolt process. The North American company has patented the process in several countries around the world.

**The Supersmolt process** In his talk, Harris explained how the process patented by Marical allows young Atlantic salmon to pre-adapt to salt water, while they are still in fresh water waiting to be transferred to the sea, without the need to use genetically modified organisms, drugs, or hormones.

This process is a clear example of how applied biotechnology can help aquaculture to produce more and more efficiently on a large scale.

Eduardo Aguilera, general manager of Ciencia Mar, Marical's affiliate in Chile, told IntraFish that Dr. Harris's visit to Chile and his participation in the Biotechnology Forum has generated a great deal of interest in the Chilean industry. In fact, he revealed that on March 29th they would do a workshop to present the results obtained in Chile with Supersmolt.

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