Advancing understanding of Atlantic Salmon at Sea: Merging Genetics and Ecology to resolve Stock-specific Migration and Distribution patterns

PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:
7th Framework Programme (FP7)
Sub-Programme:
Environment
Funding Scheme:
No contract type
Project Reference:
212529; UE-08-212529
Project Duration:
43 Months (from 2008-04-01 to 2011-10-31)
Total Project Value:
€ 5.619.788
EU Grant-Aid:
€ 3.499.762
Funding to UniOvi:
€ 47.532'80

Website:
http://www.imr.no/nb-no

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Over the past two decades, an increasing proportion of North Atlantic salmon are dying at sea during their oceanic feeding migration. The specific reasons for the decline in this important species are as yet unknown, however, climate change is likely to be an important factor. In some rivers in the southern part of the salmons range, wild salmon now face extinction.

This is in spite of unprecedented management measures to halt this decline. Arguably the greatest challenge in salmon conservation is to gain insight into the spatial and ecological use of the marine environment by different regional and river stocks, which are known to show variation in marine growth, condition, and survival. Salmon populations may migrate to different marine zones, whose environmental conditions may vary. To date it has been impossible to sample and identify the origin of sufficient numbers of wild salmon at sea to enable this vital question to be addressed.

SALSEA-Merge will provide the basis for advancing our understanding of oceanic-scale, ecological and ecosystem processes. Such knowledge is fundamental to the future sustainable management of this key marine species.

UNIOVI TEAM

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