

SUNNDALSØRA, 14–15 OCTOBER 2026

WEDNESDAY:

Registration in the foyer of Sunndal kulturhus from 09:00

Tour of the research station 10:00–11:00

Lunch 11:00–12:00

Opening of the conference at 12:00

Fish welfare as a compass for the future of smolt production

Finn Weltzien

Nofima

Session 1: From research to improved fish welfare in practice 12:10–13:20

How can we secure tomorrow's knowledge base?

Ståle Walderhaug

FHF

How research can best help realise the potential for improved welfare

Åsa Espmark

Nofima

The key role of juvenile fish production in the salmon value chain

Nina Santi

INAQ

The future of light

Kristoffer Lindbäck-Larssen

Evolys

Panel discussion: How can knowledge be translated into improved survival? 13:20–14:00

Coffee and light refreshments in the exhibition area

Session 2: Technology for improved control in closed systems 14:45–16:00

Commercial and applied R&D at smolt production facilities

Jan Christian Kerlefsen

AKVA group

From measurement to meaning: the value of data from the juvenile fish stage

Hege Øverlie

OptoScale

Achieving good fish welfare at speed requires the entire decision-making process to work

Erik Moen Lillebudal

EquaFish

How sensors and software bridge the gap between technology and biology

Eldar Lien

Searas

Passive acoustics in RAS

Gaute A. N. Helberg

Lerøy Seafood Group

Coffee and light refreshments in the exhibition area

Session 3: The importance of the environment for fish welfare in closed systems 16:30–17:45

From light to photobiomodulation?

Ole Gabriel Kverneland

Laksesystemer

The consequences of light management for production, health and welfare

Alexander Figenschau

NMBU

Interaction between light quality and photoperiod: initial results from the IllumiAqua fish trial

Anja Striberny

Nofima

Short- and long-term effects of nephrocalcinosis on kidney function in salmonids

Tom Ole Nilsen

UiB

Heart disorders in salmon: causes and consequences

Ida Beitnes Johnsen

NMBU

Exhibition and welcome drink 17:45–19:00

Conference dinner 19:00–22:00

THURSDAY:

Morning coffee in the exhibition area from 08:00

Session 4: Good smolt production in practice 08:45–10:00

Data-driven smolt production in practice

Sigrun Petterdotter Eriksen

MOWI

The effect of production regimes during the juvenile stage on health and welfare after seawater transfer

Marit Stormoen

NMBU

Adaptation to the seawater phase

Marius Nilsen

NORCE

Consequences of water quality requirements

Christian Rønning

Artec Aqua/VAQ

Lighting on the fish's terms: knowledge-based use of light for improved smolt production

Ian Muri

Sintef

Coffee and light refreshments in the exhibition area

Session 5: Measuring smolt quality: indicators of welfare and performance 10:45–12:00

Diagnostic methods for nephrocalcinosis: macroscopic scoring, X-ray and histology
Opportunities and limitations of new blood-based smolt markers
Two fish, the same size, but with very different fates
Towards automated welfare assessment in aquaculture using AI and computer vision.
How biomarkers provide insight into smolt health and performance

Kirsti Hjelde
Christine Klykken
Stian Rognlid
Christian Schellewald
Kjetil Korsnes

Nofima
Aqua Kompetanse
Aquaticode
Sintef
AquaPredict

Lunch 12:00–13:00

Session 6: Water quality and biosecurity in closed systems 13:00–14:30

Advanced water treatment = Successful Farming
Stress respiration and changes in CO₂ concentrations affect the risk for H₂S toxicity
Effect of oxygenation with nanobubbles on water quality in RAS
Sludge and discharges from land-based facilities
Effect of biosecurity measures on pathogen persistence in RAS facilities
Evaluation of non-biological technologies for ammonium removal in RAS facilities

Per Henriksen
Andre Meriac
Roman Netzer
Turid Synnøve Aas
Sonal Jayesh Patel
René Alvestad

Aqua Unique
NIBIO
Sintef
Nofima
Norwegian Vet. Institute
Nofima

Closing remarks and conference summary 14:30–14:40

Bus departure for Molde Airport 15:00

If you have any practical or technical questions about the conference, please contact us.

Ane Wennevold, Sunndal Næringsselskap, can answer practical questions: Tel: +47 990 33 687, or email: ane@suns.no

Trine Ytrestøyl, Nofima, can answer technical questions:

Tel: +47 412 29 744, or email: trine.ytrestoyl@nofima.no

Ingrid Lein can answer questions about exhibition stands:

Tel: +47 934 19 441, or email: ingrid.lein@nofima.no

Gullsponsor:

EVOLYS®

Sølvsponsor:

AKVAGROUP™

Bronsesponsorer:



HEIDENREICH
Effektivt og enkelt >>>



BRØDRENE DAHL