

Cross Cutting Themes are at the heart of the delivery of the SMARTAQUA project.

This Case Study describes project collaboration with industry to develop lumpfish for the salmon industry.



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Local Supply Chain Development

Parasitic sea-lice are the biggest threat facing sustainable salmon production in the world, with an annual cost to industry of £500 million. Using lumpfish as cleaner fish to remove the sea-lice offers an attractive alternative to the use of chemicals or medicines.

SMARTAQUA have collaborated with leaders in the aquaculture industry, including one of the largest UK wrasse suppliers and lumpfish broodstock suppliers (The Cleaner Fish Company Ltd), the largest lumpfish producer in the UK (Ocean Matters Ltd) and a producer of Scottish-sourced lumpfish in the UK (Three-sixty Aquaculture) to develop a mature lumpfish sector in Wales. Through the direct intervention and support from the SMARTAQUA project, this sector now supplies over four million cleaner fish to Scotland per year. These cleaner fish improve the welfare for tens of millions of salmon by removing sea-lice from them.

This collaboration has developed a UK-based supply chain to supply the salmon farming industry with cleaner fish and has established Wales as an industry leader in this form of non-food aquaculture.

