

THE URCHIN PROJECT; UTILISING THE ARCTIC SEA URCHIN RESOURCE - PROGRESS AND PIFALLS

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In northern Europe Nofima are leading a Northern Periphery and Arctic Program aiming to develop both the sea urchin fishery and roe enhancement in Norway, Greenland, Ireland and Iceland.

This talk presents the results from this project and progress that is being made to establish a sea urchin industry in these countries. It will cover progress and research findings from the project over the past 2.5 years, including topics such as live transport, reseeded and roe enhancement. In addition, the project has identified pitfalls that may hinder further development of such an industry. How the project is attempting to overcome these pitfalls will be discussed.

Finally, a synergistic project run by 'Urchinomics' (a private investment company) in Norway, is developing a business model which allows companies to capture and enhance the roe of wild urchins utilizing feed and holding systems developed in Norway. A series of commercial sea urchin roe enhancement trials have been run in Japan, Australasia, North and South America and Europe. These results from these trials will be discussed as well as the potential for this concept to be introduced and developed into Europe.