Cod farming in Iceland
- brief summary -

Valdimar Ingi Gunnarsson

Aquaculture group AVS

Sats på torsk!

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Introduction

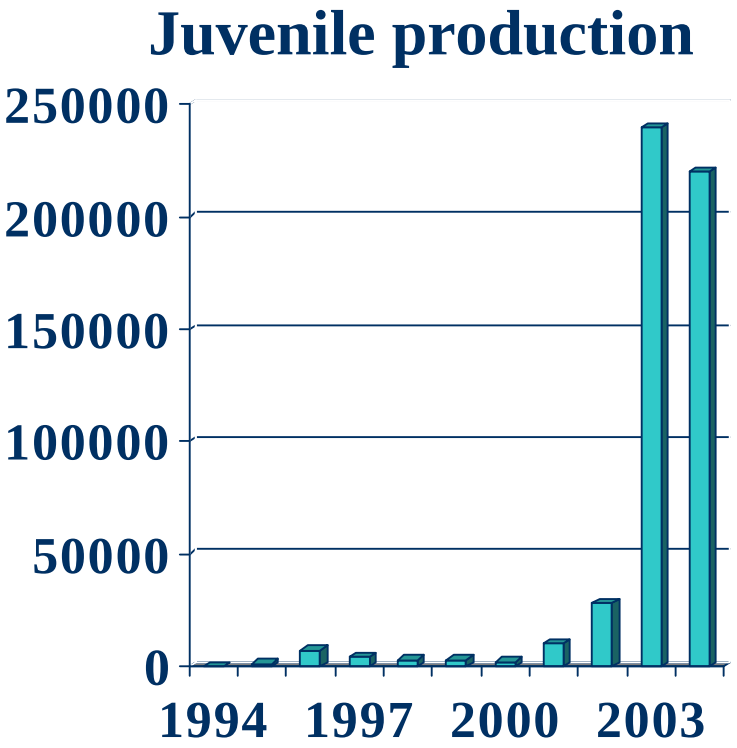
- Farming methods
- Production
- Locations of cod farms
- Research work, selective breeding
- Development of cod farming in Iceland in the future
- Conference – Cod Farming in Nordic Countries

Farming methods

- **There are two main methods of cod farming:**
  - capturing of wild cod and on-growing in sea cages
  - production of cod from hatching to market size.
- **On-growing of wild cod is mainly based on:**
  - Catch of 1-2 kg cod
  - Catch of juveniles (3-10 g)

Production of cod juveniles

- **One hatchery – Icecod** :
  - Marine Research Institute, Stofnfiskur hf., Fiskeldi Eyjafjarðar hf. in collaboration with other Icelandic research institutions and companies.
- **Production capacity**
  - 300,000 juveniles per batch



Catch of wild juveniles

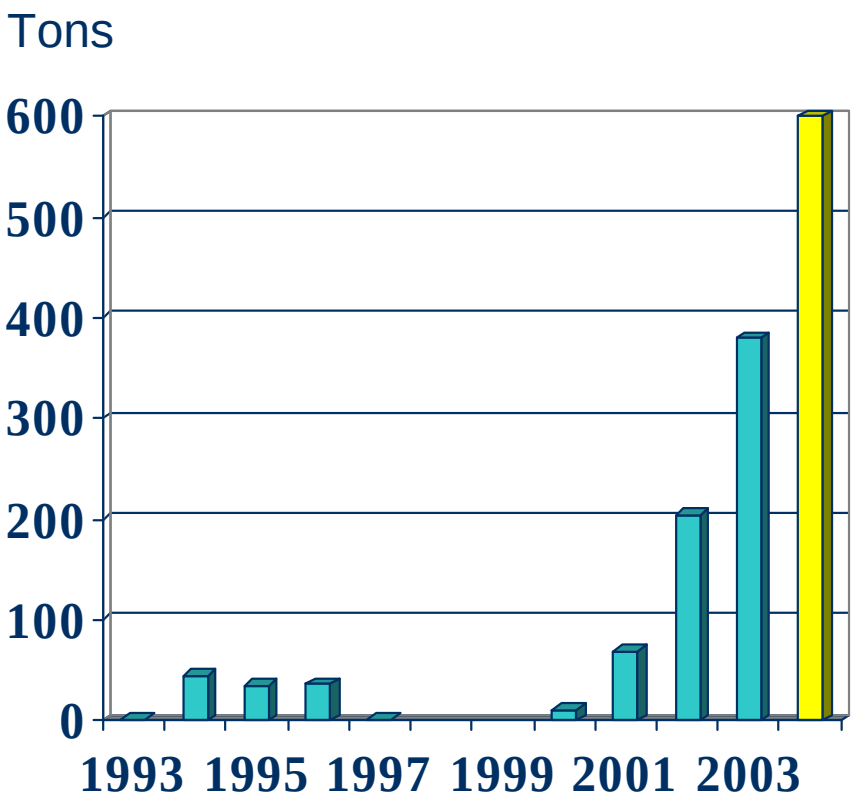
- **Farming methods**
  - Catch of 3-10 g juveniles in August – October in trawl
  - On-growing in land based farms from autumn to spring
  - On-growing in sea cages to market size
- **Catch of wild juveniles for on-growing**
  - 2002 65,000 juveniles
  - 2003 700,000 juveniles
  - 2004 1,000,000 juveniles

Catch of cod to on-growing

- On-growing trials with wild cod started in Iceland in 1992.
- From 2002 Ministry of Fisheries allocate annually **500 tons** of cod quotas
- The quotas have been used for experimental on-growing trials of cod in cooperation with the Marine Research Institute.
- The quotas allocated to 10-12 farmers yearly

Production of farmed cod in tons

- Majority of the production is from on-growing of wild farmed cod – Only few tons production of farmed cod
- Live weight of cod in cages in the end of the year 2004, about **1,300 tons** (> 90% wild farmed cod)



Hraðfrystihúsið - Gunnvör hf.
Háafell ehf.
Þóroddur ehf..
Brim - fiskeldi hf.
Síldarvinnslan hf.
Location of cod farms in Iceland
Eskja hf.
Guðmundur Runólfsson hf.
Juvenile production
On-growing
HB Grandi hf.
Icecod ehf.
Kví ehf.

Location of cod farms – Ownership

- **Owners**
  - Mainly established fisheries companies
- **The Icelandic cod farming experiments**
  - We have done many mistakes, but also learned a lot!
- **The objective for most companies:**
  - Is it possible to make profit out of cod farming in Iceland?

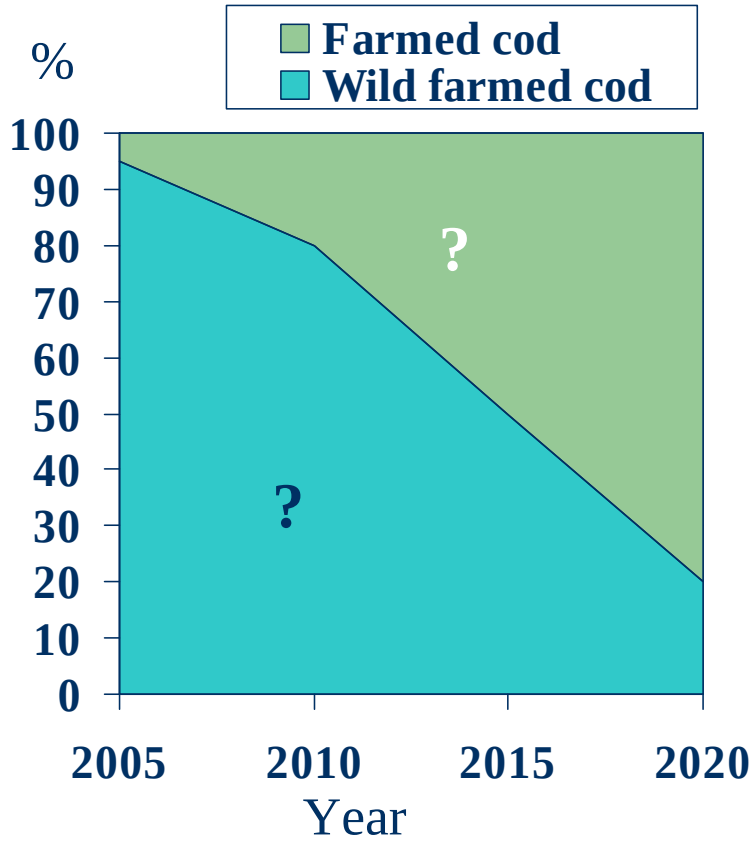
Research work

Focus on “selective breeding program”

- Organized family selection-program for cod-farming was started by **Icecod ehf.** in April 2003.
- Wild cod from different areas around Iceland were collected and the juveniles produced will be used to form the base-population for cod-farming in Iceland.
- For the year 2003 and 2004 about **150 females** were collected each year and will be used to estimate genetic parameters for the base population in the cod family - selection program.

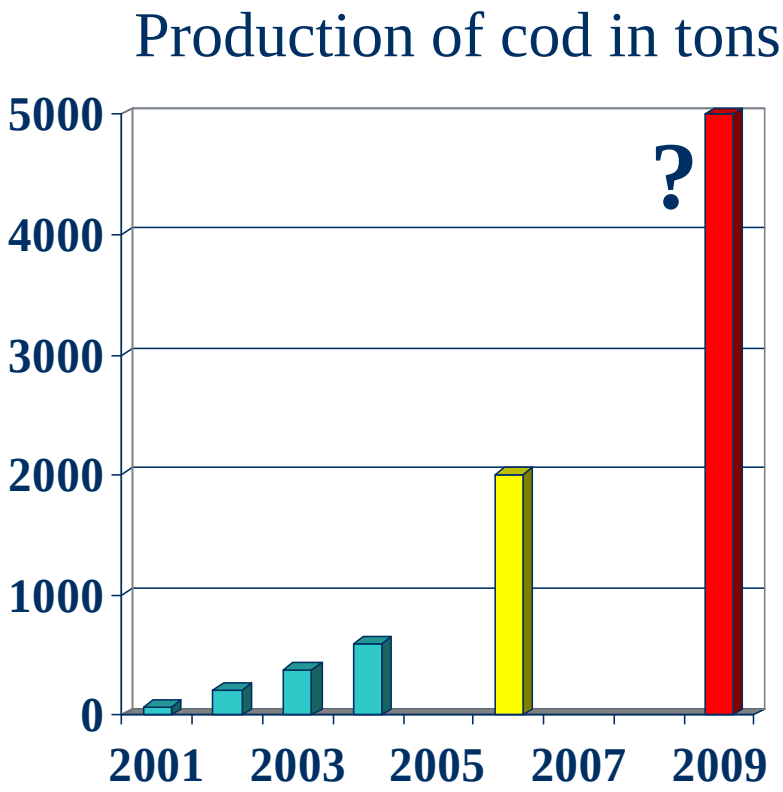
Development of cod farming in Iceland in the future

- **On-growing of wild farmed cod for the next few years**
  - Profitable for some farmers today
- **On- growing of farmed cod**
  - The aim is to build up good breeding stock and adapt/ develop techniques for cod farming in Iceland.



Production of farmed cod next years is mainly based on:

- **On-growing of wild cod**
  - 500 ton quota every year
  - Production around 1,000 – 1,500 tons
- **On-growing with wild juveniles**
  - Around 500,000 juveniles
  - Production around 1,000 tons
- **On-growing with reared juvenile**
  - Around 200,000 juveniles
  - Production around 500 tons



Cod farming conference

- **Name of the conference:**
  - Cod Farming in Nordic Countries
- **Objective**
  - This conference aims at giving an overview of cod farming activities and research in the Nordic countries and define future challenges.
- **Organizers of the conference**
  - This event is being organized by Nordic Cod Farming Network in co-operation with AVS Aquaculture group; AVS stands for Added Value in Seafood.
- **Date and venue**
  - Nordica Hotel, Reykjavík, 6 - 8 September 2005

Cod farming conference - Program

Day 1: Tuesday, September 6

- Session 1: Juvenile production and selective breeding
- Session 2: Farming of wild cod
- Session 3: On-growth and rearing technology
- Session 4: Health and environmental considerations related to cod farming
- Reception by the Minister of Fisheries

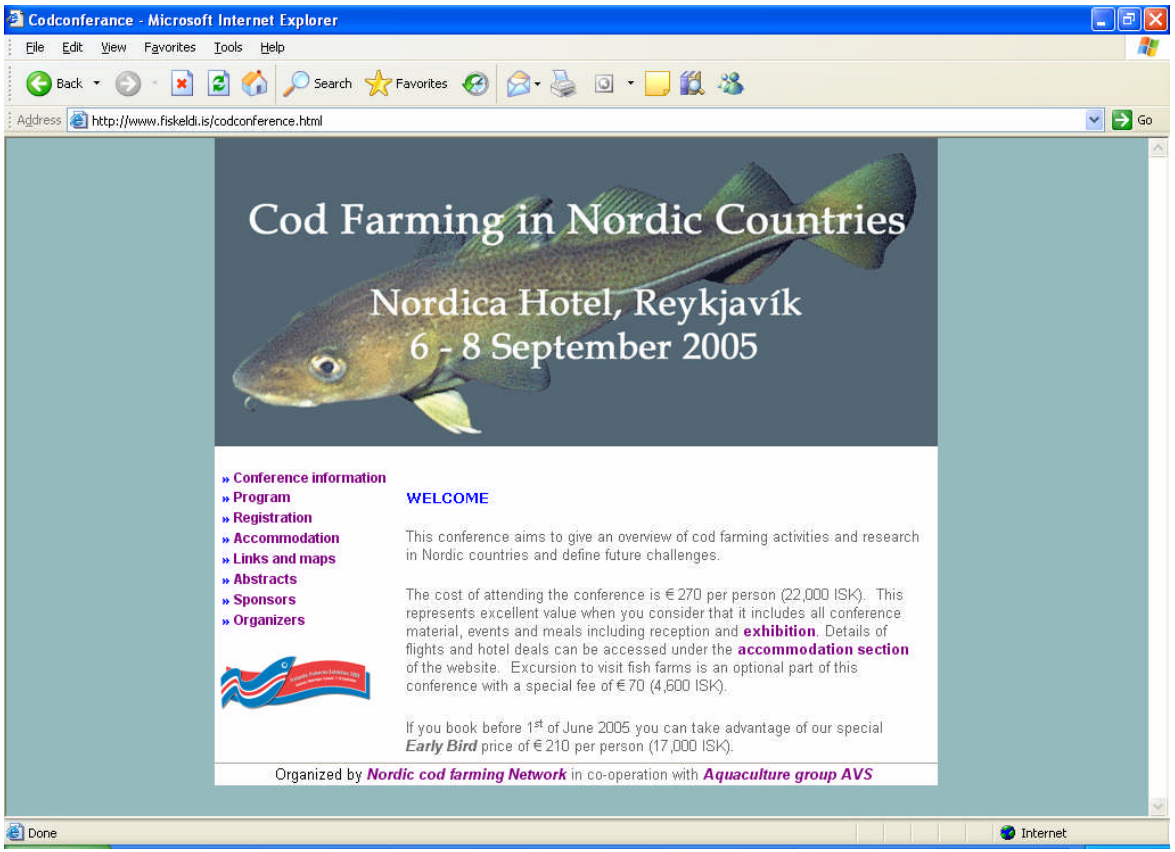
Cod farming conference - Program

Day 2: Wednesday, September 7

- Excursion (optional)
- Icelandic Fisheries Exhibition

Day 3: Thursday, September 8

- Session 5: Status and perspectives in cod farming in Nordic countries
- Session 6: Quality, processing and marketing
- Session 7: Added Value in Seafood including aquaculture and biotechnology organized by Ministry of Fisheries

Conference's website:

www.fiskeldi.is/codconference.html