

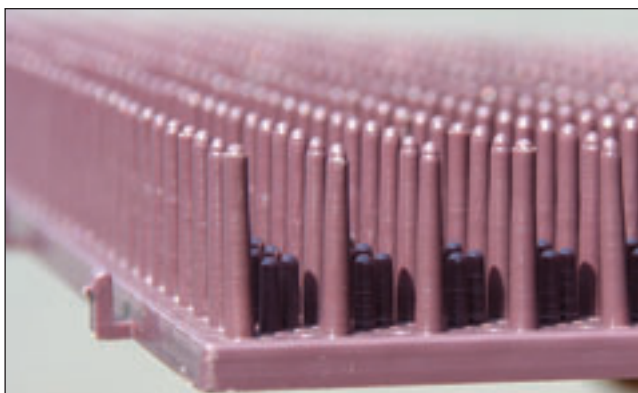
Compact system finds favour with salmon producers

A NOVEL cabinet and tray egg-hatching system launched last year by a Norwegian company using simple, proven technology is being taken up by some of the leading salmon businesses in major producing countries – and the inventor of the system intends to expand into other markets in the new year.

The system, named CompHatch – the ‘compact hatchery’ – produced by Alvestad Marin AS of Oslo, is proving popular due to its ease of use and the fact that several hundred thousand eggs can be developed in a very small area compared to traditional ‘trough’ systems.

CompHatch, which was developed by Runar Alvestad in close cooperation both with the Norwegian industry and the trade body Innovation Norway, features a set of shallow trays in a stand-alone, compact 1700 x 1600 x 80mm (height x length x depth) cabinet.

Each has its own metered water, and the trays, using Alvestad’s patented hatching substrate EasyHatch for



Close-up of the EasyHatch substrate, which comes with every CompHatch system as standard

easier cleaning and handling – can be simply drawn out for ease of checking and for simple removal of mortalities.

“Using an eight-floor cabinet in two sections on each floor, the system handles up to 360,000 roe and fry of Atlantic salmon,” explains Alvestad.

Such simplicity has certainly proven popular with many leading producers. Having sold 35 in its first year of operation, Runar Alvestad tells *FFI* that his company has already sold

around 100 this year. The extra orders have meant that he has taken on Sveinung Alvestad as sales manager.

Attending the salmon industry’s leading trade shows has helped business too. Around 10 systems were purchased by Chilean producers early this year following Alvestad’s attendance at the Aqua Sur show in Puerto Montt, while orders for a further 14 were taken after the company exhibited at Aquaculture International in Glasgow, Scotland, in May.



Alvestad Marin’s CompHatch system is selling well in Norway, Scotland, Ireland and Chile

The company hopes to build on this success in its home market by exhibiting at next year’s Aqua Nor show in Trondheim.

Of the Glasgow sales, one lot of seven by Sunbeam in Scotland; another lot of seven by Irish state fisheries body BIM; and a trial system bought straight off the Alvestad booth by leading international hatchery specialist Landcatch.

Landcatch’s Neil Manchester tells *FFI* that the company will this month try out the

system with eyed eggs at the Inverkerry hatchery in Gairloch on the west coast of Scotland.

“It is very compact and makes a very small footprint for the amount of production,” he says. “It has very good water flow and has very easy access to the hatching trays. Each layer has its own metered water supply too.”

In all, he says it is “very user-friendly and gives greater access to the eggs”.

Alvestad stresses the system’s space advantage by explaining: “Traditional hatchery systems need lots of space and lots of hard work to function. To produce one million fry a traditional system needs an area of up to 120sq m. When using CompHatch, you will

produce more than one million fry on just 4sq m.”

The system optimises water quality by continuously controlling water flow rate. Alvestad points out that, in order to make the fry lie stable and avoid skin damage, the hatchery sections are positioned ‘upstream’.

Its EasyHatch substrate, which is delivered with every CompHatch system, takes around 90,000 Atlantic salmon fry, or 18 litres of roe, per square metre. It is designed for simpler cleaning and better hygiene and is also easy to assemble.

Runar Alvestad is now looking to market the CompHatch and EasyHatch systems in other countries, including Russia and Turkey. ■ www.alvestadmarin.com



Each of the trays has its own metered water