

AQUALOOP International Conference Strengthening Circular Economy and Valorisation of Side Streams in RAS Aquaculture

25th February 2026, Klimahaus Bremerhaven, 09:30 - 17:00 (Am Längengrad 8, 27568 Bremerhaven, Germany & online)
(26th February 2026 - study visits, 10.00 – 11.30 at the facilities – separate registration required)

DAY 1-25 th February 2026		
09.30-10.00	Arrival, registration and coffee	
10.00-10.50	OPENING SESSION <i>Conference Chair - Adrian Bischoff-Lang, University of Rostock, Germany</i>	
10.00-10.05	Welcome	Adrian Bischoff-Lang, University of Rostock, Germany
10.05-10.20	Keynote presentation: The need for a resource-efficient circular economy - for today's challenges & tomorrow's legacy	Björn Suckow, Alfred-Wegener Institute, Germany
10.20-10.35	Keynote presentation: Challenges and constraints of implementing circular economy into commercial aquaculture production	Harry Palm, University of Rostock, Germany
10.35-10.50	AQUALOOP - Aquaculture expert floor for circular economy practice	Adrian Bischoff-Lang, University of Rostock, Germany
10.50-11.05	Coffee break	
11.05-12.40	SESSION 1: Closing the Nutrient Loop & Byproduct Valorisation <i>Moderators: Freya Robinson, SUBMARINER Network EEIG, Germany, Adrian Bischoff-Lang, University of Rostock, Germany</i> Objective: Highlight innovative examples of valorising aquaculture side streams through practical pilots and commercial initiatives / Format: Mix of short presentations and a panel discussion (with Q&A) / Key takeaways: Innovative solutions to valorise aquaculture side streams	
11.05-11.20	Utilization potential of microalgae cultivated in processing water from shrimp recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS)	Joanna Hegele-Drywa, University of Gdańsk, Poland
11.20-11.35	By-products characterization and valorisation of African Catfish (<i>Clarias gariepinus</i> Burchell, 1822) based on fatty acids	Christina Schmidt, University of Rostock, Germany
11.35-11.50	Crustaceans in multitrophic freshwater RAS for sludge mitigation	Nerijus Nika, University of Klaipeda, Lithuania

11.50-12.05	Capturing and valorising freshwater aquaculture waste streams to enhance climate resilience and resource efficiency	Piotr Eljasik, West Pomeranian University of Technology, Poland
12.05-12.20	Valorisation of marine RAS effluents for nutrient recovery and <i>Ulva</i> sp. cultivation	Sarah Perche, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark
12.20-12.40	SESSION 1 PANEL DISCUSSION: Aquaculture circular solutions and side streams valorisation	Björn Suckow, Harry Palm, Joanna Hegele-Drywa, Christina Schmidt, Nerijus Nika, Piotr Eljasik, Sarah Perche
12.40-13.40	Joint photo, lunch break, mini exhibition	
13.40-15.15	SESSION 2: Stakeholder Support & Consumer Perspectives <i>Moderators: Freya Robinson, SUBMARINER Network EEIG, Germany, Adrian Bischoff-Lang, University of Rostock, Germany</i> Objective: Explore strategies, recommendations, consumer perspective and regulatory frameworks across countries to enable side stream valorisation / Format: Mix of short presentations and a panel discussion (with Q&A) / Key takeaways: Practical recommendations for industry adoption	
13.40-13.55	The Gårdsfisk concept - an integrated, land-based circular fish farming – Swedish case and the potential for side-stream utilization	Andreas Granath & Johan Ljungquist, Scandinavian Aquasystems AB - Gårdsfisk, Sweden
13.55-14.10	Transferring the Swedish concept of RAS fish on farms to Denmark - similarities and differences - next steps	Mikael Kirkhoff Samsøe, VKST & Hilary Karlson, Guldborgsund Municipality, Denmark
14.10-14.25	The value of project participation in business development	Annette Løttrup-Moore, Business Lolland-Falster, Denmark
14.25-14.40	The significance of producers associations and cooperation with academia for aquaculture development and support of RAS farming - perspective from the Polish Trout Breeders Association	Marcin Juchniewicz, K2 Fish Farm, Poland
14.40-14.55	Stakeholder support, knowledge transfer and consumer perception – evidence from Polish aquaculture	Tomasz Kulikowski, Fish Market Development Association, Poland
14.55-15.15	SESSION 2 PANEL DISCUSSION: Harmonizing policies, and practices to encourage innovation	Andreas Granath, Johan Ljungquist, Mikael Kirkhoff Samsøe, Hilary Karlson, Annette Løttrup-Moore, Tomasz Kulikowski, Marcin Juchniewicz, Nadine Sydow (Blaue Bioökonomie, Germany), Ben Marcussen (Marcussen Living Legacy A.M.B.A, Denmark/Germany)

15.15-15.30	Coffee break	
15.30-16.30	SESSION 3: Training and Capacity Building in Circular Economy <i>Moderators: Freya Robinson, SUBMARINER Network EEIG, Germany, Adrian Bischoff-Lang, University of Rostock, Germany</i> Objective: Focus on skills development and practical knowledge transfer to enhance RAS aquaculture and side stream valorisation / Format: Mix of short presentations and a panel discussion (with Q&A) / Key takeaways: Knowledge and practical skills in RAS aquaculture and for converting aquaculture side streams into valuable products	
15.30-15.40	AquaLoop cross-border student exchange program	Nerijus Nika, University of Klaipeda, Lithuania & AquaLoop cross-border student exchange program students: Konrad Bräutigam, Moritz Trautmann, Mattis Rieger, Finn Wendt, Johannes Franke, University of Rostock, Germany
15.40-15.50	Developing skills for the circular economy - a PhD student perspective based on AquaLoop and other circular economy projects	Marta Gostkowska, University of Gdańsk, Poland
15.50-16.00	Employer's perspective – skills in demand	Johan Ljungquist, Scandinavian Aquasystems AB - Gårdsfisk, Sweden
16.00-16.10	BBT MOOC: Advancing Skills in aquaculture and other blue bioeconomy sectors	Katharina Kurzweil, SUBMARINER Network EEIG, Germany
16.10-16.30	SESSION 3 PANEL DISCUSSION: Building skills for circular aquaculture - training needs and practical implementation	Nerijus Nika, Marta Gostkowska, Johan Ljungquist, Katharina Kurzweil, Jaime Orellana (Erwin Sander GmbH, Germany), Konrad Bräutigam, Moritz Trautmann, Mattis Rieger, Finn Wendt, Johannes Franke
16.30-16.40	Wrap up and final words <i>Conference Chair - Adrian Bischoff-Lang, University of Rostock, Germany</i>	
16.40-17.00	Networking/ Mini exhibition & "RAS tasting"	

DAY 2 - 26th February 2026, 10.00 - 11.30 at the facilities, separate registration required
Study visit to Centre of Aquaculture Research AWI, Bremerhaven / ttz - Technology Transfer Center, Bremerhaven (details below)



STUDY VISITS: 26th Feb 2026

“Strengthening Circular Economy and Valorisation of side-streams in RAS Aquaculture”
AQUALOOP International Conference (DAY 2)

Study visit 1

Centre of Aquaculture Research AWI, Bremerhaven

The centre provides a modern infrastructure with closed recirculation aquaculture systems (RAS) supporting freshwater, brackish, and marine organisms, including fish, crustaceans, algae, and other species. The facilities are highly customizable and supported by greenhouses, culture rooms, and laboratories to meet diverse research requirements.

Address: Am Handelshafen 10, 27570 Bremerhaven, the meeting point will be announced at the conference.

Starting time: 10.00
Duration: 60 – 90 minutes

Max. 20/study visit
No costs
Registration required

Study visit 2

ttz - Technology Transfer Center, Bremerhaven

The Center is an innovative provider of research services and operates in the field of application-oriented research and development, with an international team working in the areas of food, environment and health. The study visit will focus on ttz facilities, with particular emphasis on fish feed development, formulation, and manufacturing.

Address: Am Lunedeich 12, 27572 Bremerhaven, the meeting point will be announced at the conference.



ttz Bremerhaven