

The Role of Research Collaboration in Advancing Norway's Seaweed Sector

Dr. David Aldridge, SINTEF Ocean
SSIA Conference, Oban 2025



SINTEF | 75 år



Status from Norway

150 tonnes harvested, more *Alaria* then *Saccharina* (Frozen)

A shift from companies controlling operations along the whole value chain towards a specialization into different operations:

- production (seeds and/or biomass production)
- processing, products (incl sea farms) or market.

Market demand for red and green species (“we cannot only cultivate the seaweed; we also need to cultivate the market”)



- Norwegian Seaweed Cluster: 55 members across the value chain
- Businesses, users, research institutions and public sector
- Steering committee and members set directions and priorities
- Cross-sector focus groups led by industry and research partners

Collaboration is key!

Focus areas

- Production Technology
- Market & Product
- Sustainability & Framework

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Norwegian
Seaweed
Centre

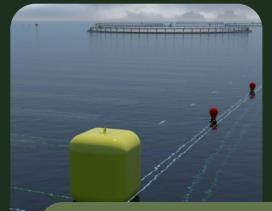


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The Research
Council of Norway

Norwegian Test Center for Seaweed Cultivation and Utilisation Technologies (RI SEAWEED)



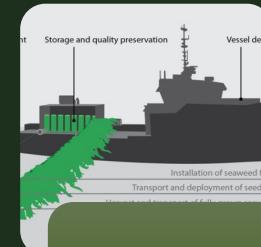
Land farms



Sea farms



Simulation
and
surveillance



Vessels
and
logistics



Preprocessing
and
storage



Processing
and
products



Project Partners

Advisors

R&D-partners

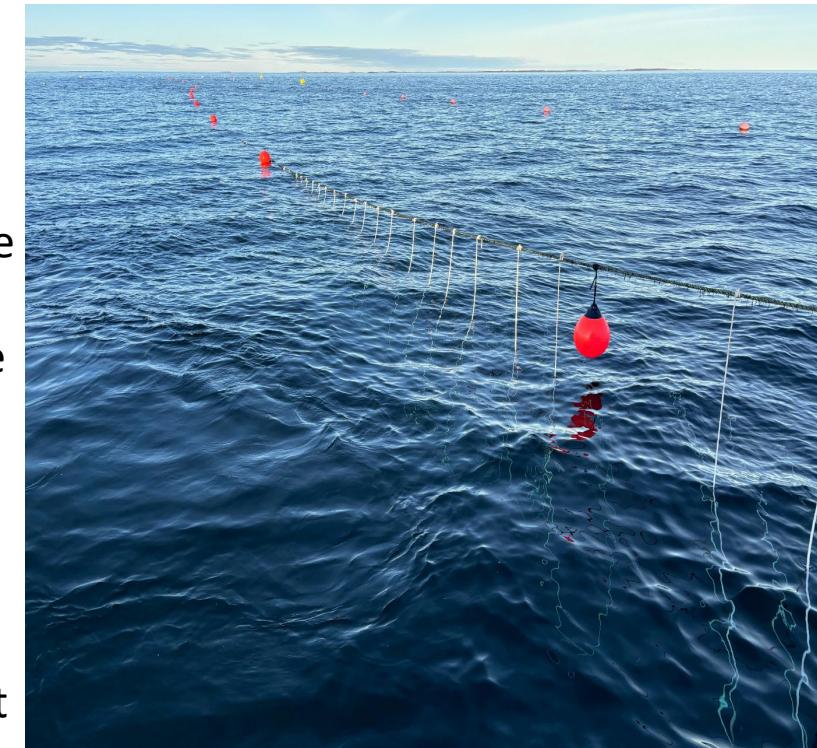
Offshore Cultivation

Seaweed Carbon Solutions

GOAL

Develop scalable technology for open ocean seaweed-CDR (carbon dioxide removal) with a potential for the removal of
1 mill tons of CO₂ in 2030
by climate positive products or solutions

- Installed and testing a 50 t CO₂/y pilot seafarm in offshore conditions in Frohavet (Norway/Trøndelag)
- Passive deposition of seaweed biomass as carbon storage
- Monitor and assess environmental impact
 - positive and negative
- Develop seaweed biochar for soil improvement & carbon storage
- Quantify actual and potential net CO₂-removal
- Outline possibilities to qualify seaweed-CDR as CO₂-offset mechanism and business case



Phase 1 PILOT 2022-2025

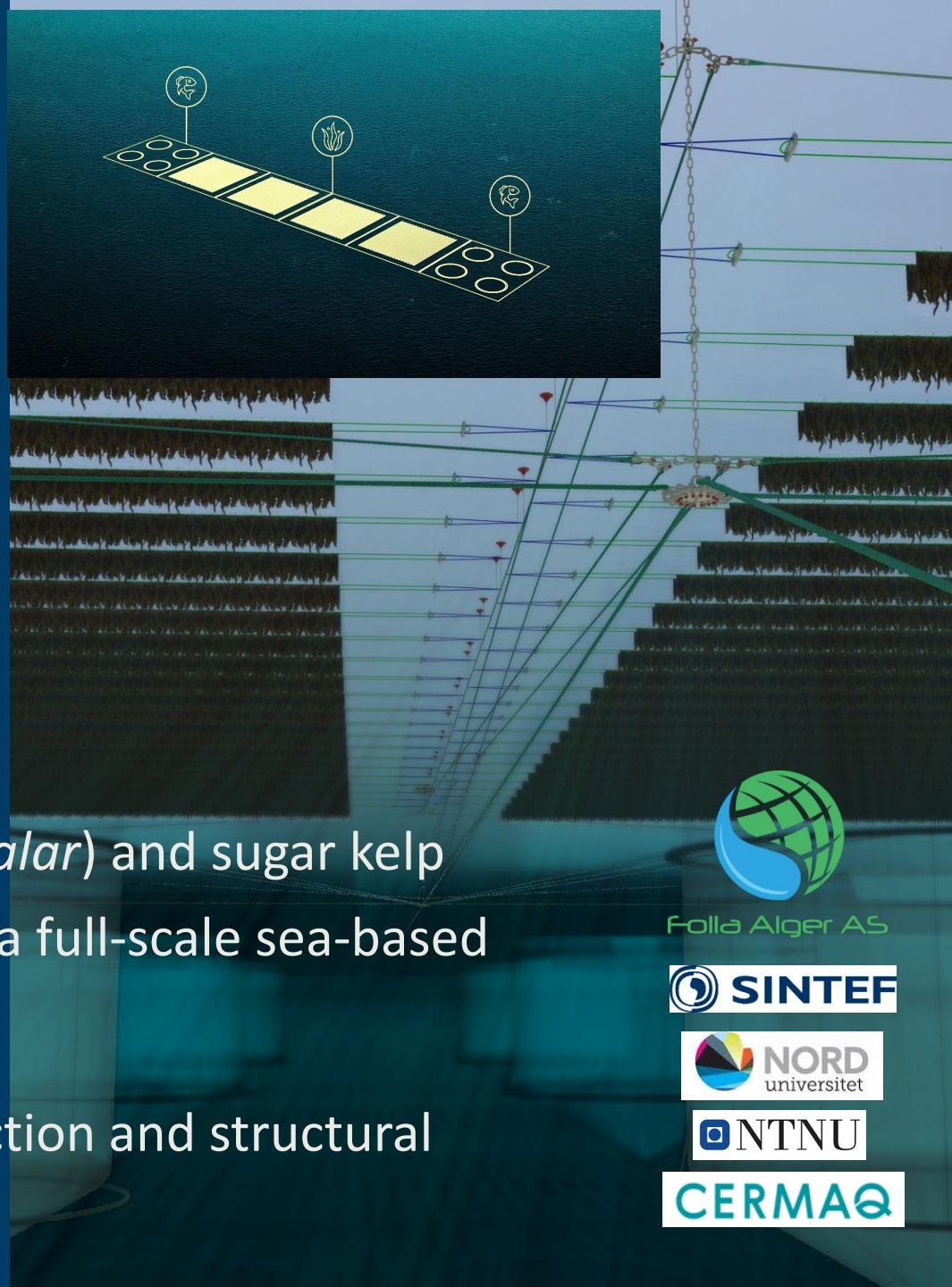
Budget: 52MNO

Contribution from partners:

1M€ (3 MNO) per year

Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA)

- Salmon aquaculture in Norway releases annually
 - 50,000 t nitrogen (N)
 - 2,500 t phosphorus (P)
- Additional benefits
 - Co-use of space
 - Shared infrastructure
- Integrated aquaculture of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and sugar kelp (*Saccharina latissima*) is realized and developed at a full-scale sea-based facility in the North of Norway
- Develop robust solutions for both biological production and structural design



Folla Alger AS



NORD
universitet



NTNU



CERMAQ



2026-2033 | Budget € 15 MILL

Norwegian Research Council funded Centre for research-based innovation

Research partners



NGO/Trade org



If the seas were always calm, we would never build a better boat

<https://norwegianseaweedcentre.com/>

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