MarinCircleBlue

Community-Led Circular Blue Green Solutions for Low-Salinity Areas



Core Focus

MarinCircleBlue works with communities in the Hardanger region to link integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) with circular blue-green value chains, turning harvested low-trophic biomass into agricultural biostimulants. Combining community co-design, an IMTA pilot, biostimulant trials and dissemination, the project will reduce fjord nutrient pressure and connect aquaculture with agriculture.

Challenge

Hardangerfjord is a low-salinity system under nutrient pressure, with salmon farming as the dominant cause and a eutrophication risk if production grows. The sector is at a standstill after the County Governor rejected new applications. Farmers want documented effects from biostimulants, and local low-trophic knowledge is limited.

Key Activities

- ❑ Run community co-design workshops, dialogue sessions and youth engagement.
- ❑ Mobilise, permit and deploy the IMTA pilot in the fjord.
- ❑ Monitor and validate the IMTA system and assess its value chain.
- ❑ Trial macroalgae-based biostimulants across two growing seasons.
- ❑ Communicate results and support uptake and scaling

Communities Engaged

- ❖ Citizen science & community education
- ❖ Conservation & environmental protection
- ❖ Local Action Groups (CLLD)
- ❖ Enterprises for inclusion & skills
- ❖ Blue tech & digital innovation
- ❖ Fisheries / aquaculture / blue economy

Organisations: The Royal Norwegian Society for Development (Norges Vel) (Norway) · Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research NIBIO (NO) · SeaFertil AS (NO) · Naturvernforbundet Hordaland NVH (NO) · Urban Ocean AS (NO)

Project Budget:
€983,250.00