Clams may turn out to be an important contribution to the pantry of the world

TripleNine is working to make clams a new feed ingredient and to exploit their ability to collect nitrogen from the ocean.

Some hate their texture, others eat them as delicacies accompanied by white wine, garlic and parsley. But clams can do much more than looking good on a dinner table. In fact, clam meal may be included in feed to poultry, piglets or fish. At the same time, clams reduce marine pollution by collecting nitrogen from the water. This combination is both good for the environment and good for the economy according to TripleNine, one of the world’s leading suppliers of fish meal and fish oil.

“Everyone knows that the population of the world is asking for larger and larger amounts of food. The sea plays a crucial role. As a producer of fish meal and fish oil, it was natural for us to ask ourselves if there are resources in the ocean we should use better. The simple answer is yes. Clams are an interesting feed ingredient. They are also formidable for collecting nitrogen from the ocean,” says Chief Business Development Officer at TripleNine Kenneth Storbek.

Although a clam industry exists today, it has not taken full advantage of the clams as a resource says Kenneth Storbank.

“The traditional clam industry focuses on the consumer market, which means that only the large clams are used. The rest are simply thrown away as waste. Of course it is not optimal, because the smaller clams that do not fit the dinner table can be used as ingredients in animal feed.”

SDG’s IN PLAY
SDG 14: Life below water
Target 14.1: Reduce marine pollution

By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.
In addition to feed ingredients, more and more people have become aware of the clams’ ability to reduce the amount of nutrients in the marine environment:

“It is no secret that fish farming has a negative impact on the environment, although it is significantly less than the breeding of animal protein sources on the land. Therefore, we have collaborated with a number of skilled partners from public, private and research-based organizations with the aim of developing a comprehensive solution in which clams are grown near aquaculture or where agriculture emits nitrogen. The more nitrogen we can collect from the ocean, the more food we will be able to produce to feed the world’s population without adversely affecting the marine environment.”

Working with the Sustainable Development Goals has made a positive impact in TripleNine, says Kenneth Storbank:

“Our ambition is clearly to increase our focus on sustainability. We believe that if you want to be a player in the long run, you need to find a balanced approach where you contribute positively to your surroundings. We contribute to the food chain by producing ingredients for animal feed which later become animal products.”

Through the SDG Accelerator TripleNine has worked intensely with the Sustainable Development Goals:

“Integrating the SDG’s directly into the business gives you a completely new perspective on your work. Suddenly, sustainable development is not something you care about out of obligation, but something you do to develop your business. It is extremely meaningful to be part of a company that helps solve some of the major problems in the world.”

To implement the solution TripleNine is facing a maturation process that targets both technical and infrastructure development Kenneth Storbank explains:

“Firstly, we have to adjust the existing equipment before we are able to produce clam meal in a sensible way. Our technical staff are already looking into this.

Secondly, we need to find the right infrastructure in cooperation with our partners. In the long term, it is possible to imagine an entire ‘clam purification plant’ around aquaculture, which would have a massive positive impact on the marine environment. That is the vision we aim for, and we are determined to make it happen. Once we have found the right formula, it is undoubtedly a solution we can spread globally.”

“‘In TripleNine, we see great opportunities for increased cultivation of clams, as clams can be processed into a functional feed ingredient, for example for poultry, fish and piglets. Likewise, clams can help remove unwanted nutrients from aquaculture, thus making it possible to increase the production of proteins from the ocean, thus helping to solve some of the world’s most urgent food challenges."

FACTS ABOUT TRIPLENINE

• Established in 1948
• Approx. 250 employees
• Owned by private investors
• Production companies in Denmark, Norway and Chile. Worldwide sales.

THIS IS HOW TRIPLENINE CONTRIBUTES TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

• TripleNine has partnered with a number of partners from public, private and research-based organizations with the purpose of developing a solution where clams are used to collect nitrogen from the sea and subsequently processed into feed ingredients.
• In addition to reducing marine pollution, the solution will help increase the production of proteins from the ocean, thus helping to solve some of the world’s most urgent food challenges.

Jes Bjerregaard, CEO, TripleNine Group