

Press release:

Shellfish products for new markets

Aqualife Logistics together with the container shipping company Maersk Line have created a live shellfish ocean freight system to all parts of the world – at prices that makes the products more competitive on the global market. “The environmental impact is 30 times less and the use for consumption is almost 100 percent,” says CEO Lars Nannerup.

Shellfish account for a growing share of the world’s food supply. With the current decline of the ocean’s stocks, aquaculture is expanding in parts of the world, especially North America, Europe and Asia, to ensure a continued food supply for the more than one billion people who depend on fish or seafood proteins in their daily diet. The very lives of these people are at risk if a new, sustainable source of food is not established.

“Aquacultures will play a major role in the future for mankind’s total food supply, and along with this, the demand for live shellfish and fish is growing,” says CEO Lars Nannerup, Aqualife Logistics. This Danish company’s focus is on long-distance container-based ocean freight of live shellfish, in cooperation with the world’s largest container shipping company Maersk Line.

Until now, only the most expensive shellfish have been freighted, generally by air as iced goods. The Aqualife Logistic’s solution for the transportation challenge was to develop special containers in which the shellfish can be kept in a close-to-natural environment, and can remain in peak condition during ocean freight.

“We have reduced the wastage of shellfish to a minimum as during both the sea freight and storage, the shellfish are kept in their own environment until consumption. The system is designed so that the distributor can take the required quantity directly from the container. All this combined with much lower transport costs is considered a huge advantage and can greatly reduce the price for the end user,” Lars Nannerup says.

“Eventually a large portion of the frozen shellfish market will change over to fresh goods. If you are a remote producer in a place such as Labrador, Canada, then your products can only be sold to the discount focused market as frozen shellfish, since until now it has been impossible to freight the fresh shellfish to the market.” The definition of fresh shellfish is live shellfish. Shellfish decompose very quickly, and only last for a few hours when dead.

Expanding market

Compared to air freight, ocean freight of shellfish in the special Aqualife containers is 30 times cleaner in regards to environmental impact, and freight costs are reduced up to 50 percent. This allows the market for freight of shellfish to expand significantly in terms of type of products and volume of products.

“We freight shellfish in 40 feet containers, each with 20 tanks all interconnected through a piping system within the container. During the ocean freight the system operates automatically. Special materials are used which make the tanks easy to clean and maintain, and we have developed advanced filter technologies to comply with the strict environment and food safety regulations as we freight ecosystems from one part of the world to another such as the journey from North America to Europe,” Lars Nannerup says.

The transportation time is no object with Aqualife as the shellfish can stay for long periods in the tanks thus retaining their natural freshness. This means a more steady flow of products for



the distributors who can gain more stable prices on the market. It also benefits end users who will not experience the fluctuation in prices that we see today.

“At the start we only freighted high end products such as snow crabs from Greenland and lobsters from Canada. Then we started freighting mussels from Denmark to Southern Europe and clams from New Jersey to Spain. Today we have established shellfish hubs in The Netherlands and Spain. From these hubs, our containers are reloaded on to lorries for transport to urban consumers throughout Europe.” Lars Nannerup states.

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