

Adding value to the by-products of salmon processing

How can the by-products of salmon processing be recycled? After an initial collaboration, Upcyclink and Saumextra launched the Saumup project, winner in the innovation category of the European B Resilient call for projects, initiated by several clusters including Valorial.



The background

For 30 years, Atelier Saumextra has specialised in the traditional smoking of seafood products (salmon salted with dry salt, traditional smoking, filleting and slicing by hand). The company is now looking for ways to make the most of its co-products (skins, heads, etc.) from salmon processing. The workshop generates 120 tonnes/year of by-products with little added value (meal). The increasing scarcity of this resource and the rising price of raw materials are forcing us to rethink our practices.

Upcyclink is an expert in the recovery of by-products and is developing innovative solutions and processes to convert them into food-grade ingredients as part of a circular economy approach.

An initial collaboration led to the establishment of a material balance and a calculation of the full cost of by-products, demonstrating the potential of biomass and the opportunities for in situ recovery. The Saumup project was launched.

Project objectives

The Saumup project will validate the technical and economic feasibility of recovering salmon by-products after filleting, with a view to achieving zero waste, and prepare for its implementation.

The aim is to adapt existing processes so that filleting can continue to be recycled, partly as ingredients for human consumption and partly as products for pets. The aim is to achieve full recovery.



The role of the partners

The Saumup project began a few months ago.

Upcyclink first defined the recovery processes. Upcyclink and Saumextra are carrying out pilot-scale and semi-industrial trials in technology halls and in the workshop, using raw materials supplied by Saumextra. Samples are produced and analysed in the laboratory to ensure that product quality meets market requirements and to draw up technical specifications.

Based on these technical data sheets, Upcyclink will then prospect target markets in collaboration with Saumextra to refine the market study.

Upcyclink, with the support of Saumextra, will recommend equipment and draw up a plan for installing it in the processing plant, in compliance with health regulations.

All these elements will be used to draw up economic analyses, right up to the business plan.

Expected benefits

This project should enable 100% of the raw material to be recovered on site. The expected benefits of this recovery are economic, with an increase in sales linked to the sale of upcycled products on high value-added markets and an increase in margins on the initial product (the cost of by-products no longer matters). There is also the prospect of improved environmental performance and resilience.

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION: Myriam Thélu, Co-founder of UpCyclink

AUTOR: Myriam Thélu, Co-founder of UpCyclink

TRANSLATION BY: B

landine FORTIN, Innovation project manager at Valorial