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- The world production of the European flat oyster is only 0.15% of *Crassostrea gigas* production.
- In France, 1500 t are produced per year, which are about 1 % of the whole oyster production.
- Anyway, this oyster is a patrimonial species and is important for biodiversity and sustainability of oyster culture







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Farming the flat oyster

Farming of the flat oyster is based on natural spat, collected in Brittany, in Quiberon bay, and Brest).

Hatchery production is limited, due to biological constraints of the species, and to weakness of the spat market.





Farming the flat oyster

> The flat oyster is mainly growed in Brittany, by seeding spat in deep water areas (baie de Quiberon, Cancale)

Culture in deep water prevents *Marteilia* to develop and the density lower than 100/m<sup>2</sup> reduces the losses by Bonamia.



#### Survival performances of selected strains

Experimental trials conducted between 1995 and 2000 showed significant increase in survival of selected families

Survival of families are correlated to Bonamia prevalence





International Conference on Shellfish Restoration 2005 – Brest – 02-05 october 2005



## **OFISTREA Project (2002-2004)**

Selected families perform better than families from wild breeders in experimental conditions

#### But needs :

- to confirm these results using professional conditions
- to produce large quantities of selected spat in commercial hatchery





# **OFISTREA Project (2002-2004)**

- The project Ofistrea co-funded by Offimer was initiated in 2002
- Objectives: (1) to evaluate the sechnical feasibility of a commercial production of selected flat oyster spat; (2) to validate the experimental data
- The project was conducted between 2002 and 2004
- > Partners:
  - \* Ifremer
  - \* Vendée Naissain (private hatchery)
  - SYSAAF (Syndicat des Sélectionneurs Avicoles et Aquacoles Français)
  - SMIDAP (Syndicat Mixte pour le Développement de l'Aquaculture et de la Pêche en Pays de de la Loire)









FRPROFESSIONNEL

DE LA MER ET DE

Pre-grown spat transferred to La Trinite to be wintered then seeded in deep water on the next spring

Newly spawned larvae transferred to the Vendee Naissain hatchery in Bouin for larval rearing and first growing

Mass spawning of the same breeders than used in experimental trials in Ifremer hatchery in La Tremblade





OFFICE NATIONAL NTERPROFESSIONNEL DES PRODUITS DE LA WER ET DE

L'AQUACULTURE

#### Larval rearing survival of commercial batches



OFFICE NATIONAL **Global survival of commercial batches** NTERPROFESSIONNEL DES PRODUITS DE LA MER ET DE L'AQUACULTURE 120% 100% SSBK-05 100% SSBK-06 SSBK-09 80% 64% 60% reme 40% 28% 20% 9% 1% 0% Sp<sub>2</sub>wn Settlement 800µ mesh 3000µ mesh Larval



ireme

### **Diets in larval rearing**



All data are shown at day 13



lfremer

### Spat seeding in bay of Quiberon





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## **Spat seeding in bay of Quiberon**





### Spat seeding in bay of Quiberon



>Seeding of 250 000 wild spat on july 2002 (2500 m<sup>2</sup>)

First growing of selected spat
between july and november
2002 in oyster bags in deep
water

Seeding of 50 000 selected spat on november 2002 (1000 m<sup>2</sup>)

Control kept in oyster bags







#### Conclusions

> Validation in professional conditions of the response to selection for better tolerance to Bonamia ostreae > No negative correlated response of growth **Feasibility of mass production** of Ostrea edulis spat in hatcheries but bottlenecks still remained > No obvious advantage of use of Tetraselmis suesica in the larval rearing of the species > Need to arrange the way of production to ensure first growing of hatchery spat before seeding (breeding on deep water long lines or in nursery)