



## AQUA2018: TECHNICAL EXCURSIONS

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Two technical excursions or farm tours are offered to AQUA 2018 participants. Both are full day excursions. Registration online at [www.was.org](http://www.was.org)

The first, prior to the event on Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> will visit the IFREMER research station at Palavas (sea bass and algae culture) and then the “Poissons du Soleil” sea bass, sea bream and meagre hatchery.

The second, on Thursday August 30<sup>th</sup> just after AQUA 2018 will visit oyster farms at the famous “Etang de Thau”

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### TOUR 1. IFREMER and les Poissons du Soleil. Saturday August 25th from 08h to 16h30

#### **IFREMER Palavas-les-Flots - A platform of 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> between sea and lagoon**

The IFREMER experimental platform located in Palavas-les-Flots (a small coastal city close to Montpellier), is the largest research infrastructure dedicated to mariculture in France.

It is composed of:

- 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of covered infrastructures (5 halls), which host about 200 tanks (0,5 - 11 m<sup>3</sup>), 300 aquariums (8 - 200 l) and an experimental livestock of seabass consisting of wild, domesticated and divergent selected lines (600 live fish and 30,000 cryopreserved sperm) allowing research on all stage of fish development (larvae, juveniles, adult)
- 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> of outdoor infrastructures (11 raceways; 2 of 160 m<sup>3</sup>, 9 of 20 m<sup>3</sup>) for experiments on algae culture in open-fields

#### **Les Poissons du Soleil**

« Les Poissons du Soleil » is the oldest private fish hatchery on the Mediterranean Sea. Since its creation in 1975, the company has been developing a strategy of research, innovation and diversification, giving it a pioneering status and expertise in marine biotechnology.

Key figures:

- 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of installations and equipment with the latest technologies
- A hatchery made up of 9 specific units equipped with independent closed circuits with filtration and sterilization system (UV, biological and mechanical filter, degassing tower)
- More than 10 million sea bass, sea bream and meagre fingerlings produced each year
- A team of 16 engineers and technicians
- A pre-growing site consisting of 34 raceways and 3 circular tanks
- A growing unit of 45 floating cages of 125 m<sup>3</sup>



## Key information:

- Departure from Le Corum Congress Centre – August 25 at 08:00h.
- Return to Le Corum at 16:30h
- Maximum numbers 50 persons.
- Lunch provided.
- **Price: 75 USD**

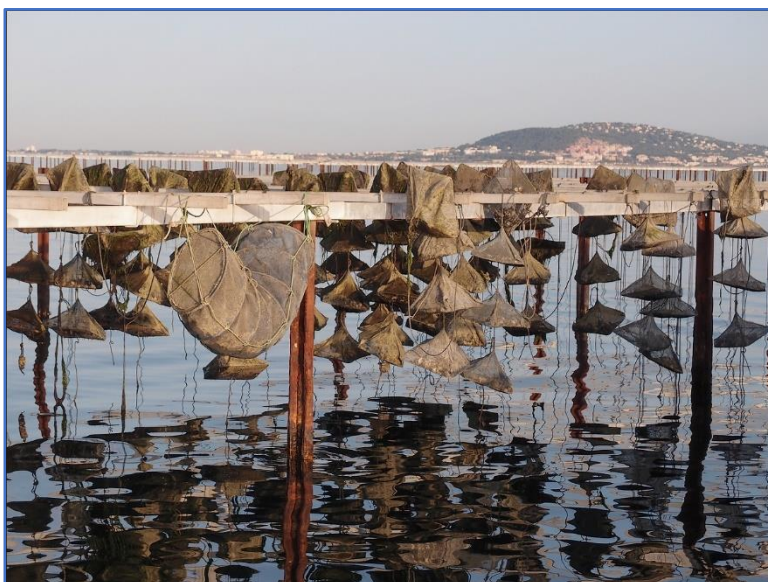
**Register online for the tour IFREMER AUG 25 with your AQUA2018 registration**

## **TOUR 2. Visit to oyster farms at the Etang de Thau. Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 09h to 15h**

Located at the Land-Sea interface, 40 km from Montpellier, the Thau lagoon is the biggest and the deepest lagoon of the French Mediterranean (7500 ha, 4.5 m depth on average). Under strong marine influence, the lagoon is a naturally productive coastal ecosystem due to inputs from the watershed. Taking advantage of these ecological characteristics, humans have developed many uses such as shellfish farming, artisanal fisheries and tourism (sailing, thermal cures). Other important marine activities are represented in this area, including marine fish farming, land-based microalgae production and marine-related engineering consulting firms.

Representing 90% of the Languedoc Roussillon production (the former name of the region, before becoming the greatly enlarged Occitanie Region), shellfish farming is an important economic activity for the Thau lagoon, with both oyster and mussel production.

The lagoon provides 10% of the total French pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* production. In the Mediterranean area, the on-growing of Pacific oyster uses very specific production techniques, using tables with oysters suspended beneath them



and fully immersed in water. The combination of the richness of the environment and these practices allows higher growth rates than those classically observed. During the visit tour of Thau lagoon, you will discover this unique production methodology, an ecosystem managing environment preservation and economic activity with farmers respectful of their environment. You will also have the pleasure of tasting local quality products, directly from the producer.

## Key information:

- Departure from Le Corum Congress Centre – August 30 at 09h00.
- Visit to the farms by boat
- Degustation of locally-produced oysters
- Return to Le Corum at 15h00
- Maximum number: 100 persons.
- **Price: 100 USD**

**Register online for the tour THAU AUG 30 with your AQUA2018 registration**