Marine biofilms are a huge issue for aquaculture and can form on:

- Surfaces of fish including the surface of shellfish
- Natural surfaces exposed to organisms that live on waste food and fish waste from aquaculture
- Infrastructure such as nets, floats, cages and ropes

The management of these biofilms accounts for 5–10% of production costs.

Aquaculture has seen significant growth in recent decades. Inland production in 2018 was 51.3m tonnes whilst marine production was 30.8m tonnes.

This is in contrast to commercial fishing, which has not significantly changed in the period 1986 to 2018 with annual production typically between 80 & 90m tonnes.

Biofouling in aquaculture has a global cost of £4,000m – £8,000m.