

Recirculation in the EU aquaculture policy and organic rules

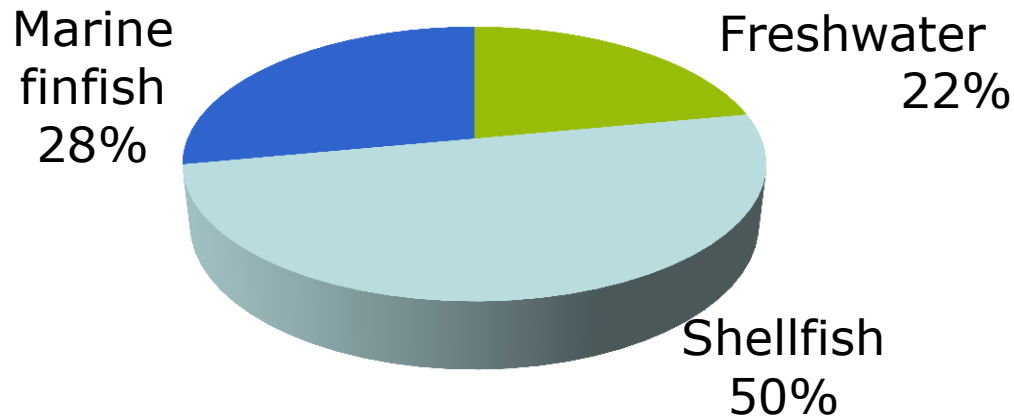


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DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Brussels, 12/11/2015

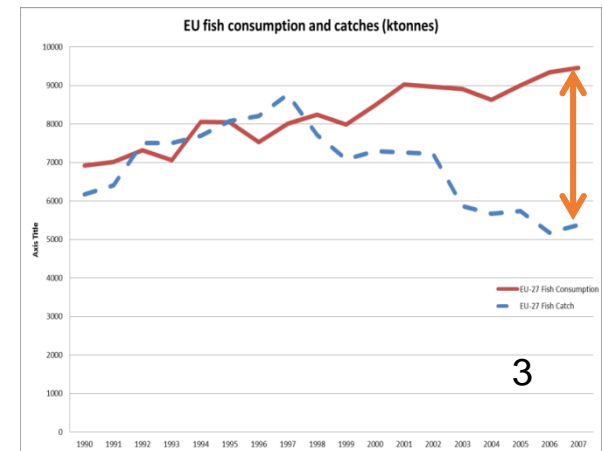
Aquaculture in the EU

- 1.3 million tonnes, 3.6 billion €
- 80.000 direct jobs
- Diverse species and production



EU policy framework

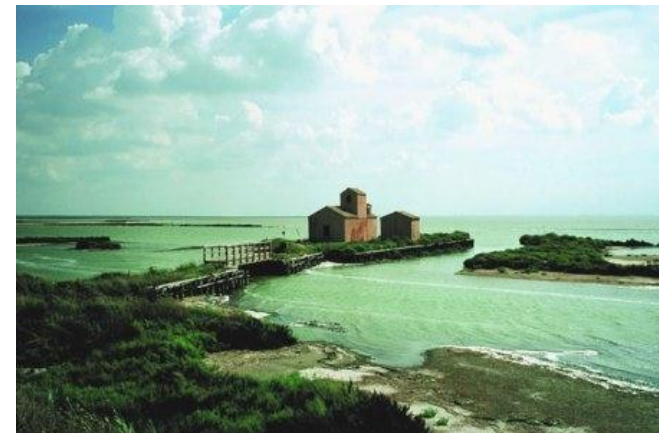
- CFP goal: replenished fish stocks, fished sustainably
- Fisheries alone will not meet growing demand
- Sustainable aquaculture can help fill this gap
- Today, 65% of EU seafood consumption comes from imports
- Blue growth in coastal and rural areas



EU sustainable aquaculture policy

- "Soft" approach: coordination of national efforts
- Strategic guidelines
- National multiannual plans
- Exchange of good practices
- Guidance on EU environmental law
- ...and more....

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Union Strategic Guidelines COM(2013)229

1. Reduce administrative burdens
2. Facilitate access to water and space
3. Improve competitiveness
4. Exploit competitive advantages

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/aquaculture/official_documents/com_2013_229_en.pdf

Multiannual national plans

- Based on Strategic Guidelines and specific conditions in the Member States
- Define Member States' objectives and the measures to achieve them
- Cover the period 2014-2020
- All received



Promotion of sustainable aquaculture in the European Maritime Fisheries Fund

- Innovative products, species, methods
- Productive investments
- Advisory services for farmers
- Human capital
- Increasing potential of aquaculture sites
- Encouraging new farmers
- Eco-management and organic aquaculture
- Environmental services
- Public health
- Animal health and welfare
- Stock insurance

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Organic aquaculture legislation

- **Council Regulation 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products**
- **Commission Regulation 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Reg. 834/2007**
- *Commission Regulation 710/2009 amending Regulation 889/2008*
- *Commission Implementing Regulation 1030/2013*
- *Commission Implementing Regulation 1364/2013*
- *Commission Implementing Regulation 1358/2014*

Organic review package

Adopted by the Commission in March 2014, contains:

- **Action Plan**
 - directly applicable
- **Authorisation to the Commission to open negotiations with third countries**
 - granted by Council on 16 June 2014
- **Proposal for a Regulation**
 - Under negotiation with European Parliament and Council
 - Process expected to take at least 2 years
 - New rules not applicable before 2017

Organic aquaculture – main aspects

- *Origin of animals: rules on juveniles, breeding, stocking from wild, etc.*
- *Husbandry rules: type of containment, stocking density, handling practices, etc.*
- *Feed: sources, ingredients, additives, composition, etc.*
- *Disease prevention, veterinary treatment, etc.*
- *Rules on seaweed*

Recirculation systems

'closed recirculation aquaculture facility'
means a facility where aquaculture takes place within an enclosed environment on land or on a vessel involving the recirculation of water, and depending on permanent external energy input to stabilize the environment for the aquaculture animals;

Closed recirculation systems



- Recirculation / efficient use of water
- Filtering of water before discharge
- Indoor
- Full (artificial) control of light, temperature, oxygen content, etc. dependent on external energy input

Other recirculation systems



- Recirculation / efficient use of water
- Filtering of water before discharge
- Outdoor
- Natural conditions, limited control of light, temperature, etc.

Recirculation in the organic regulation

- Closed recirculation facilities are prohibited, with the exception of hatcheries and nurseries or for the production of species used for organic feed organisms.

Organic aquaculture husbandry practices

- **Natural vegetation** on at least 5% of the perimeter
- Bottom type as close as possible to **natural conditions**
- Artificial light for prolonging **natural day-length** shall respect the animals' needs and not exceed 16 hours
- Artificial heating or cooling of water is only permitted in hatcheries and nurseries (except borehole water).
- The use of oxygen is only permitted:
 - In exceptional cases (temperature rise, drop in atmospheric pressure, accidental pollution)
 - For occasional stock management procedures
 - In order to assure the survival of the farm stock.



Recirculation in the EMFF: productive investments

The EMFF may support:

- investments resulting in a **substantial reduction in the impact** of aquaculture enterprises **on water usage and quality** (...)
- the promotion of closed aquaculture systems where aquaculture products are farmed in **closed recirculation systems**, thereby minimising water use

EMFF support for organic conversion

The EMFF may support:

- the **conversion** of conventional aquaculture production methods **into organic aquaculture**

Marketing measures in the EMFF

The EMFF may support:

- finding **new markets** and improving the conditions for the **placing on the market** of (...) fishery and aquaculture products obtained using methods with **low impact on the environment**, or **organic aquaculture** products
- promoting the quality and the value added by facilitating (...)the **certification** and the promotion of **sustainable fishery and aquaculture products** (...)

In Summary

- **Closed recirculation systems:**
 - Cannot be certified as organic (except as hatchery/nursery)
 - Can make use of other public/private sustainability labels
- **Other recirculation systems:**
 - Can be certified as organic (provided they comply with all other requirements)
 - Can make use of other public/private sustainability labels



Both have access to dedicated EMFF support for productive investments and marketing measures

Thank you for your attention!



 **EU_MARE**