



Multi-annual National Strategic Plans for the development of sustainable Aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030

Summary FINLAND

“Finnish Aquaculture Strategy 2030”

1. State of the aquaculture sector

The volume of the Finnish aquaculture production in 2021 was 14 400 tonnes with a value of EUR 73,3 million. Totally 237 aquaculture companies were active in 2021. The main aquaculture species produced in Finland is Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), but also small quantities of whitefish are produced. Sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) and other species such as sturgeon (*Acipenser sp.*) and pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*) are also produced in varying volumes. There is also an important production of fish for releasing to natural waters either as fry or as larger individuals. The main part of the production takes place in net cages in the Baltic Sea and a minor but increasing part in RAS-facilities on land and raceways in freshwater. The trends are to increase production offshore in net cages and on land in RAS facilities.

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

On 12 May 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication setting out strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021-2030. The strategic guidelines set out in the Communication aim to provide EU Member States and all relevant stakeholders with a common vision for the development of EU aquaculture in a way that contributes to this growth strategy. In particular, these guidelines aim at helping to create an EU aquaculture sector that:

- Is competitive and resilient;
- Ensures the supply of nutritious and healthy food;
- Reduces the EU’s dependency on seafood imports;

- Create economic opportunities and jobs;
- It will become a global reference framework for sustainable development;
- Increase knowledge and innovation.

Growth targets

Aquaculture production for 2030 has increased to 25 000 tonnes and the domestic content of farmed fish has risen to more than 50 %. The value of aquaculture production rises to 146 million €.

3. Objectives for Measures for 2021 to 2027 responding to the 13 key areas listed in the “*Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030*”¹

1. Access to space and water

Designate areas suitable for aquaculture according to the principles described in MNSPA and future guidance.

- Implemented through a position management plan and a sea basin plan.

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

Review the regulatory and administrative system on aquaculture as necessary in light of the principles laid down in MNSPA and future guidance consolidated by the Commission and taking into consideration the special needs of SMEs. Set up a single national entity that brings together national and regional public authorities dealing with aquaculture. Involve relevant stakeholders in this entity.

- The regulatory and governance framework will be reviewed as necessary and reviewed by the Aquaculture Development Group, which brings together public authorities and operators in the sector.

3. Animal health and public health

Provide training to competent authorities (including in the framework of the Better Training for Safer Food programme) on disease surveillance and notification for listed diseases under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and emerging diseases and other relevant animal health issues. Support and promote research and innovation on animal health,

¹ COM(2021)236 final

including on shellfish diseases, taking into consideration the priorities identified by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR-Fish). Support the development of knowledge and skills by aquaculture producers on good husbandry practices.

4. Control

Promote the use of digitalisation tools and artificial intelligence for the traceability and transparency of aquaculture products.

5. Diversification and adding value

R&D and investment aid to diversify aquaculture production.

6. Environmental performance

- Promote and disseminate the guidance on environmental performance developed by the Commission among authorities competent for aquaculture and the aquaculture industry (including through training), and support industry efforts to adopt such practices (including by using EU funds).
- Ensure that competent authorities integrate all environmental aspects in aquaculture planning and licensing, ensuring full implementation and compliance with applicable legislation. These aspects to be integrated include:
 - (i) developing sensitivity mapping of species and habitats to aquaculture pressures;
 - (ii) determining the environmental carrying capacity of sites according to objective criteria;
 - (iii) developing agreements and schemes for site rotation and area management to reduce emissions of nutrients and organic matter.
- Ensure appropriate monitoring and reporting on the environmental performance of the sector, fully implementing applicable legislation. Promote the monitoring and reporting by the aquaculture industry of environmental indicators.
- Support efforts to reduce further the environmental footprint of EU aquaculture.
- Support the diversification of EU aquaculture into aquaculture species with a higher environmental performance, including by ensuring an appropriate policy framework and the use of EU funds (including increasing the value of this type of aquaculture in the market and throughout the value chain).
- Work on limiting the contribution of aquaculture to marine litter by:
 - (i) implementing the requirements of the Single Use Plastics Directive,

- (ii) supporting the replacement of plastic-based aquaculture equipment with sustainable solutions and adapting aquaculture areas to minimise the loss of materials to the environment,
- (iii) ensuring separate collection of waste,
- (iv) promoting innovation in the packaging of aquaculture and processed aquaculture products.
- Support the application of research and innovation to improving the environmental performance of the sector.

7. Animal welfare

Support and promote research and innovation on animal welfare, taking into consideration the priorities identified by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR-Fish). Support the development of knowledge and skills by aquaculture producers on good practices for fish welfare.

8. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Support the development of sector-specific national, regional, transnational, or sea-basin climate adaptation plans consistent with national strategies and plans, as well as the corresponding European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) standard.
- Support training on climate adaptation and resilience for people working in the aquaculture sector.
- Support climate change mitigation in the aquaculture sector.
- Implement justified measures to enable the aquaculture sector to adapt to climate change and reduce its climate impact.

9. Communicating on EU aquaculture

- Support and ensure the broad dissemination at national level of the coordinated EU-wide campaign on EU aquaculture, with the full involvement of regional authorities, aquaculture producers, retailers, and to the extent possible, NGOs and media.
- Promote self-regulatory initiatives by the aquaculture sector (e.g. good practices, codes of conduct, and traceability) and the communication of these initiatives to the consumer.
- Promote brands and quality labels with appropriate control mechanisms.

In Åland region:

- Support measures to ensure a high food quality for aquaculture products throughout.
- Support measures to promote the local market and strong demand from consumers for nearby fish.

10. Integration in local communities

- Ensure the early involvement of local stakeholders according to the good practices provided by the Commission as part of the guidance documents for spatial planning and administrative procedures.
- Promote the integration of the aquaculture sector in local communities and the development of synergies with other sectors, taking into consideration the good practices collected by the Commission.

11. Data and monitoring

- Submit to the Commission data on freshwater aquaculture as well as environmental indicators for which collection and reporting is required under national legislation.
- Implement reviewed data-collection obligations on aquaculture under the Data Collection Framework (EU Multiannual Data Collection Programme applicable from 2022).
- Encourage industry and industry associations to make voluntary commitments to report to national authorities and make public environmental data, including on escapees and the use of veterinary medicines.

12. Knowledge and innovation

- Set up a framework of cooperation bringing together public authorities, industry, and research and educational institutions, and promote the development of clusters for aquaculture.
- Disseminate information on national research and innovation projects and their results.
- Support (including using EU funding) skills development in the aquaculture sector and the regular training of aquaculture professionals.
- Coordinate and support research and innovation in line with identified priorities, including those priorities reflected in the reports of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR-Fish).
- Support the upscaling and commercialisation of innovative practices in the aquaculture sector.

In Åland region:

- Support the sustainable and profitable growth of the industry, with a focus on enhancing competitiveness and innovation, by channelling funds from the operational programme of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund.
- Support the development of cooperation between the industry and the public sector in order to create space for innovation and development.
- Allow for the authorisation of research and development projects.
- Support research and development projects for the piloting of new technologies, innovation including new forms of cultivation and species such as algae farming, and monitoring/follow-up.

4. Funding

- Coordinate the planning, commitments and expenditure on aquaculture under different funds under the Multiannual Financial Framework, ensuring coherence, synergies and complementarity between them.
- Ensure that information about projects funded in the sector is provided publicly and regularly.
- Take into consideration the priorities set out under these guidelines in programming support under national and EU funds.
- Support investment in innovative and sustainable solutions for the aquaculture sector.
- To be implemented, where appropriate, as part of the coordination and monitoring committees of Finland's EU funding and through the implementation of measures under the Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and Strategy.