



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

Summary FRANCE

“Plan Aquacultures of the Future 2021-2027”

1. State of the aquaculture sector

French shellfish farming is 2nd in Europe, with an average production of 140 000 tonnes of seafood per year, with a turnover of 508 million euros. French fish farming is the third largest producer of freshwater trout in Europe, with almost 39,500 tonnes produced in 2019. France also stands out as one of the world's leading producers of caviar (with 43 tonnes per year). In recent years, the seaweed cultivation sector, in particular spirulina, is booming.

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

The actions foreseen by the Aquacultures d'Avenir Plan must contribute, directly or indirectly, to an increase in aquaculture production and an improvement in the quality of the products. The sector must continue to position itself in foreign markets while supplying the domestic market with healthy products with a low carbon footprint and high added value.

Growth targets

It is proposed to set production targets for 2030 of 160 million fingerlings in the marine hatcheries, 10.000 tm/year of marine fish, 20000 tm of salmon, 12000 tm of trout, 120.000 Tm of oysters, 70.000 Tm of mussels, 10.000 Tm for other shellfish and 1000 tonnes of algae by 2027. For caviar, it is proposed to consolidate current market shares, with the future PGI "Aquitaine caviar" as a quality base "caviar d'Aquitaine" and maintain a minimum annual growth rate of 5 to 10%.

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

Objective 1: Conservation of existing sites.

- Local initiatives with Land Development and Rural Establishment Companies (SAFER): implementation of strategies and actions to preserve aquaculture land: monitoring of land, the constitution of land reserves, land reservation, pre-emption, retrocession of acquired assets, etc.
- Raise awareness of the communes and the profession on the preservation of shellfish farming sites and the maintenance of the maritime public domain conceded to marine cultures (e.g., cleaning days of concessions).

Objective 2: Enriching the Geolittoral aquaculture portal.

- Ensure that aquaculture is considered in the revision of planning documents: identify aquaculture areas and areas suitable for aquaculture on land and sea (vocation map), based on the European Commission's guidance document for spatial planning for aquaculture.
- Build/adapt reference tools for modelling the impacts of marine and freshwater farming on the environment and provide for the recognition of the results of these models by the administration.
- Provide for the possibility of shellfish and seaweed farming farms within offshore wind farms, in conjunction with the strategic façade documents (DFS).
- Integrate the objective of aquaculture development within the Water Development and Management Plans (SAGE/SDAGE).

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

The objective is to simplify administrative procedures and the sustainable development of aquaculture production supported by an appropriate legal and administrative environment.

Objective 1: Facilitating the filing and instruction and delivery of environmental authorisations for fish farming (ICPE/IOTA).

¹ COM(2021)236 final

- Accompanying project leaders and improving knowledge of procedures, by developing a guide to procedures and administrative obligations in fish farming.
- Maintain/enhance training (or create specific exchanges of specific practices) for the deconcentrated services to facilitate appraisal.
- Continue to lead the progress plan for fish farms through reinforced regional steering.

Objective 2: Facilitating the filing and instruction and issuance of mariculture licensing (AECM).

- Simplify AECM applications: regulatory update and dematerialisation (for the public enquiry procedure in particular), collective reflection to adapt the adapting, if necessary, procedures for change.
- Facilitate information sharing in the context of operating permit applications (interdepartmental knowledge sharing, improvement of mapping tools) concession.

Objective 3: Make regulatory changes for the sustainable development of aquaculture.

- Create an ICPE registration system.
- Increase the threshold for ICPE authorisation in marine fish farming and issue orders for prescriptions.
- Carry out a joint study of comparison with other European Union countries to analyse the obstacles to the legal consolidation of French fish farms and propose recommendations.
- Create a working group to promote IMTA's development.
- Continue the study to model the assimilative capacity of the environment to provide a tool for use in environmental impact assessments for marine aquaculture.

3. Animal and public health, animal welfare

Objective 1: Healthy fish and reasoned use of feed and medicines

- Implementation of the National Eradication and Surveillance Plan (NESP) in the sector.
- To enable the health protection groups (GDS) to continue their missions in their territories.

- Application of the Ecoantibio 2 (National Plan to reduce the risks of antimicrobial resistance in veterinary medicine, 2017-2022) plan to the fish farming sector.
- Organise surveillance of the concerned disease.

Objective 2: aquaculture production and fish health.

- Develop research on the health challenges posed by new farming systems (in particular integrated multi-trophic aquaculture and aquaponics), in conjunction with other EU Member States where appropriate.

Objective 3: Improving knowledge of animal welfare (breeding and slaughter).

- Developing research to define reliable indicators and developing a tool to monitor fish welfare and slaughter conditions, in conjunction with other EU members where appropriate.
- Developing exchanges of good practice and networking in conjunction with other EU Member States where appropriate.

4. Producer and market organisations

Objective: Supporting initiatives to create producer organisations (POs).

- Support initiatives to create POs to be recognised at the EU level and the implementation of a production and marketing plan (PPC) where appropriate, in accordance with the EMFAF operational programme.

5. Diversification and adding value

Objective: Promote the diversification of production methods and activities.

- Encourage the development of new activities such as aqua tourism.
- Encourage the diversification of species and production methods and make them legally secure.

6. Environmental performance

- Improving environmentally friendly aquaculture systems.
- Reducing plastic waste in shellfish farming.
- Valorize the co-products and by-products from aquaculture.

7. Communicating on EU aquaculture

Objective 1: Raise the awareness of the public on the modes of production methods and acceptance of aquaculture farms.

- Collective communication strategies on the sectors and production methods.

Objective 2: Ensuring the visibility and reputation of aquaculture products to the consumers.

- Innovate in marketing (packaging, traceability, etc.).
- Continue to communicate, at the national and regional level, about the regional level, on "local" character of aquaculture products, their nutritional benefits and how to cook them. The challenge of facing up to the competition from imported products from outside the EU in particular.

8. Data and monitoring

- Enhancing the value of socio-economic data to be disseminated for all stakeholders.
- Gathering all existing data on algal algaculture, both in biological and scientific terms as well as economic.
- To have and value the technical-scientific data and reliable data: on the environment and on the life cycle of species.

9. Knowledge and innovation

- Drawing up an assessment of the use of the various European and national funding schemes in relation to aquaculture and disseminating it to all innovation and R&D, in particular on the future European platform.
- In the framework of EMFAF, implementation of a research and innovation measure adapted to the needs of the sector at all levels and throughout the territory.
- Integrate aquaculture into the research and innovation support programmes of the various funding structures of calls for projects.
- Identification of training needs, including for producers already established, and development of appropriate specific modules, in particular through technical modules and work placements.
- Renovation of the professional baccalaureate specialising in "aquaculture production" (implementation at the start of 2022).
- Promoting the validation of acquired experience.

4. Funding

Support for aquaculture through EMFAF is 105,9 million € and with national counterparts, it reaches 151,3 million € for the development of aquaculture in France (which shall be consistent with the Multiannual National Strategic Plans for the Development of Aquaculture).