



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

Summary NETHERLANDS

“National Strategic Plan Aquaculture Netherlands 2021-2030”

1. State of the aquaculture sector

The aquaculture sector in the Netherlands consists broadly of two sub-sectors, namely the shellfish sector (mussels and oysters farming) and land-based fish farms. There are also some initiatives for the cultivation of algae. In the shellfish sector (including shellfishing), a small hundred businesses operate. In the case of fish farming, the main species are eels and catfish. Fish farming in the Netherlands takes place in only a few dozen of farms. The production volume amounted to EUR 31 million. All fish farms use environmentally friendly closed recirculation systems (RAS).

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

Both technical and market innovations are indispensable for a well-functioning and sustainable aquaculture sector. The objective is that the use of the EMFAF funds between 2021-2027 will lead to a 3 % increase in the value of production in 2027. The funds will be allocated to both innovation and investment projects.

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 COM(2021)236 final

1. Access to space and water

- The search for new marine production areas will continue. Opportunities within wind farms are being explored. It is very important to determine the technical and economic feasibility of these innovative business models.
- RAS technology innovations will be supported. Innovations that reduce wastewater or increase the circularity of the production process can facilitate the process of finding suitable land-based production sites.

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

Shortening and simplifying application procedures will speed up the establishment of a fish farm, especially for SMEs where administrative burdens are relatively high.

3. Animal and public health and welfare

The growing global consumer awareness of animal welfare is an opportunity for the Dutch aquaculture sector. If Dutch companies and knowledge institutes succeed in developing specific expertise on improved animal welfare, there are opportunities to market this knowledge within the EU and possibly beyond.

4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

The shellfish sector could develop a climate change adaptation plan in order to be prepared for the possible consequences. The CERES project can support this.

5. Producer and market organisations

- The shellfish sector is well organised. There is already a mussels producer organisation and for the oyster sector, there is the Dutch Oestervereniging.
- The fish farming sector is a small sector that also cultivates multiple species. This sector has opted for one organisation for all fish species and is organised by the Dutch association for fish farmers (NeVeVi).

6. Control

In closed farming systems such as those used mainly by the Dutch fish farming sector, the production process is transparent, and the inputs and outputs are quantifiable and measurable. As a result, almost every fish in the Dutch fish farming sector is traceable.

7. Environmental performance

RAS is a sustainable fish farming method. Due to its closed nature, there is no exchange with the environment. Innovations to make the breeding system more sustainable will remain possible under the new fund. The Dutch fish farming sector is not eligible for organic certification because RAS systems are not yet included in the EU Organic Regulation.

8. Communicating on EU aquaculture

Improved communication and information, certification and shortening of food chains could be facilitated through cooperation between producer organisations, processors, and retail and consumer organisations.

9. Integration in local communities

Restaurants and catering companies use the local product origin to position the product.

10. Knowledge and innovation

The Netherlands will promote the dissemination of existing knowledge in order to strengthen its own and also European aquaculture. Knowledge dissemination takes place mainly through knowledge institutes and the facilitation of investments and business activities of Dutch businesses in foreign markets.

4. Funding

EMFAF (European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund).