



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

Summary PORTUGAL

“Strategic Plan for Portuguese Aquaculture 2021-2030”

1. State of the aquaculture sector

Portuguese aquaculture consists in:

- Marine aquaculture: shellfish and fish farms in brackish and marine waters (semi-intensive and extensive farms). On the coast, there are some fish farm establishments that operate on an intensive basis.
- The inland aquaculture, exclusively intensive, includes units of a public nature commonly known as State Aquaculture Posts (PAE), and private ones.

The main species of inland aquaculture are Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), in marine aquaculture are turbot (*Psetta maxima*), sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), sea bream (*Sparus aurata*), grooved carpet shell (*Ruditapes decussatus*), oysters (*Crassostrea spp* and *Ostrea edulis*), Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), microalgae and macroalgae. In 2020 the aquaculture production was 16 999 tonnes, representing a value of 99.9 million €. In 2018, the aquaculture activity presented some 1 650 direct jobs, in a context of 846 enterprises.

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

Increase and diversify the supply of domestic aquaculture products, based on the principles of environmental sustainability, social cohesion, animal welfare, quality and food safety.

Growths targets

- Quantified objective for the time horizon 2021-2030, in accordance with the provisions of Agenda 3 of the Strategy Portugal 2030, to achieve, during this programming period, a production of 25 000 tonnes.

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

- Updating of areas with a potential for aquaculture activity versus lower environmental impacts and compatibility with other uses.
- Carrying out studies to identify and characterise areas for the development of aquaculture activities by determining the abiotic and biotic parameters, the quality of the water and the carrying capacity of the area.
- Promoting planning in the open sea and estuary and riparian areas in the public domain.
- Provision of information to entities responsible for space licensing and management, investors, and stakeholders in order to reduce environmental or other conflicts and increase the actual use of space.

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

- Development of a guide manual in the aquaculture licensing process, which will promote well-educated processes that make it possible to shorten the permitted time.
- Real-time availability of active and potential areas for the development of aquaculture activity identified on the [e-Aquaculture Portal](#), which will add value to the permitting process.
- The Sea's electronic platform - BMar - has been developed for submission and analysis of requests from professionals in the sector, however, it is crucial that the development of this electronic platform where all the procedures inherent to the licensing process of aquaculture activity continuing improvement of electronic platforms.

3. Animal and public health and animal welfare

- Promote a holistic approach to the management of aquatic animal health systems, with emphasis on preventive and prophylactic measures.

¹ COM(2021)236 final

- Train and establish teams of aquaculture veterinarians.
- Improve national early warning and notification systems for diseases and changes in water quality, as well as the implementation of databases and mechanisms for collecting and analysing information on aquatic animal diseases.
- Investing in technological research to develop, standardise and validate accurate and sensitive diagnostic methods, safe therapies and effective methodologies for disease control, encouraging the study of emerging diseases and pathogens emerging diseases and pathogens.
- Promote knowledge in the field of ecotoxicology in aquaculture environments.
- Disseminate welfare needs and indicators by species and type of aquaculture, and increase and disseminate animal welfare practices in fish farming.
- Promote effective measures to prevent or reduce damage caused by predators.

4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Encourage the aquaculture production of algae (macroalgae, microalgae) as they play an important role in capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Also, they exert a "buffer effect" and play a role in combating ocean acidification.
- Promoting sustainable aquaculture in managed areas coexisting with areas that need to be protected.
- Optimisation of aquaculture production units through the implementation of water recirculation systems (RAS), integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) and aquaponics.
- Promotion of water quality improvement through the treatment of effluent using biofilters, algae and bivalves placed in the channels or decantation tanks.
- Adopt measures that will contribute to reducing the use of alien species in aquaculture.

5. Producer and market organisations

Encourage the creation or development of producer organisations with a view to enabling producers to act collectively, particularly in terms of defining strategies for marketing strategies for aquaculture products, and the creation of marks or designations of origin. Their financial support is ensured through the use of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF).

6. Control

- Define an integrated control programme and training actions for aquaculture activity in which all the controls or monitoring carried out at the first level would cover the production activity itself.
- Compliance with the basic production requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin. And implement the provisions of the Annex to the Commission Delegated Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- Implement a registration document for live bivalve molluscs, live echinoderms, live tunicates and live marine gastropods (available online), the use of which is mandatory for all those involved in the aquaculture sector.
- Comply with the basic principles of traceability as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a community control system, which ensures traceability of bivalve mollusc products at all stages of production.

7. Diversification and added value

- Adding value to aquaculture products through a certification process or better consumer information and encouraging standardised information labelling of aquaculture feed.
- Support strategies for the marketing and internationalisation of aquaculture, including promotion actions, participation in fairs, trade shows, exhibitions, etc., in complement and articulation with the collective initiatives of producer organisations (POs) and/or associations.
- Invest in the creation of certified collective or sustainable brands resulting from initiatives of aquaculture producers cooperating to promote joint marketing, an essential element for the successful valorisation of these products on European and international markets, which are exposed to strong competition.

8. Environmental performance

- Promote the use of renewable resources/energy (solar, wind).
- Apply good practices in relation to the use of recyclable (non-plastic) materials, proper management and collection of waste and by-products resulting from the activity.
- Promote the mitigation of some environmentally damaging factors and manage the activity in an appropriate way so that it plays a relevant role as a provider of ecosystem services.
- Stimulating the circular economy.

- Promote cooperation between the practice of aquaculture and the preservation of the marine environment, thus implementing the Biodiversity Strategy.
- Encourage the use of sustainable food sources, with a low ecological footprint.
- Promote the improvement of aquatic genetic resources and their selective use for aquaculture stocks.

9. Communicating on EU aquaculture

- Outreach campaigns and appropriate labelling of aquaculture feed.
- Dissemination of relevant and scientifically sound information to enable producers and the processing industry to make informed decisions ensuring consumer confidence in the food safety of aquaculture products.

10. Integration in local communities

- Encourage the creation of local value chains and short supply chains.
- Encourage the creation of brands or designations of origin.
- Promote local products.
- Prepare guides to good practice.

11. Data and monitoring

Implement and develop a data warehouse solution for multi-channel, so that there is a single tool for data processing enabling the construction of monitoring and control dashboards that allow the analysis of data in several dimensions.

12. Knowledge and innovation

- Promote cooperation with entities of the scientific and technological system.
- Promote knowledge exchange actions for the productive sector.
- Encourage the formation of multi-disciplinary consortia composed of
- higher education institutions, government laboratories and stakeholders.
- Promote research in the areas of knowledge most relevant to animal nutrition, genetics, production technologies and the development of farming systems, including breeding and handling of specimens.
- Stimulate partnerships between the Administration, Research Institutes, Universities and private entities especially professional associations in the sector and other Non-Governmental Organisations that focus on innovation in aquaculture.

4. Funding

At the *EU level*: European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), Horizon Europe, Life Programme, Digital Europe Programme. Thus, the support provided by EMFAF, in the light of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, commonly known as the Common Provisions Regulation, as it establishes a common legal framework for eight funds under shared management between the European Commission and the member states, can be essentially complemented by the following funds: - the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the recently created Fund for a Just Transition (FTJ), which constitute the cohesion funds.

At the *national level*: Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP), Environment Fund, Innovation Fund, Technology and Circular Economy Fund.