

Good Husbandry Practices for Aquaculture

Workshop - Concept paper

The “**Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030**”¹ – adopted by the Commission in May 2021 – identify animal health and animal welfare, amongst others, as key areas for further work. The guidelines announce inter alia that “the Commission will map good husbandry practices”. It is in the context of the implementation of this action that the present “*Background paper on Good husbandry practices for aquaculture*” is produced by the European Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM) that was set up in June 2022 to assist the European Commission in the implementation of the Strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture. The **aim of the background document** is to map and select the best and most practical good husbandry practices related to welfare and health in the different production techniques of the main European aquaculture species, notably common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), European sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*), and shellfish (in particular, molluscs). In addition, two species of cleaner fish have been considered. Please note that the background document does not reflect the European Commission’s position and should not be distributed at this stage.

The **purpose of the workshop** is to support the finalisation of the “*Background paper on Good husbandry practices for aquaculture*” that the European AAM is preparing in the context of the implementation of the Strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture.

In light of this the aim is to collect at the workshop the views from all workshop participants on the document, fill in the gaps and draw conclusions that will be presented at the plenary session.

Please note that we expect a thorough preparation prior to the workshop (read the document and prepare answers to the questions raised below) and your active participation and contribution during the workshop.

Questions

- The document is intended primarily for national, regional and local aquaculture producers. Do you consider the document **sufficiently clear, practical and user-friendly**? If not, how could it be improved?
- Which of the 13 selected **topics** could be further explored in the document in chapter 3 and in the factsheets?
- **Good husbandry practices per factsheet:**
 - Are the good husbandry practices included in the 7 factsheets useful? If not, which ones should be deleted?
 - Do you know additional good husbandry practices that could be included in the document?
 - On environmental enrichment, functional feed and selective breeding more examples are needed because the main sources of information were codes and scientific studies. However, it is necessary to know what practices are actually being carried out in the Member States, beyond the information covered by the studies conducted so far.
 - On predator control, workshop participants are asked for their input regarding examples of good practices involving coordinated activities of interdisciplinary teams, which comply with conservation policies and actions (similar to the one presented in the common carp factsheet (section 4.1), developed in the INTERCAFE² project).

¹ COM (2021) 236 final, adopted by the Commission on 12th May 2021 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0236>.

² <http://www.intercafeproject.net/pdf/5.%20INTERCAFE%20Israel%20Case%20Study%20report.pdf>

- Are you aware of local shellfish farming practices based on carrying capacity that may differ from generally accepted good practices? The importance of these practices lies in the fact that they are filter-feeding species, which feed on the water available in the environment in which they live. Therefore, the quality and quantity of food available will depend on the carrying capacity of the ecosystem, which will be affected by fallowing or harvesting practices.

*Please send your input to Pablo Manuel Xandri Royo (Pablo.Manuel.Xandri.Royo@nttdata.com) before the workshop **by 11th October 2023** or present it during the workshop.*

After discussing these questions at the workshop, **concrete conclusions** will be drawn that will be **presented in the plenary session at 17:15.**
