

Access to Space and Water for Inland Aquaculture

Workshop - Concept paper

Access to 'space and water', identified in the European Union's 'Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030' as a key factor contributing to the resilience and competitiveness of aquaculture, plays a crucial role in the sustainable growth of inland aquaculture in Europe.

The **objective of this workshop** is to further refine the Background Paper on 'Access to Space and Water for Inland Aquaculture', which is being prepared with the support of the European Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism in the context of the implementation of the Strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture. This document is aimed to provide Member States' authorities and policy makers with potential solutions to the challenges they face in inland aquaculture planning. Specifically, the following topics are addressed in the document:

#	Key challenge	Related topics
1	Access to space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated spatial planning• Mapping systems• Site selection• Synergies and conflicts of interest with other activities• Consistency with environmental planning and aquaculture in Protected Areas
2	Access to water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water quality and availability & climate change
3	Other issues relevant to space and water conservation	

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the finalisation of the above-mentioned Background Paper¹ by providing their views on the document as well as additional opportunities and examples of good practices. Specifically, the **discussion will be focused on the three following key areas**:

Identification of additional opportunities to ease access to space and water for inland aquaculture

Participants are asked to identify and provide examples of projects, studies, or measures to ease access to space and water for inland aquaculture that have not already been mentioned in the document.

In addition, participants are asked to share any example of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) that consider providing space and water to inland aquaculture as a tool in the implementation of the WFD in your country instead of just a pressure. They are invited to share examples of RBMPs that consider inland aquaculture as a relevant activity with impacts on the local community and that take into account social, economic, and/or environmental factors.

Collection of additional good practice examples

Further examples of good practices are requested from participants especially on:

- Spatial planning and integrated models. In particular, GIS projects or online tools that show available sites for inland aquaculture.
- Nature restoration activities that directly involve inland aquaculture as an approach to achieving good environmental status.
- Programmes for the development of the multifunctional approach that directly involves inland aquaculture.

¹ Please note that active participation and contribution are expected during the workshop. Therefore, in preparation for the workshop, participants are kindly requested to read the background paper in advance.

- Synergies between inland aquaculture and agriculture.
- Special assessments to ease access to space and water to aquaculture in protected areas (including, but not limited to, Natura 2000 sites).
- Sustainable aquaculture which is practised in lakes, water reservoirs or dams.
- Codes, standards, certification, and recognition (other than for Organic Aquaculture) that can be adopted by inland farmers to highlight the sustainability of their activity.
- Projects on the main issues on access to space and water, site selection or to provide access to water in response to temperature rise and extreme events occurrence.

Structure of the document

Annex II of the Background Paper compiles Good Practices examples on access to space and water for the inland aquaculture industry. Participants are invited to express whether the information provided in this Annex is relevant and should therefore remain in the final version of the document.

Please send your input to Tiziana Pacchiarini (tiziana.pacchiarini@nttdata.com) before the workshop **by 11th October 2023** or present it during the workshop.

After the finalisation of the discussion, **the main outcomes and conclusions will be presented in a final plenary session.**