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

Summary POLAND

"Strategic Plan for the development of Fish Farming in Poland for 2021-2027"

1. State of the aquaculture sector

The aquaculture sector in Poland consists in:

- Extensive/low-intensive aquaculture encompassing traditional methods of fish farming, with a predominance of carp farming in earth ponds.
- Intensive aquaculture, using increasingly recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), comprising primarily the rearing and farming of salmonids (with a predominance of rainbow trout), sturgeons and African sum and the production of stocking material.

Total domestic aquaculture production in 2021 amounted to 39,6 thousand tonnes (the quantity sold).

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

Main objective:

- Increasing the current production volume of fish from inland aquaculture through the modernisation and development of aquaculture facilities. Selected specific objectives:
  - Increase in production of Polish aquaculture fish and products destined for the domestic fresh fish market.
  - Increase of supplies from Polish aquaculture for domestic processing.
  - Promotion of widespread consumption of aquaculture fish and products.
  - Diversification of activities of aquaculture micro and small enterprises.
  - Directing Polish science and education towards research programmes on modern aquaculture technologies and innovations and training professionals whose knowledge and skills will meet new market criteria.

- Development of aquaculture for the production of restocking and stocking material.
- Stepping up research and innovation programmes for the introduction of new fish species into aquaculture.

- Preserving the water retention and environmental potential of extensive/low-intensive aquaculture.

Growth targets (for 2027)

- The production volume of fish, from inland aquaculture through modernisation and development of intensive aquaculture facilities, is 50000 Tm.
- The production of Polish aquaculture fish and products destined for the domestic fresh fish market is 40000 Tm.
- The Polish aquaculture supply for domestic processing is 30000 Tm.
- Promotion of widespread consumption of fish and aquaculture products is 1.1 Kg/per capita.
- Organic aquaculture to double by 2030.

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] – identified examples of needs and changes

There are no measures in Poland's Strategic Plan for the key areas listed in the EU Strategic Guidelines. However, an in-depth analysis of the country's needs and challenges for inland fisheries and aquaculture related to these strategic lines has been carried out for the period 2021-2027.

1. Access to space and water

- Indicated as part of identifying needs: Improving spatial planning and water policy, with particular regard to spatial plans for aquaculture areas and their surroundings.
- Indicated as part of identifying needs: Continuation of studies on mapping and inventory of areas designated for the development of aquaculture.

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

[1] COM(2021)236 final

- Within the challenges for inland fisheries and aquaculture: Streamline the rules in order to minimise the administrative burden, inter alia by setting up a national aquaculture unit working with all stakeholders (e.g., an aquaculture agency acting as a national contact point for all stakeholders, whose role would be to coordinate a one-stop shop for operators interested in aquaculture activities on the granting.
- Identified as a need: Amending the law to create conditions conducive to the development of aquaculture (lower fees for water abstraction, removing problems with the definition of water discharged from production reservoirs, improving the carrying out of environmental impact assessments and issuing water permits, facilitating investment processes related to the construction of new facilities or their renovation).

3. Animal and public health

- Identified as a need: Research programmes to develop and implement national programmes for the prevention of fish diseases based on natural means to stimulate fish biological resistance.
- Identified as a need: Continue research and collection of information on fish diseases and treatments and prevention of fish diseases.

4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Challenges for inland fisheries and aquaculture: Preparing the sector for climate change by drawing up industry plans that consider the specificities of the different types of domestic aquaculture production and by drawing up and implementing good practices in response to climate change and practices relating to the welfare of farmed fish.
- Identified as a need: Tackling the effects of climate change and reducing CO2 emissions in fish farming, including investments in energy efficiency and diversification of energy sources, including through the use of RES.
- Identified as a need: Moving towards a climate-neutral economy through the introduction of a circular aquaculture model (RAS).

5. Producer and market organisations

Identified as a need: Support for fishermen's organisations to participate in national, and international conferences and advisory panels on issues related to sustainable aquaculture.

6. Control

- Challenge for inland fisheries and aquaculture: Support for the control of inland fisheries and the collection of various data for the successful implementation of the NSPA.
- Identified as a need: Purchase of technical means necessary for the proper performance of control duties.

7. Diversification and added value

Identified as a need: Investments in the implementation of innovative fish farming methods, the improvement of the quality of aquaculture products and the development of rearing and forward-looking fish species.

8. Environmental performance

- Identified as a need: Capacity building by leveraging research and innovation to move towards an environmentally neutral economy, increasing the use of recycled materials and low-impact devices.
- Identified as a need: Building legislation supporting investment processes in aquaculture and technology transfer from other sectors of the economy in order to build resource-efficient aquaculture.
- Identified as a need: A system of subsidies or compensation for traditional and environmentally friendly farming methods, including measures and treatments that contribute to maintaining biodiversity and maintaining existing water relations.
- Identified as a need: Investments to rationalise water management and improve its quality.
- Identified as a need: Investments in the management of waste from aquaculture facilities.
- Identified as a need: Investments to implement innovative methods of fish farming and to develop the farming of fish species whose natural populations are under threat or need to be restored (conservative aquaculture).
- Identified as a need: Carrying out implementation studies on the impact of fish farming on the ecosystem.

9. Animal welfare

Ensuring support for fish farmers in adapting fish distribution and sales methods to market requirements, e.g., due to the limitation of retail sales of live fish.

10. Communicating on EU aquaculture

- Identified as a need: Promoting the consumption of freshwater fish from indigenous farms as healthy food and the consumption of artisanal products.
- Identified as a need: Building a positive image of aquaculture products in society.

11. Data and monitoring

- Identified as a need: The creation of digital databases and their ongoing updating on the basis of ongoing scientific studies and inspections of fish-farming facilities and farms.
- Identified as a need: Purchase of technical means for monitoring and collecting data on fish farming.
- Identified as a need: Improving cooperation between breeders, research bodies and administrations in the field of data acquisition.
- Identified as a need: Increasing the share of digitalisation in the data acquisition process.
- Identified as a need: The introduction of tools to improve the enforcement of reporting obligations in the area of official statistics.

12. Knowledge and innovation

- Challenge for inland fisheries and aquaculture: Research and innovation that can contribute to the further development of aquaculture production and the promotion of aquaculture products as sustainable food products.
- Identified as a need: Training on the application of CFP rules, NATURA2000 protected areas, Birds and Habitats Directives, implementation of new management methods and organisation of production, and introduction of innovative fish farming tools and techniques.
- Identified as a need: Strengthening cooperation between scientific and research centres and fish farmers in order to channel scientific research to the needs of the aquaculture sector.