



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

## Summary SPAIN

### “Spain's Contribution to the Strategic Guidelines for a more Sustainable and Competitive EU Aquaculture 2021 - 2030”

#### 1. State of the aquaculture sector

Spain's wide variety of sites, both marine and inland, has enabled the development of multiple commercial farming systems. Marine aquaculture consists of floating or fixed rafts, cultivation lines or long lines, and marine nurseries/cages. In the maritime-terrestrial zone: cultivation parks, raised tables, estuaries or transformed salt marshes. And inland aquaculture consists of ponds, land-based farms with tanks, land-based farms with ponds and recirculation systems (RAS). The main species of marine fish are Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) accounts for 43.4% of the production and 34.9% of the value, and bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) accounts for 18.0% of the production and 34.9% of the value. Other important marine fish species are turbot (*Psetta maxima*), sea bream (*Sparus aurata*), croaker (*Argyrosomus regius*), sole (*Solea senegalensis*) and yellowtail (*Seriola dumerili*). The most farmed continental species in Spain is rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), with a production of 15,800 tonnes. The main species of molluscs (80% of the production of marine species) are mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) accounting for 98.9% of the production of shellfish. Crustacean production is more limited. Atlantic ditch shrimp (*Palaemonetes varians*) accounts for 89.4% of production and tiger prawns (*Penaeus japonicus*) account for 8.1% of production. In seaweed, the production of the macroalgae *Ulva lactuca* stands out. It represents 60% of production but accounts for only 0.4% of the total value of seaweed. Several species of microalgae of the genus *Tetraselmis* account for 81.7% of the value, with 9.7% of the production. In addition, there is an incipient production of *Spirulina* (*Arthrospira platensis*). In 2020, aquaculture production in Spain exceeded 272,000 tonnes and a total value of more than EUR 623 million. In 2020, there were 5,572 licensed establishments in Spain. Spanish aquaculture generates about 12,500 direct jobs.).

#### 2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

*General objective:*

- Promoting coordinated and coherent action to promote aquaculture in Spain, providing it with the necessary tools to grow and consolidate as a system for the production of safe, healthy, and sustainable food and products.

*Strategic objective:*

- Encouraging the launch of new initiatives and consolidating existing activity.
- Ensuring the competitiveness and viability of the productive fabric.
- Strengthening the environmental sustainability of the activity.
- Resolving scientific-technological challenges and ensuring the management and transfer of knowledge.
- Improving society's perception of aquaculture activity and its products.

**Growth targets**

The growth target for Spanish aquaculture is 47,772 mt in the period 2021-2027, i.e. it would grow to 345,111 mt. The growth in marine fish would be up to 99,002 mt (an increase of 46,874 mt) and in inland fish up to 17,753 mt in the same period (878 mt increase). A target is set for an increase in seaweed production from 1,477 mt to 10,966 mt. Finally, the increase in crustaceans (such as shrimps) would be up to 343 mt. Expectations indicate a stabilisation of molluscs production (around 228,000).

### **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”<sup>1</sup>**

#### **1. Access to space and water**

- Definition of the environmental space and identification of zones.
- Zoning.
- Joint management of the zones.

#### **2. Regulatory and administrative procedures**

- Analysis, evaluation and integration of policies and strategies.
- Promotion of cooperation tools.
- Review and improvement of the regulatory and administrative system.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2021)236 final

### 3. Public health, animal health and welfare

- Prevention of disease emergence and biosecurity.
- Surveillance and control to mitigate the impact of diseases in aquaculture.
- Promotion of health advocacy associations.
- Design of animal welfare guidelines.

### 4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Improving the resilience of the activity.
- Impact mitigation.

### 5. Producer and market organisations

- Boosting producer organisations.
- Analysis and improvement of external trade and a level playing field.
- Support for investment and tools for business competitiveness.

### 6. Control

- Criteria and implementation of traceability systems.
- Maintenance and improvement of control mechanisms.

### 7. Environmental performance

- Interaction analysis and integrated environmental monitoring.
- Support for good practices in aquaculture farms.
- Boosting the environmental services of aquaculture.

### 8. Communicating on EU aquaculture

- Improving information at the point of sale.
- Communication and promotion of the product.
- Valorisation of aquaculture as a sustainable activity.

### 9. Integration in local communities

- Integrating aquaculture into local development and agri-food strategies.
- Work for social acceptance.
- Entrepreneurship and business diversification.

### 10. Data and monitoring

- Diagnosis and knowledge management tools for decision making.
- Training of technicians.
- Advice and knowledge transfer.
- Deepening of knowledge in different areas.
- Optimisation of tools and adaptation of users.

#### 11. Knowledge and innovation

- Consensual planning and collaboration between actors.
- Production challenges.
- Challenges for sustainability and competitiveness.

## 4. Funding

At the *EU level*, two main instruments can be distinguished as possible sources of funding:

1. Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan (RRTP): exceptional funds for the period 2021-2023 for recovery measures against the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, in line with European green transition policies contained in the European Green Pact.
2. European Maritime Fund for Fisheries and Aquaculture (EMFF) 2021-2027: regular funds for the next EU planning cycle.

In addition, the EMFF will contribute to complementing the objectives of other instruments such as the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

At the *national level*, the main focus will be on the budgets of the different administrative units that plan and manage the strategy's areas of work.