



# EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism

Aquaculture Advisory Council WG3  
Meeting

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# Introduction to Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism



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# EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism

## Goals and Aims



To support the Commission, Member States, the aquaculture industry and other stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic guidelines by providing logistic, administrative and technical support and by enhancing cooperation between Member States and stakeholders for the development of sustainable aquaculture in the EU



Addressed to **all Member States**, particularly to **authorities and policy makers** working in the **aquaculture sector** at the **national, regional and local levels**



Collect and share knowledge about aquaculture policy and guidance  
Provide technical expertise on sustainable aquaculture



**Organize events** (technical meetings and trainings, workshop, and conferences)



**Develop an aquaculture assistance mechanism website:** <https://aquaculture.ec.europa.eu>

# Creating the EU Aquaculture website



The goal of the website <https://aquaculture.ec.europa.eu> is to provide a one-stop-shop to support the sustainable development of EU aquaculture and the Assistance Mechanism activities.

Allow the dissemination of the contents related to the **Knowledge Base**, as well as to host **Communication Products** and facilitate the interaction with the Public & Member States (User Directory), etc.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the European Commission logo and a search box. Below it is a dark blue header with the text "EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism" and a menu with "Home", "About", "Aquaculture Types", "Knowledge Base", and "Funding". The main content area features a large image of fish and the title "The EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism". Below the title is a paragraph: "The EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism supports the EU Member States, the EU aquaculture industry, and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the 'Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture'". A yellow box contains the text: "Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021- 2030".

## About Us

The EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism is a service to share relevant knowledge, opportunities and experiences on EU Aquaculture. Get more info on the EU Aquaculture and the EU Assistance Mechanism.

[Read more >](#)

## Knowledge Base



EU legislation and relevant international instruments



Good practices and experiences



Projects



Reports



## Funding opportunities

This section provides an overview of EU open calls for proposals and tenders in the field of aquaculture.

To learn more about the available funding opportunities that could finance your aquaculture-related research or project, we invite you to explore the related section on the webpage.

[Explore](#)

## Recent Tweets

**EU Maritime & Fish** @EU\_MARE  
The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea turned **40**: it establishes a legal order for the ocean & seas, and promotes their peaceful use. Read the joint statement by High Representative @JosepBorrellF & Commissioner @VSinkevicius 🌊

**EU Maritime & Fish** @EU\_MARE  
In anticipation of @AlgaeCongress '22 our #EU4Algae members got together, both looking back at the outcomes & ahead at what's coming up 🌊. And an #EU4Algae event wouldn't be complete without some actual algae sampling 🌊🌊 Stay tuned for more \*\*

**EU Maritime & Fish** @EU\_MARE  
#DYK that: 🌊 1/5 fishes is illegally caught? ☐ Coral reefs – the nurseries of many underwater creatures – are disappearing? ☐ 10 million tons of plastic enter the sea, every year? We must turn the tide #ForOurPlanet at #COP15 pic.twitter.com/o2kWji9Yrl

# Draft guidance document on access to marine space for aquaculture



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# Overview



The key objective of this guidance document is to **present the approach and key elements on access to space for marine aquaculture** with concrete examples and case studies in order to **support Member States** in the implementation of the **Strategic Guidelines** on Aquaculture



Addressed to **all Member States**, particularly to **authorities and policy makers** working in the **aquaculture sector** at the **national, regional and local levels**



**Available** in the knowledge base of the **EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism website** in the **second quarter of 2023**

# Structure



## Introduction

- Objectives and scope of the document
- How to read/use the document



## Methodology

- Technical study on “Access to space and water for marine aquaculture” carried out by the EU MSP Platform under the Assistance Mechanism for the Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning
- Literature review/ desk study (i.e., FAO guidelines, scientific publications, EU project deliverables, etc.)
- Interviews with coordinators of two EU projects: TAPAS (Trevor Telfor) and AQUASPACE (Paul Tett)
- Discussions from 16<sup>th</sup> EU MS Aquaculture Technical Seminar and the Aquaculture Advisory Council Working Group 3



## Spatial planning: Phases and key elements

Description of the phases and associated key elements pertaining to spatial planning, with a focus on environmental considerations and policy and management options available considering the importance of aquaculture in the MS



## Case Studies

Good practices presented in the form of a factsheet providing key information, a description of the implemented solution in various MS, as well as the main benefits and challenges encountered in its implementation



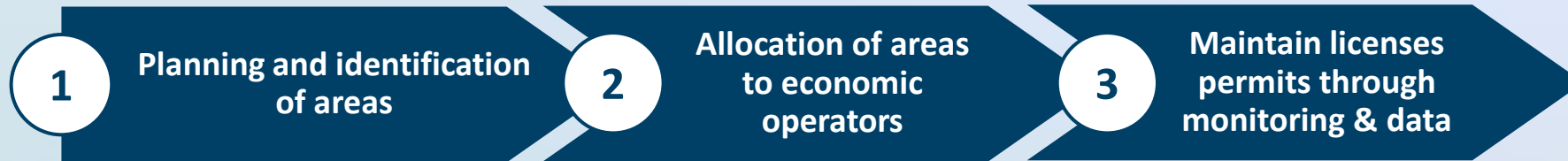
## Annexes

References; About the Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism; the European MSP Platform



# Phases and key elements

*Three phases*



*Associated key elements*

**ECONOMIC Considerations**

Importance in (local) economy, zoning and planning, roles of management authorities, allocation of suitable sites

**SOCIAL Considerations**

Participatory approach, flexible licensing, multi-use, (local) socio-economic factors

**ENVIRONMENTAL Considerations**

Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA), carrying capacity, MPAs and protected areas, climate change, incorporation within WFD and MSFD, environmental monitoring

# Case studies

Considerations	Key Element	Factsheet
<b>ECONOMIC</b>	Zones and Areas	Identification of AZAs – Nationally and Regionally (inc. offshore)
		(Low-trophic) allocation within MPAs and Natura2000
		Impact of MSP on the Environmental Impact Assessment
	Roles of Authorities	Implementation of MSP – including climate change and incorporation within WFD and MSFD
<b>SOCIAL</b>	Participatory approach	Coordinated Local Aquaculture Management System
		Social Licence (for seaweed production)
	Flexible licensing	Regulation to allow for multiple species or new species
		“Eco-technology” and “Green” licences
Multi-use and co-location	Multi-use (windfarms and offshore aquaculture)	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>	Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture	Shellfish production
		Finfish production
	Ecological Carrying Capacity	Carrying capacity data to reduce the burden of EIA
	Maintaining licenses and permits	Using existing site data to support new applications in that zone/area

# Draft guidance document on regulatory and administrative procedures



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# Overview



The key objective of this guidance document is to consolidate good practices on regulatory and administrative procedures along with concrete examples, solutions and pilots in order to **support Member States** in the implementation of the **Strategic Guidelines** on Aquaculture



Addressed to **all Member States**, particularly to **authorities and policy makers** working in the **aquaculture sector** at the **national, regional and local levels**



Presented as a visual document of about 30 pages written in a user-friendly English



The guidance document will be distributed and made available on the EU aquaculture website in the **second quarter of 2023**

# Structure



## Introduction

- Objectives and scope of the document
- How to read/use the document



## Methodology

- Desk research and documentation review to identify most frequent bottlenecks, including MNSPs and results from EU-funded projects (e.g. H2020 TAPAS)
- Survey targeting MS to identify and select good practices



## Key bottlenecks

Most frequent bottlenecks in regulatory and administrative procedures faced by national and regional authorities



## Good practices

Selection of a number of good practices presented in *ad-hoc* factsheets describing the solutions implemented by Member States to tackle a specific bottleneck, key benefits, and implementation challenges encountered



## References & Annexes

- References and list of existing guidance documents and tools on administrative procedures
- AAM project in a nutshell

# Methodological approach

## Documentary review

26 final Multi-annual National Strategic Plans (MNSPs) as well as 1 draft version for the period 2021-2027/30

## Web-based search

- Results and outputs of EU-funded projects, such as H2020 TAPAS
- Relevant EU policies and regulations
- Technical studies, such as the interim evaluation of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture

## Survey

Online survey launched in October 2022 via the EU Survey tool, targeting all 27 Member States representatives working in the aquaculture sector



# Methodology: selection criteria for good practices



A balanced **geographical coverage**



**Expected benefits and/or actual impacts** of the good practice, and its knock-on effects



**Stage of the solution's implementation** (e.g., idea/pilot, ongoing, implemented)



**Availability of information** and documentation



# Key bottlenecks



## Legislation

- Complex system of legislation (from wide EU Directives to national MS law and regional regulation not always aligned or consistent)
- There is often an absence of specific or coordinated legislative framework for aquaculture development



## Zoning, Planning and Site Selection for Aquaculture Activities

- Coherent policies on marine spatial planning (MSP) remain to be developed across multiple MS
- Insufficient use of clear tools (e.g., GIS) for the identification of potential sites
- Insufficient provision of information on site modelling and carrying capacity



## Licensing Process

- The process is often lengthy, costly, and frequently requires provision of extensive data and modelling
- Absence of a standardised approach concerning Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Involvement of numerous agencies with different timelines and operating procedures leading to delays



## Communication

- Insufficient communication between aquaculture producers and authorities and within the competent authorities themselves
- Communication between different stakeholder interests needs also to be improved ('social license')



# Preliminary list of good practices

Broad bottleneck area covered	Good practice	Solutions	Country
<b>Legislation</b>	Harmonisation of legislation under a single law	Adoption of Law 4282/2014 'Development of Aquaculture and Other Provisions'	Greece
		Adoption of Law N.117(I)/2000 'The Aquaculture Act'	Cyprus
		Adoption of Law NN 130/2017 'The Aquaculture Act'	Croatia
<b>Zoning, Planning and Site Selection for Aquaculture Activities</b>	Identification of suitable areas for aquaculture activities	Agreement on a National Plan for the Localisation of Aquaculture	Finland
		Implementation of the Strategic Line 'Sectoral planning and site selection' of the Andalusian Strategy for the Development of Marine Aquaculture (2014-2020)	Spain
<b>Licencing Process</b>	Creation of a one-stop-shop for licencing procedures	Establishment of one-stop-shops at the Ministry of Rural Development and Food in every decentralised local administration	Greece
		Establishment of a one-stop-shop at the County Council	Norway
	Preparation of an aquaculture licencing guidance document	Guidelines for the construction and operation of aquaculture facilities	Austria
		Guide on the procedures required for securing a 'Licence for the Establishment and Operation of a Fish Farm'	Cyprus
		Guide of the administrative procedures and requirements applicable to operators wishing to set up a business in the aquaculture sector	Lithuania
		List of guidance documents and summary fiches on the main procedures for the authorisation of aquaculture farming in each Autonomous Community	Spain

Broad bottleneck area covered	Good practice	Solutions	Country
<b>Licencing Process</b>	Establishment of a mandatory environmental monitoring programme	Adoption of a framework for the instalment, development, and operation of sustainable marine offshore aquaculture units	Cyprus
		Adoption of regulation no. 17 for aquaculture on "The water protection requirements for aquaculture as well as the limit values for pollutant concentration of effluent water from aquaculture and the requirements for discharge of such water into a recipient and monitoring"	Estonia
		Revision of the Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) and development of Environmental Quality Standards (EQS)	Malta
<b>Communication</b>	Digitalisation of services (provision of information, support and technical assistance)	Establishment of the Flemish Aquaculture Platform	Belgium
		Establishment a website for Sweden's aquaculture and creation of a digital licencing registration checklist	Sweden
		Setting up of the 'Balcão Electrónico do Mar' (BMar)	Portugal
		Creation of the Electronic Environmental Registry (EER)	Greece
		Establishment of REPAMO, the online network for monitoring the state of health of marine molluscs in France	France
	Establishment of a single national aquaculture entity	Establishment of the National Aquaculture Council	Greece
		Establishment of the Aquaculture Advisory Committee	Cyprus
		Establishment of the National Advisory Boards for Marine (JACUMAR) and Inland (JACUCON) Farming	Spain
	Launch of an aquaculture communication campaign	Launching of the communication campaign 'Aquaculture of Spain'	Spain
		Development of the national communication campaign 'Farmed in the EU'	Lithuania
		Promotion of aquaculture through 'Ryba domácí- Fish at Home', the 'Ryba na talíř- Fish on a plate' and the campaign 'What with fish?'	Czec Republic
		Adoption of the Program for the Promotion of Domestic Fish	Finland



Thank you!



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