

Aquaculture Advisory Council

Working Group 1 - Finfish meeting

05 October 2022 (14:00-18:00)

On-site meeting at COPA COGECA- Interpretation available in EN – ES – IT

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

WG1 MEMBERS

Andrea Fabris (API, Chair)	Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals)
Phil Brooke (CIWF, Vice-Chair)	Catherine Pons (FEAP)
	Javier Ojeda (FEAP)
Leo Kirchmaeier (ALFAA)	Ole Christensen (FEFAC)
Giulia Malerbi (Aquatic Life institute)	Yannis Pelekanakis (HAPO)
Marine Levadoux (CIPA)	Alain Schonbrodt (FVE)
Gautier Lannelongue (CNPMM)	Teresa Morrissey (IFA)
Angeles Longa (Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia)	Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK)
David Bassett (EATIP)	Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescherming)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Invited: Paolo Caricato (DG SANTE), Joao Saraiva (FishEthoGroup), Fabrice Telechea (Université de Lorraine)

Secretariat: Cécile Fouquet (AAC Secretariat), Charlotte Musquar (AAC Secretariat)



MEETING AGENDA

Welcome words by the Chair

1. [Adoption of the agenda and last meeting's minutes](#)
2. [Fish Health](#)
 - i. [Follow up of the AAC recommendation on Fish Parasites](#)
 - ii. [Health management of farmed fish](#)
 - iii. [EU regulation 2019/04 on medicated feed](#)
3. [Sustainability of EU fish farming](#)
 - i. [Circularity of fish feed](#)
 - ii. [Decarbonisation in fish farming \(use of electricity\)](#)
4. [Eels](#)
5. [Fish Welfare](#)
 - i. [Understanding consumer views on animal welfare](#)
 - ii. [Improving fish welfare & production through a better understanding of fish behaviour & ethology](#)
 - iii. [AAC Code of good practices on farmed fish welfare](#)
6. [Domestication in aquaculture](#)
7. [Working Group Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022-2025](#)
8. [AOB & conclusions](#)

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome words by the Chair

Andrea Fabris (Chair) welcomed members as well as observers and presented the agenda.

1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the Minutes of the last meeting (09/02/2022)

The agenda is adopted without changes.

The minutes are adopted without any change.

2. Fish Health

- [Follow up of the AAC recommendation on Fish Parasites](#)

Paolo Caricato (DG SANTE) presented an update on the situation regarding fish parasites, informing that DG SANTE is currently preparing the mandate for a new EFSA opinion.

The mandate should be finalized by mid-December, EFSA will then assess the time it needs to deliver its opinion.

If the EFSA opinion is positive, the annex of the legislation will be modified accordingly.



The presentation was followed by an exchange of views with the WG1 members.

- [Health management of farmed fish](#)

The Chair presented the draft TOR¹ for the contracting of an expert and the timeline for the report:

- Selection by the end of November 2022
- Report finalised by the end of May 2023
- Budget: 8 000 €

Yannis Pelekanakis (HAPO) suggested to add a requirement to also take into consideration deliverables from ongoing or concluded R&D projects from the EU on the impact of climate change on aquaculture.

The ToR was approved with this change.

- [EU regulation 2019/04 on medicated feed](#)

The Chair presented the answer received from the European Commission (EC) on the AAC letter on medicated feed².

An expert from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) will be invited to the next WG1 meeting to discuss the specific issues of top coating and cross-contamination.

3. Sustainability of EU fish farming

- [Circularity of fish feed](#)

FEFAC will lead the newly created Focus Group (FG) and Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK) volunteered to be a member.

A call for volunteers will be circulated by e-mail.

- [Decarbonisation in fish farming \(use of electricity\)](#)

The issue will be merged with the one in WG3 on the decarbonisation of aquaculture (use of fuel) to create a unique FG. However, two distinct recommendations will be produced, in accordance with the Work Programme for 2022-2023.

A call for Focus Group volunteers will be circulated by e-mail.

4. Eels

The Chair recalled that an AAC letter on the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

¹ <https://aac-europe.org/en/members-area/file-library/send/108-wg-i/655-2-wg1-draft-tor-fish-health>

² <https://aac-europe.org/en/recommendations/eu-documents/434-european-commission-reply-to-the-aac-letter-on-the-new-eu-legal-framework-for-the-oral-distribution-of-veterinary-medicines-in-the-aquaculture-sector>



Evaluation of the national eel management plans progress reports³ has been sent to the EC and shared with the EU Council's Presidency (Czech Republic) in August but that no feedback has been received yet.

The Secretariat will write to DG MARE for feedback on their meeting with ICES and the measures envisaged.

5. Fish Welfare

- [Understanding consumer views on animal welfare](#)

Phil Brooke (Vice-Chair, Chair of the FG on Fish welfare) asked WG1 members to send any useful information they may have on the issue to the Secretariat.

The topic will be added to the agenda of the next WG1 meeting to decide whether to contract an external expert or not.

The Secretariat noted that a request for additional budget for that purpose could be submitted to the ExCom.

- [Improving fish welfare & production through a better understanding of fish behaviour & ethology](#)

AAC expert Joao Saraiva (FishEthoGroup) presented the outline and ongoing work of his study⁴ to WG1.

In order to make the recommendations useful to the aquaculture sector, receiving input from farmers via a survey would be necessary. The expert's work will then be prolonged until the end of December 2022.

The survey questions will be circulated for approval and a request will be submitted to the ExCom for an additional budget to translate the questionnaire prepared by the expert in view of a wider dissemination among the EU aquaculture farmers.

- [AAC Code of good practices on farmed fish welfare](#)

The Vice-Chair invited WG1 members to complete the list of topics and objectives that had been circulated⁵, as well as to send case studies of good practices.

Giulia Malerbi (Aquatic Life Institute) asked if the case studies could be from outside the EU. The Secretariat will ask DG MARE to confirm.

This work will continue by written procedure and a new FG meeting will be organised.

³ <https://aac-europe.org/en/recommendations/position-papers/437-aac-letter-to-the-ec-on-the-ices-evaluation-of-the-national-eel-management-plans-progress-reports>

⁴ <https://aac-europe.org/en/members-area/file-library/send/108-wg-i/661-using-knowledge-of-the-behaviour-and-ethology-of-farmed-fish-to-improve-fish-welfare-and-production>

⁵ <https://aac-europe.org/en/members-area/file-library/send/108-wg-i/653-5-wg1-fg-discussions-code-of-good-practices-outline-for-dg-mare>



6. Domestication in aquaculture

Dr. Fabrice Telechea (Université de Lorraine) made a presentation on “Aquaculture breeding and ethics”⁶.

The presentation was followed by an exchange of views.

As no clear conclusions were drawn on the issue, the Chair suggested to pursue the discussion during the next WG1 meeting.

Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescherming) noted his disappointment about the lack of time to be able to discuss the matter of octopus farming. He was reassured that this discussion, foreseen on the agenda, will be adequately addressed at a later stage.

7. Working Group Chair and Vice-Chair for 2022-2025

The Chair presented the two candidates for the Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of WG1 for the next three years (2022-2025).

Andrea Fabris (API) was nominated as **WG1 Chair**.

Phil Brooke (CIWF) was nominated as **WG1 Vice-Chair**.

8. AOB & conclusions

No AOB.

Andrea Fabris (Chair) thanked the participants, informed that the next meeting would take place virtually on **31 January 2023** and closed the meeting.

⁶ https://aac-europe.org/components/com_rseventspro/assets/images/files/2022_10_05_Domescation_Ethics.pdf

