

# Aquaculture Advisory Council

## Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting

10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (10:00-13:00)

Online meeting via Zoom – Interpretation available in EN - FR – ES – IT

## Minutes

### PARTICIPATION LIST

#### EXCOM MEMBERS

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Javier Ojeda (AAC Chair)

#### Operators

Marco Gilmozzi (FEAP)

Yannis Pelekanakis (HAPO)

Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA)

Bernhard Feneis (COGECA)

Ole Christensen (FEFAC)

Addy Risseeuw (PO Mosselcultuur)

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)

Giuseppe Prioli (AMA)

Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet (CNC)

Luisa Alvarez (FEDEPESCA)

#### Other interest groups

Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescherming)

Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals)

Phil Brooke (CIWF)

#### OTHER PARTICIPANTS

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**Working Group Chairs:** Andrea Fabris (WG<sub>1</sub> Chair), Stéphane Angeri (WG<sub>2</sub> Chair), Brian Thomsen (WG<sub>3</sub> Chair)

**Secretariat:** Stylianos Filopoulos (AAC Secretariat), Charlotte Musquar (AAC Secretariat)



## AGENDA

### Opening by the Chair

1. [Adoption of the agenda and approval of the Minutes of the last meeting \(28/10/2021\)](#)
2. [Working Groups: Updates](#)
3. [AAC Administration: Updates](#)
  - [Budget: update on ongoing financial year](#)
  - [Membership: update on status and prospect members](#)
  - [Administration: update on previous ExCom decisions](#)
4. [Improving the functioning of ACs](#)
  - [Lump sum amount approach for operation grants for the period 2022-26](#)
  - [New Delegated Act](#)
  - [Inter-AC meetings: Briefing on new procedures and policy priorities](#)
5. [Improving AAC administration](#)
6. [Destination of the next in person WG meetings \(1-2 June 2022\)](#)
7. [Upcoming ExCom Elections \(14 September 2022\)](#)
8. [Any other business](#)
9. [Conclusions and closing of the meeting](#)

## MEETING MINUTES

### Opening by the Chair

Javier Ojeda (JO) welcomed the ExCom members and the Working Group Chairs and confirmed the quorum.

### 1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the Minutes of the last meeting (28/10/2021)

The agenda was adopted without any change.

The minutes from the previous ExCom meeting (28.10.21) were adopted without any change.

### 2. Working Groups: Updates

#### WG1 FINFISH

Andrea Fabris (AF) (WG1 Chair) presented an overview of the current WG1 work and of the decisions taken during the last WG1 meeting:

- **Animal Health Law (AHL):** Fiona Geoghegan from DG SANTE presented the state of implementation of the AHL to WG1 members and answered their questions.
- **EU regulation 2019/04 on medicated feed:** WG1 agreed to prepare a letter to the EC on the



issues that are critical for AAC members.

- **Water Framework Directive (WFD) and water protection regulation:** Jeanne Boughaba (DG ENV) and Céline Frank (DG MARE) presented the regulations and answered WG1 members' questions. It was decided that a FG will be created to make recommendations on the implementation of the regulations.
- **By-product Regulation / Fish Manure:** A FG will be created.
- **Animal Welfare Legislation:** Kornillia Zafeiropoulou and Denis Simonin (DG SANTE) made a presentation on the Animal Welfare Legislation and answered WG1 members' questions.
- **Updates from the FG on Fish Welfare**
  - The draft Recommendation on Fish transport has been approved by WG1 and will be sent to the ExCom.
  - The draft Recommendation on Fish Welfare Reference Centres has been approved by WG1 and will be sent to the ExCom.
  - A draft ToR will be drafted on the topic of understanding consumer expectations
  - A draft ToR will be drafted on the topic of fish ethology
- **Microbiota:** A FG will be created and a draft ToR will be drafted.
- **European Eel Stock:** A Recommendation on this topic was requested by the EC. A FG will be created.
- **Reproduction and Genetics:** A presentation was made by EFFAB and it has been agreed to continue discussing the topic during the next WG1 meeting.

## WG2 SHELLFISH

Stephane Angeri (SA) (WG2 Chair) presented an overview of the current WG2 work and of the decisions taken during the last WG2 meeting:

- **Protected predators and shellfish farming:** The final draft will be translated into EN and sent for the WG2 approval.
- **Biodiversity loss and emerging pathogens for molluscs:** Rapporteur Audrey Lainé (CNC) updated WG2 on her work and adoption is foreseen for June.
- **The strategic importance of shellfish and algae farming in the EU:** Maris Stulgis (DG MARE) updated the WG2 members on current and future algae calls/studies and the Algae Initiative. A FG will be created.
- **Shellfish farming carbon capturing:** A FG will be created.
- **System of payment for ecosystem services:** A FG will be created.
- **Shellfish welfare:** A FG will be created.
- **Oxyvir:** As the results from Oxyvir 2 are not expected before 2023, discussions on the topic have been postponed.



### WG3 Horizontal Issues

Brian Thomsen (BT) (WG3 Chair) presented an overview of the current WG3 work and of the decisions taken during the last WG3 meeting:

- **Strategic Guidelines for a EU sustainable aquaculture:** Lorella De la Cruz (DG MARE) provided an update on the roadmap for the Strategic Guidelines and announced encouraging political support from other EU institutions.
- **Update on the EU Communication Campaign on aquaculture:** the EC is currently working on contracting experts but would also like to set up a task force to provide them with feedback. The AAC is invited to provide one representative. A FG will be created for this task.
- **Analysis of EMFAF aquaculture spending:** A FG will be created.
- **Common Fisheries Policy / Common Market Organisation:** the AAC work is ongoing to respond to the public consultation, despite the very short time limit<sup>1</sup>.
- **Sustainable food system framework initiative:** A FG will be created.
- **Organic Aquaculture:** A draft has been presented by the Rapporteur, but discussions remain vivid. It will be further discussed at FG level before coming back to WG3.
- **Sustainable aquaculture definition:** A draft has been presented by the Rapporteur but will need some additional modifications.
- **Socio-economic impact of aquaculture:** A first draft will be proposed to the FG in the coming weeks. WG3 members were invited to join the FG.
- **Small Scale Aquaculture:** A FG will be created, following a request by the EC to work on this definition.
- **Marine Litter:** As no comments were received on this draft, it will be sent to the ExCom for approval.
- **Climate Impact on Aquaculture activities:** Following the call for experts, Tim Huntington (Poseidon) was chosen. The deadline for his report is set for September.
- **Wildlife:** It has been approved by the WG3 and will be sent to the ExCom for final approval.

### 3. AAC Administration: Updates

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- [Budget: update on ongoing financial year](#)

The Secretariat updated the ExCom members on the ongoing budget for 2021-2022.

- [Membership: update on status and prospect members](#)

The Secretariat presented an update on its prospection for new members:

- the International Seaweed Association is interested in joining the AAC via its Danish and Portuguese members;
- the Secretariat will be contacting Environmental NGOs.

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<sup>1</sup> The EC has since then provided a slightly further deadline (14 March).



- [Administration: update on previous ExCom decisions](#)

The Secretariat updated the ExCom members on the uptake of previous ExCom decisions.

#### **4. Improving the functioning of ACs**

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- [Lump sum amount approach for operation grants for the period 2022-26](#)

The Secretariat presented the new lump sum approach for future AC grants.

In December 2021, the ACs were requested to submit an estimated budget for the 2022-2026 period. The ExCom had approved a document prepared by the Secretariat, asking for a budget rise due to increased Recommendations production and expectation of going back to physical meetings. It was sent to the EC in January 2022 and the EC has not yet confirmed the said budget estimation.

- [New Delegated Act](#)

The Secretariat presented the new Delegated Act, expected to be officially adopted and entering into force in the coming weeks.

- [Inter-AC meetings: Briefing on new procedures and policy priorities](#)

The Secretariat updated the ExCom members on the organisation of Inter-AC meetings by the EC.

Bernhard Feneis (COGECA) wondered why AAC members, other than the Chair and Secretariat, were not involved in the preparation of these meetings. JO recalled that the topics were always shared by e-mail and that members are invited to make comments if they feel the need to. He also suggested that questions could be transferred internally to the Chair during meetings whenever observers are not allowed questions.

The Secretariat informed the ExCom that a joint-letter to the EC was underway about ACs' difficulties in answering public consultations.

#### **5. Improving AAC administration**

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The Secretariat presented the results of the 2020-2021 Annual evaluation of the Secretariat and the AAC's Work. The questionnaire had been sent to all AAC members to fill out before the meeting.

Several members pointed out that a better follow-up of AAC Recommendations towards MS needs to be done. AAC Recommendations are already shared with MS by the Secretariat but the impact could be strengthened by the dissemination by AAC members and by communicating directly towards the regions.

The Secretariat also announced that new electronic tools (such as a sharepoint) would be tried out in the coming months in order to facilitate the AAC's work.

#### **6. Destination of the next in person WG meetings (1-2 June 2022)**

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OJ pointed out that a certain degree of uncertainty remained from the COVID-19 context. The June meetings



will be organised in Brussels. However, ExCom members discussed about the possibility, in the future, of listing recurring aquaculture fairs in the EU to organise some of the AAC meetings around them.

## **7. Upcoming ExCom Elections (14 September 2022)**

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The Secretariat presented the timeline towards the elections<sup>2</sup>.

Some members pointed out the need for a renewal of members in terms of age and gender representativeness.

## **8. Any other business**

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No other business was discussed.

## **9. Conclusions and closing of the meeting**

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JO thanked the ExCom members for a productive ExCom meeting.

The next ExCom meeting will take place virtually on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://aac-europe.org/images/jdownloads/ExCom\\_elections\\_timeline.pdf](https://aac-europe.org/images/jdownloads/ExCom_elections_timeline.pdf)

