

# Aquaculture Advisory Council

## Executive Committee meeting

26 October 2023 (09:00-12:30)

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

## Minutes

### PARTICIPATION LIST

#### EXCOM MEMBERS

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Brian Thomsen (AAC Chair)  
Paul Denekamp (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair)  
Philippe Le Gal (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair)  
Addy Risseeuw (AAC Treasurer)

#### Operators

Ola Öberg (Recirkfisk)  
Javier Ojeda (FEAP)  
Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA)  
Bernhard Feneis (COGECA)  
*Ma Luisa Alvarez (FEDEPESCA) – Proxy to Giuseppe Prioli*  
Ole Christensen (FEFAC)  
Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA)  
Giuseppe Prioli (AMA)  
*Angeles Longa Portabales (Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia) – Proxy to Bruno Guillaumie*  
*Teresa Morrissey (IFA) – Proxy to Javier Ojeda*

#### Other interest groups

Phil Brooke (CIWF)  
Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals)

#### OTHER PARTICIPANTS

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**Invited:** Andrea Fabris (WG1 – Finfish Chair)

**Observers:** Thibault Pivetta (CNC)

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



## AGENDA

- [Welcome words by the Chair Brian Thomsen](#)
- [Adoption of the agenda and last meeting's minutes \(04 July 2023\)](#)
- [Follow up on the decisions made at the meeting](#)
- [Working Groups: Updates](#)
- [Revision of the Status and Rules of Procedure](#)
- [External performance evaluation of the AAC](#)
- [Proposal of compensation for Rapporteurs and Chairs](#)
- [Common Aquaculture Policy](#)
- [AAC Budget 2022-2023: update on ongoing financial year](#)
- [Renewal of AAC Secretariat contract](#)
- [Observers policy](#)
- [Updates by the Secretariat](#)
- [Any other business](#)
- [Conclusions](#)

## MEETING MINUTES

### Welcome words by the Chair Brian Thomsen

The **Chair Brian Thomsen** welcomed the Executive Committee (ExCom) members and confirmed the quorum.

### 1. Adoption of the agenda and last meeting's minutes (04 July 2023)

The agenda was adopted without change.

The minutes of the previous ExCom meeting (04.07.2023) were adopted without change.

### 2. Follow up on the decisions made at the meeting

The **Chair** reported on the follow-up on the decisions previously taken by the ExCom:

Action	Status
Biannual meeting with DG MARE Aquaculture Team	We will reach out to DG MARE
OMC MS-AAC-DG MARE meeting	Next DG MARE- MS meeting will be taking place in 2024. We have to set the date of the next AAC-DG MARE meeting before or after Christmas.
Follow up on previous recommendation	Develop an 'inventory'



Common Aquaculture Policy	Today's agenda
AAC leaflet	Deletion of the task and focus on digital platforms
External performance evaluation	Today's agenda
Statutes and Rules of Procedure	Today's agenda
Attracting new members	A list of NGOs to be consulted when requested by a FG has been drawn but no contact was made yet. Draft a list of consumer associations.
EU Communication campaign	Awaiting up date from DG MARE
FG Algae	Established
EC strategic foresight initiative	Not in focus, but it will be included in the agenda of the next meeting with the European Commission (EC)
ExCom technical visit	Postponed
ICES	Evaluation MSFD – <b>Javier Ojeda (FEAP) volunteered as FG leader and asked the Secretariat to provide a clear timeline.</b>
Website	Fact & Figures, keywords, search engine: the search engine and keywords have already been added. <b>The Secretariat will update the 'What is Aquaculture' page with facts &amp; figures.</b>

### 3. Working Groups (WG): Updates

Andrea Fabris (WG1 Chair) presented the work of WG1.

Paul Denekamp (WG2 Vice-Chair) presented the work of WG2.

Douglas Waley (WG3 Chair) presented the work of WG3.

### 4. Revision of the Status and Rules of Procedure (RoP)

Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) and Javier Ojeda (FEAP) suggested some modifications to the draft status and RoP.

The Chair and Secretariat will update the drafts and send a revised version to the AAC members and to the EC for comments. The aim is to adopt the drafts at the next General Assembly.



## 5. External performance evaluation of the AAC

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The Chair thanked the participants to the survey and reminded the ExCom that **a meeting will be held on 10 November for the presentation of the main conclusions and discussions on next step**

## 6. Proposal of compensation for Rapporteurs and Chairs

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The Chair explained that his proposal to have an AAC policy for the compensation of Rapporteurs and Chairs had received comments from the Treasurer. **As this proposal needed to be further discussed, the point will be on the agenda of the next meeting.**

The members of the ExCom had several suggestions on the modalities of such a compensation, including the **possibility of rising the travel expenses reimbursement** levels for all AAC members or **to organise common hotel bookings** for AAC members. **These points will be further discussed.**

## 7. Common Aquaculture Policy

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The ExCom discussed the necessity of pushing this issue to the European Parliament (EP) and new EC in 2024. **A FG will be created in WG3 and Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA) will circulate a legal analysis document on establishing of a Common Aquaculture Policy.**

## 8. AAC Budget 2022-2023: update on ongoing financial year

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The Secretariat presented the 2022-2023 AAC progress budget.

**With some budget remaining available, the ExCom approved to:**

- **Allow Aliénor to invoice an additional budget related to the secretariat services so as to cover inflation costs;**
- **Order new supplies of meetings material with the AAC logo as previous stocks have been depleted.**

## 9. Renewal of AAC Secretariat contract

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The Secretariat suggested to extend the contract's duration to 4 years (instead of 3) in order to align it with the duration of the new Lump Sum system.

**The ExCom decided to revise Aliénor's contrat to:**

- **Extend it to 4 years (2023-2027);**
- **Adjust its yearly cost to a Belgian consumer inflation indicator (indice Santé).**

## 10. Observers policy

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The Secretariat informed the ExCom that the Norwegian Wellboat Association has requested the possibility of



becoming an observers (to receive the AAC WG agendas and attend the meetings). If they were to attend FG meetings, this would only be with the approval of the AAC members.

A discussion took place highlighting the fact that the AAC has an official open meetings policy and could therefore not prevent any association from joining as an observer. However, some members expressed concerns about having non-EU members accessing the information.

**The Secretariat will draft an “active observer policy” to be published on the website. It will be submitted to the ExCom for written approval.**

## 11. Updates by the Secretariat

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### - [Participation to Aquaculture Europe](#)

It is interesting but more oriented to scientists and networking, therefore there is no real purpose for the AAC to have a booth there.

### - [First meeting of the Joint Special Group – Marine Action Plan – 6 October](#)

The AAC will be invited again to the next workshop and the invitation will be shared with AAC members.

There was little time for the ACs to take the floor. The ACs have decided to **draft an official letter to be sent to the EC reminding that the ACs interventions needs to be given more importance than those of individual stakeholders.**

### - [Inter-AC meeting – 10 October](#)

Inter-AC meetings now tend to be more oriented towards policy discussions rather than focussing on the functioning of ACs. The only topic of interest for the AAC at this meeting was that DG Charlina Vitcheva stated that the EU seafood self-sufficiency could only be achieved by increasing aquaculture production.

**Paul Denekamp** (Vice-Chair), who was present during the Inter-AC meeting, reminded the ExCom that many animal welfare challenges remain to be solved before focusing on growth.

### - [Seminar DG MARE-Member States 18 October](#)

Comments can be sent until 15 November to the **Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM)** team and **the Secretariat will send an e-mail to inform AAC members.**

Moreover, some relevant AAC Recommendations should have been listed in the reference documents that weren't. **The Secretariat will contact the EC on this issue.**

### - [Young Aquaculture Producers' visit to Brussels](#)

The Secretariat informed the ExCom that young producers from Germany, Austria, Romania, Italy, Greece and France, both from finfish (inland and marine) and shellfish sectors, have attended this special day.

They met with the DG MARE team (including the EMFAF team), MEP Clara Aguilera (S&D – Spain – AAC Referent at PECH Committee) and attended a PECH Committee meeting. Some of them also attended the AAC WG meetings.

The ExCom suggested to carry on working with this group via a Young Aquaculture Producers consultation



group.

## **12. Any other business**

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**Bruno Guillaumie** (EMPA) requested that the issue of reinforcing the presence of AAC members within the MAC or discussing aquaculture market issues within the AAC is added on the next ExCom agenda.

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

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The Chair thanked the ExCom members for a productive ExCom meeting.

The next ExCom meeting will take place virtually on the **5 December 2023**.

