

Aquaculture Advisory Council

General Assembly meeting

24th September 2023 (09:00-12:00 CET)

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

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Brian Thomsen (Chair)	Florian Guillou (CNPMEM)	Catherine Pons (FEAP)
Paul Denekamp (1 st Vice-Chair)	<i>Pier Antonio Salvador (COPA) – Proxy to Andrea Fabris</i>	Luisa Alvarez (FEDEPESCA)
Philippe Le Gal (2 nd Vice-Chair)	Béla Halasi-Kovács (COGECA)	<i>Sandrine Rambert (Fédération Française d'Aquaculture) – Proxy to Marine Levadoux</i>
Addy Risseeuw (Treasurer)	Phil Brooke (CIWF)	Alain Schonbrodt (FVE)
Giulia Malerbi (ALI)	Angeles Longa Portabales (Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia)	Christophe Derrien (IPIFF)
Lorenzo Gennari (AMA)	Alexandra Philippe (EBCD)	Teresa Morrissey (IFA)
Andrea Fabris (API)	Douglas Waley (Eurogroup for Animals)	Nathalie Gamain (OFI)
Javier Ojeda (FEAP)	James Hinchcliffe (EFFOP)	Lino Suarez (OPMEGA)
Melanie Haslauer (ALFAA)	Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)	Isidro Blanquet (APA)
<i>Stefan Meyer (BVFfi) – Proxy to Ola Öberg</i>	Danilo Santini (FAI CISL)	Stéphane Angeri (SENC)
Marine Levadoux (CIPA)		Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK)
Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet (CNC)		Catalin Platon (ROMFISH)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Invited: Peter Lengyel (Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture), Baptiste Petitjean (Office of the French High Commissioner for the Plan), Hein Sas (NORA)

Observers: Beatrix Szabo-Beres (Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture), Klára Szatmáriné Szűcs (Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture), Veerle Campens (Flemish Ministry of Agriculture), Magdalena Tenciu (Institute of Research and Development for Aquatic Ecology, Fishing and Aquaculture), Yves Reichling (Feedback EU), Kristaps Pilskalns (Latvian Ministry of Agriculture), Samuel Kingston (Irish Ministry of Agriculture), Francesco Lombardo (Maltese Ministry of Agriculture), Irene Forcella (Italian Ministry of Agriculture)

Secretariat: Cécile Fouquet (AAC Secretariat), Cynthia Benites (AAC Secretariat), Justine Marrot (AAC Secretariat)



Secretariat), Charlotte Musquar (AAC Secretariat)

AGENDA

1. [Welcome words by the Chair](#)
2. [Adoption of the agenda](#)
3. [High-level session: A vision for the future of EU aquaculture](#)
 - a. [EU 2024 Hungarian Presidency's plans and upcoming events](#)
 - b. [The development of aquaculture, a major challenge for food sovereignty](#)
4. [AAC activities in 2023-2024](#)
5. [Approval of new AAC Members](#)
 - a. [Native Oyster Restoration Alliance \(NORA\)](#)
6. [Approval of the new Rules of Procedure](#)
7. [AAC Work Programme for 2024-2025](#)
8. [AAC Budget for 2024-2025](#)
9. [AAC Calendar for 2024-2025](#)
10. [AAC Chair updates](#)
11. [Executive Secretary change](#)
12. [Any other business](#)
13. [Date and place of the forthcoming General Assembly meeting](#)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome words by the Chair

The Chair (Brian Thomsen) welcomed the participants and confirmed the quorum.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The proposal for amending the Rules of Procedure had not been sent to the General Assembly (GA) at least 15 days before the scheduled date and the Chair proposed to delete agenda item 6.

The agenda was approved with that change.

The Chair recalled that the minutes from the previous GA meeting (February 20, 2024) have been previously adopted by written procedure.



3. High-level session: A vision for the future of EU aquaculture

- [EU 2024 Hungarian Presidency's plans and upcoming events¹](#)

Peter Lengyel (Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture – Aquaculture Development Unit) presented the Hungarian Presidency's plans and upcoming events in relation to EU aquaculture.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lengyel and the presentation was followed by an exchange of views with AAC Members.

- [The development of aquaculture, a major challenge for food sovereignty](#)

Baptiste Petitjean (Office of the French High Commissioner for the Plan) presented the French report² on the development of aquaculture as a major challenge for food sovereignty.

The Chair thanked Mr. Petitjean and the presentation was followed by an exchange of views with AAC Members.

4. AAC activities in 2023-2024

The Secretariat presented the AAC achievements during the past year³. These included the work of 23 Focus Groups and the approval of 13 recommendations (so far).

5. Approval of new AAC Members

[Native Oyster Restoration Alliance \(NORA\)](#)

Hein Sas (NORA) presented his organisation⁴.

NORA was approved as a new AAC member and categorized into the Other interest organisations' category.

6. Approval of the new Rules of Procedure

This document will be proposed for adoption at the next GA meeting.

7. AAC Strategic Plan for 2024-2025

The Secretariat presented the draft Strategic plan (SP) for 2024-2025 with the comments received by written procedure already integrated.

Andrea Fabris (API) pointed out a small typo.

Stéphane Angeri (SENC), Chair of WG 2, requested that the recommendation on "creating a stem cell bank and multiplier centres to develop algae aquaculture" be removed from the list of commitments for 2024-2025.

¹ http://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HUPRES_aquaculture_priorities.pdf

² <https://www.info.gouv.fr/upload/media/content/0001/09/655bed1e6442f301c597e4fb800c1ea2852a0b05.pdf>

³ <http://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/AAC-activities-2023-2024.pdf>

⁴ <http://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/NORA-presentation-AAC-19-09-2024-1.pdf>



The SP for 2024-2025 was adopted with these changes.

8. AAC Budget for 2024-2025

The Secretariat presented the draft budget for 2024-2025.

The Treasurer recommended the adoption of the budget as presented.

The budget for 2024-2025 was adopted without changes.

9. AAC Calendar of meetings for 2024-2025

The draft calendar and suggested format of meetings for 2024-2025 were presented by the Secretariat.

The calendar and format of meetings for 2023-2024 were adopted without changes.

10. AAC Chair updates

The Chair informed the members about:

- Activities arising from the External Performance Review: the External Performance Review was conducted last year and resulted in 10 actions, most of which have been completed to date. The Executive Committee (ExCom) is still working on 4 actions that should be finalised by the end of the year:
 - o Specifying the tasks of the Management Committee (ManCom);
 - o Establishing the ExCom's strategic objectives and tasks;
 - o Production of a document summarizing internal AAC policies and best practices;
 - o Achievements of the AAC.
- Billund's ExCom meeting and visits on Danish fish farms.

11. Executive Secretary change

Starting September 24, 2024, Cynthia Benites (Aliénor) will be the new AAC Executive Secretary, replacing Cécile Fouquet.

The Chair and the AAC members expressed their gratitude for Cécile Fouquet's excellent work for the AAC since 2017 and welcomed Cynthia as the new Executive Secretary.

12. Any other business

There were no other businesses.

13. Date and place of the forthcoming General Assembly meeting

The next GA meeting will take place virtually for an extraordinary meeting on the 19th of February 2025 inter alia





to approve the final AAC accounts.

