

**Shellfish health : worrying impact of climate change on EU
mussels' production level**

WG2 – Aquaculture Advisory Council
10h-13h, 04/02/2025

Update on last focus group (16/01/25)

- **Calendar** : drafting in 2025 for adoption in October 2025 by Excom
 - **Subject of the recommendation** : Impacts of climate change on mussel production in the European Union
 - ⇒ Include predation issues? The presence of new predators, such as blue crabs in Italy, is not systematically linked to climate change
 - **Causes of mortality/decrease in yield already identified** (France, Italie, Irlande):
 - Stalling due to weakening of the byssal layer as water temperature rises
 - Mortalities and reduction in meat content with a drop in phytoplankton concentration due to a reduction in the supply of fresh water (+ nutrients) during the summer months
 - Mussel catchment problem in Italy
 - Presence of the pathogen *Francisella haliotica*
- ⇒ Creation of [online sharing library](#) (production data, scientific publications and reports)

Draft structure and initial recommendations

- Calendar :

- Introduction: data on the European mussel industry (volume, value, number of companies, FTEs, etc.), place of the European mussel industry in the world
- Impact of climate change, with presentation of specific situations
- Conclusions and recommendations to the EC and the Member States

- Initial thoughts on the recommendations:

- ⇒ Focus on legislation, coordination and research programmes
- ⇒ Our needs at EC level :
 - Tools for emergencies and restarting,
 - Tools for monitoring and preventing,
 - Ask for form of cooperation, observation lack of coordination
- ⇒ Our needs at MS level :
 - Immediate applied research to give immediate response to the problems,
 - Need for monitoring as well,
 - Coordination at Member State level: for example, for blue crab in Italy, an institute has been identified to work on the issue of coordinating research projects.
- ⇒ Include genetic selection and mussel hatcheries?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

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