

Aquaculture Advisory Council

WG2 Shellfish Meeting

15 October 2025 (13:30 - 17:00)

COPA-COGECA – Rue de Trèves, 61 – 1000 Brussels – Interpretation available in EN - FR - ES - IT

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

WG2 MEMBERS

Stéphane Angeri (SENC, Chair)

Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescherming, Vice-Chair)

Lorenzo Gennari (AMA)

Antonio Correia (APA)

Phil Brooke (CIWF)

Oliver Laban (Comité régional de la conchyliculture Arcachon Aquitaine)

Audrey Lainé (CNC),

Florian Guillou (CNPMEM),

Philippe Le Gal (CRC Bretagne-Sud)

Excused: Hein Sas (NORA)

Joaquin Garrido (Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia)

Angeles Longa Portabales (Consello Regulador do Mexillón de Galicia)

David Basset (EATIP),

Thibault Pivotto (EMPA),

Teresa Morrissey (IFA),

Ricardo Herbón (OPMEGA),

Lino Suarez (OPMEGA),

Juan Fungueiríño (OPMEGA),

Addy Risseeuw (PO Mosselcultuur),

Christian Vorbeck (RECIRKFISK),

Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK).

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Invited: Raphaëla le Gouvello (IUCN Expert), Philine zu Ermgassen (Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes), Julian García Baena (DG MARE)

Observers: Joe Redfern (Shellfish Association of Great Britain), Wassem Emam (Ethical Seafood Research)

Member States Experts: Rui Oliveira (Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services, Portugal), Veerle Campens (Flemish Agency for Agriculture and Sea Fisheries), Marta Martínez López (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), Luz Arregui (General Secretariat of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), George Broulidakis (Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food), Maria Egehoved (Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries).

Secretariat: Cynthia Benites (AAC Secretariat), Alicia Mouthuy (AAC Secretariat)



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MEETING MINUTES

Welcome words by Chair Stéphane Angeri

Stéphane Angeri (Chair) welcomed the participants as well as the secretariat and interpreters.

1. Approval of the agenda and last meeting's minutes

The agenda was approved without any change. The minutes of the last meeting were approved by written procedure.

2. Financing tools to support good husbandry practices for shellfish farming

- State of play of the draft recommendation by FG leader **Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)**
- **Exchange of views** with the members and decision on next steps

Thibault Pivetta (EMPA) presented the state of play of the recommendation on financing tools to support good husbandry practices for shellfish farming to the members.

This recommendation has been submitted to the ExCom and should be approved before the end of



October.

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

- Presentation of the draft recommendation by FG leader **Audrey Lainé** (EMPA)
- Exchange of views with the members and adoption of the recommendation

Audrey Lainé (EMPA) presented the recommendation on the shellfish health: worrying impact of climate change on EU mussels' production level.

The recommendation was approved by the WG and will be submitted to the ExCom for approval before the end of October.

4. Blue crab

- Presentation of the draft recommendation by FG leader **Lorenzo Gennari** (AMA)
- Exchange of views with the members and adoption of the recommendation

Lorenzo Gennari (AMA) presented the recommendation on blue crab.

The recommendation was approved by the WG with the additional comments from Thibault Pivetta (EMPA) and will be submitted to the ExCom for approval before the end of October.

5. The emerging regenerative blue economy concept, an opportunity for the shellfish farming industry?

- Presentation by Raphaëla le Gouvello, IUCN expert
- Exchange of views with the members and decision on next steps

Raphaëla le Gouvello (IUCN expert) presented the emerging "Regenerative Blue Economy" concept (RBE) and what impact it could have on the shellfish farming industry. The presentation generated strong interest among the members, and the file will continue to be monitored.

6. Project on upscaling Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) seed supply in Europe

- Presentation by Philine zu Ermgassen from the Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme
- Exchange of views with the members and decision on next steps

Philine zu Ermgassen presented the "Roadmap to scaling up hatchery production for European native oyster reef restoration. Many members reacted to her presentation, highlighting that a roadmap, funding and scientific research are needed at the EU level.

The possibility of continuing to examine this issue during a FG meeting will be considered.

7. Potentials and constraints in the implementation of restorative aquaculture

- Presentation by Hein SAS (NORA)



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- Exchange of views with the members and next steps

As **Hein Sas (NORA)** was not available to make the presentation, **Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)** took charge of it, underlining that the aim is to find a common definition on restorative aquaculture. **Stéphane Angeri (Chair)** highlighted the need to make the difference between "regenerative", "restorative" and "sustainable". The future recommendation is part of the AAC Strategic plan for 2025-2026.

A FG will be created and a call for a FG leader will be open.

8. Indicators on environmental, economic and social (including animal welfare) performances of shellfish aquaculture

- Presentation by Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)
- Exchange of views with the members and decision on next steps

Thibault Pivetta (EMPA) proposed splitting the previous planned recommendation (which is included in the AAC Strategic Plan for 2025-2026) into two: one on economic and social performance indicators and another on environmental indicators. **Julian García Baena (DG MARE)** noted that the guidance document on environmental performance, the study on environmental benefits of aquaculture and a background paper on the challenges of bivalve mollusc farming will be published by the end of the year. The Secretariat explained the process of financing an external study: the terms of reference need to be validated by the FG and WG by the end of the year, expert selection should be finalised by mid-February 2026, and the study completed by June 2026.

Two FGs will be created. Thibault Pivetta will lead the FG on environmental indicators, while a call for a leader will be launched for the economic and social indicators recommendation. For both recommendations, a decision will be made as soon as possible on whether or not to commission an external study.

9. Molluscan Welfare

- Update on FG activities by the FG leader Paul Denekamp (Vissenbescherming)
- Exchange of views with the members and decision on next steps

Paul Denekamp (Vissenbescherming) presented an update on the activities of the FG on molluscan welfare. A draft letter to the Commission is currently being approved by the FG and will then be submitted to the WG. **Phil Brooke (CIWF)** and **Paul Denekamp (Vissenbescherming)** also emphasized the need for scientific research on molluscs and bivalves, as well as the potential welfare issues these species face.

The comments addressed during the meeting will be integrated to the draft letter.

10. Working Group Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025-2028

- Reminder of the rules of procedure by the secretariat
- Appointment of the Working Group Chair and Vice-Chair for the period 2025-2028

Lorenzo Gennari (AMA) was elected as Chair of the WG2 for 2025-2028, and **Paul Denekamp (Vissenbescherming)** was reelected as Vice-Chair of the WG2 for 2025-2028. Stéphane Angeri (previous



Chair of the WG2) was thanked for his good service during his term of office.

11. AOB & conclusions

Stéphane Angeri thanked the members for their participation and concluded the meeting.

The next meeting of this Working Group will take place online on **3rd February (morning)**.



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