



Working Group 3 Horizontal Issues

Meeting

09.06.2026 | 10:00 – 17:00 CET



WG3 – Horizontal Issues 09.06.2026

Coming up next:

**1. Adoption of the
agenda (10:05)**

WELCOME WORDS BY THE CHAIR

Coming up next:

**1. Adoption of the
agenda (2/2)**

1. Adoption of the agenda (1/2)

1. Adoption of the agenda (10:05)
2. DG MARE updates (10:10)
3. Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy (11:00)
4. Predators (11:40)

/// LUNCH BREAK: 12:20-13:30 ///

5. Water (13:30)
6. Sustainable aquaculture (14:00)
7. MFF – Exchange in view of an AAC contribution (14:40)

/// COFFEE BREAK: 12:20-13:30 ///

8. AAC work – feedback on the evaluation questionnaire (15:25)
9. AAC WG3 Strategic Plan (16:00)
10. Update on ongoing WG3 work by the Chair (16:25)
11. AOB and conclusions of the WG3 meeting (16:55)

Conclusion of the meeting (17:00)

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Coming up next:

**2. DG MARE updates
(10:10)**

1. Adoption of the agenda (2/2)

- Change proposed:

10. Updates

- Ocean Board Act

- Any other business points to be added?
- Adoption of the agenda

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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views
with the members**

2. DG MARE updates

Presentation by **Emilia Gargallo, DG MARE, “Aquaculture Team”**

- Strategic Guidelines actions, Guidance Documents and Mid-term assessment
- Ocean Pact and related files including the Ocean Act and EU Initiative on Sustainable Aquaculture
- Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2040
- CFP reform evaluation
- MFF and crisis mechanism
- Upcoming technical studies
- EU communication campaign on aquatic food to be launched in 2027



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Coming up next:

**3. Evaluation of the
Common Fisheries
Policy (11:00)**

2. DG MARE updates

Exchange of views with the members



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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views
with the members**

3. Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy

Introduction by **AAC Chair Brian Thomsen** of its strategy for the next steps



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Coming up next:

4. Predators (11:40)

3. Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy

Exchange of views with the members



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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views
with the members and
decision on next steps**

4. Predators

Introduction by the Secretariat

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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views
with the members and
decision on next steps**

4. Predators

- **Political momentum is accelerating**
— from 4 to 10+ Member States in 18 months
- **Cormorants** as central species
- **The Commission prefers guidance over legislation**
- **Stress Test on Habitats & Nature Directives** could force its hand
- **11 August 2026:** critical deadline for the stress test consultation



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Coming up next:

**Lunch break (12:20-
13:30)**

4. Predators

Exchange of views with the members and decisions on next steps



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Coming up next:

5. Water (13:30)

LUNCH BREAK

12:20 – 13:30

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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views
with the members and
the newly adopted
implementation
Guidance**

5. Water

Presentation by **Mr. Nikolaos Georgiadis** from DG ENV Unit C1 (Sustainable Freshwater Management) on the Water Resilience Strategy implementation, the evolutions and revision of the Water Framework Directive and the newly adopted implementation Guidance



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Coming up next:

**Decision on rapporteur
and next steps**

5. Water

Exchange of views with the members and the newly adopted implementation Guidance



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Coming up next:

**6. Sustainable
aquaculture (14:00)**

5. Water

Decision on rapporteur and next steps



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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views
with the AAC members**

6. Sustainable aquaculture

Presentation of the discussion and potential recommendation by **Javier Ojeda** (FEAP)



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Coming up next:

Decision on next steps

6. Sustainable aquaculture

Exchange of views with the AAC members



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Coming up next:

**7. MFF – Exchange in
view of an AAC
contribution (14:40)**

6. Sustainable aquaculture

Decision on next steps



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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views with
the members and
decision on next steps**

7. MFF – Exchange in view of an AAC contribution

Presentation “Navigating the new MFF approach for - Mapping threats and opportunities for the aquaculture sector” by **Pavel Salz**



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Coming up next:

**Coffee break (15:10-
15:25)**

7. MFF – Exchange in view of an AAC contribution

Exchange of views with the members and decision on next steps

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Coming up next:

**8. AAC work – feedback
on the evaluation
questionnaire (15:25)**

COFFEE BREAK

15:10 – 15:25



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Coming up next:

**Exchange of views
with the members and
decision on next steps**

8. AAC work – feedback on the evaluation questionnaire

Presentation of important feedback by the **Secretariat** and the **AAC Chair**

8. AAC work – feedback on the evaluation questionnaire

Q17: Once approved, I share the AAC recommendations with my national and regional competent authorities.

Answered: 13 Skipped: 5

1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
23.08%	7.69%	23.08%	15.38%	30.77%	13	3.23
3	1	3	2	4		

Q27: MS reactions to AAC advice is satisfactory.

Answered: 14 Skipped: 4

1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
28.57%	35.71%	35.71%	0.00%	0.00%	14	2.07
4	5	5	0	0		



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Coming up next:

**9. AAC WG3 Strategic
Plan (16:00)**

8. AAC work – feedback on the evaluation questionnaire

Exchange of views with the members and decision on next steps



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Coming up next:

**Approval of the
Strategic Plan for 2026-
2027**

9. AAC WG3 Strategic Plan

Presentation by the Secretariat

Proposed recommendations to be drafted by the WG3 in 2026-2027

	Recommendation	Proposed by	Votes			TOTAL
			1st place	2nd place	3rd place	
1	Vision 2040	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	3	5	0	19
2	Welfare legislation	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	4	1	1	15
3	Evaluation CFP/CMO	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	3	1	0	11
4	MFF	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	1	4	1	10
5	Import requirements	Charlotte Epinay (EfA)	0	3	2	8
6	FP10 & the Bioeconomy: a core priority or a shifting focus?	/	2	0	1	7
7	Organic aquaculture	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	0	0	4	4
8	Water Resilience Strategy	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	1	0	0	3
9	The role of aquaculture in EU food security	Ola Öberg (Recirkfisk PO)	1	0	0	3
10	Bioeconomy with FP10	David Bassett (EATiP)	0	1	0	2
11	Breeding and genetics in aquaculture	Geena Cartick (FABRE TP)	0	0	2	2
12	Ocean Pact	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	0	0	1	1
13	Manure	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	0	0	1	1
14	Omnibus Aquaculture	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	0	0	1	1
15	Ocean Act	Brian Thomsen (DAPO)	0	0	0	0

Proposed study to be carried out within WG3 in 2026-2027

Title/Subject of the study	Context of the study	Objectives of the study
Economic and financial implications of fish welfare in aquaculture (proposed by Giulia Malerbi - ALI)	Limited understanding of the economic impacts of fish welfare creates a gap for policymakers and investors. Exploring this area could strengthen the case for improved welfare practices.	Assess productivity losses linked to poor welfare (mortality, disease, stress); evaluate cost-benefit of improved practices (e.g. stunning, stocking density); analyse long-term efficiency gains; examine welfare-related risks (regulatory, reputational, market); explore implications for investors.



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Coming up next:

**10. Update on ongoing
WG3 work by the Chair
(16:25)**

9. AAC WG3 Strategic Plan

Approval of the Strategic Plan for 2026-2027



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Coming up next:

Ocean Board

10. Update on ongoing WG3 work by the Chair

Follow up on the AAC Recommendation on Small Scale Aquaculture



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Coming up next:

**11. AOB and
conclusions of the
WG3 meeting (16:55)**

10. Update on ongoing WG3 work by the Chair

Ocean Board



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Coming up next:

**End of the Meeting
(17:00)**

11. AOB & Conclusions of the WG3 meeting



Date and place of the next WG3 meeting



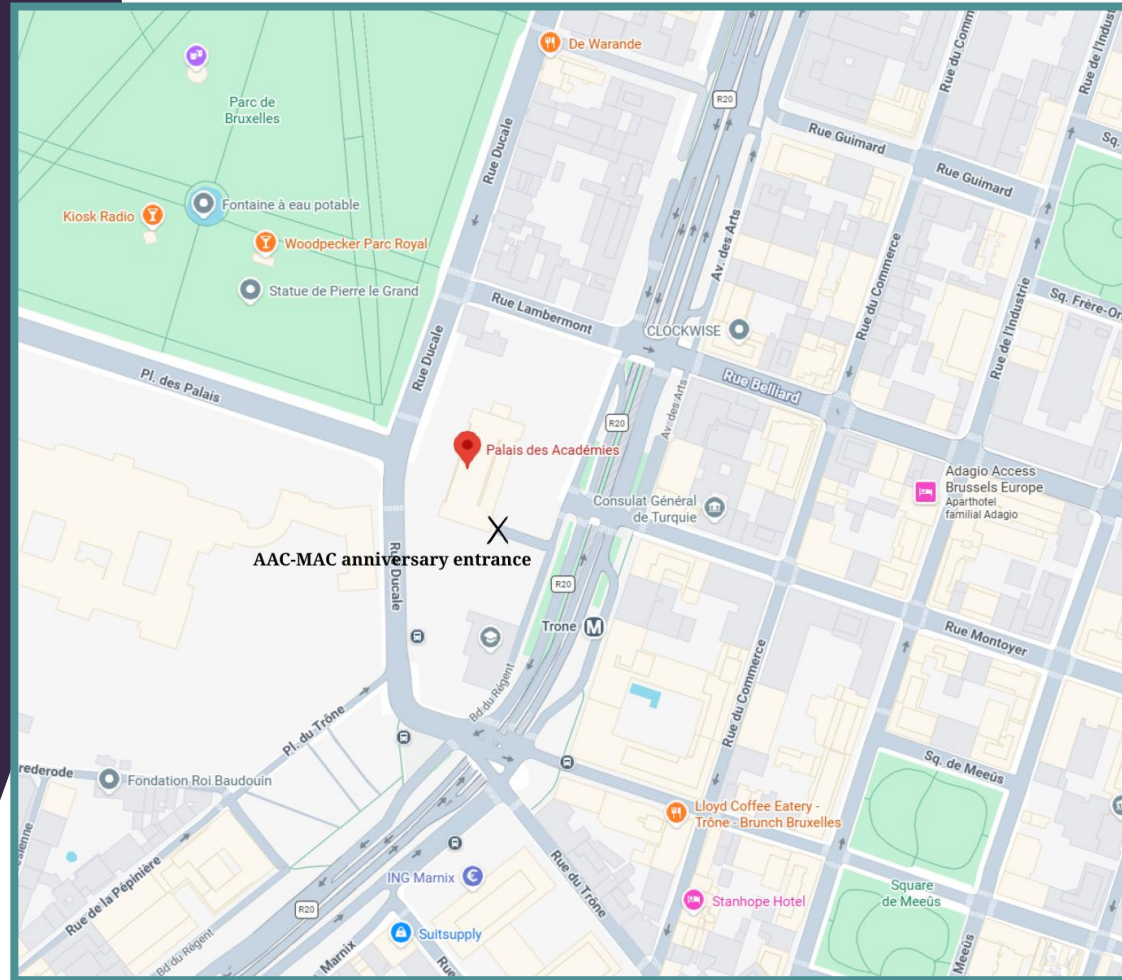
Date and place of the next WG3 meeting

20th October 2026 – PM | **Brussels**
21st October 2026 – AM

OCTOBER 2026						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Child Health Day	6 German-American Day	7	8	9 Leif Erikson Day	10
11 General Pulaski Memorial Day	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15 White Cane Safety Day	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AAC-MAC 10-year anniversary

10th June 2026 14:00-19:00 | Palais des Académies



You're welcome to join us from 13:15 at the Palais des Académies (Entrance C), where you will be able to collect your personalised badge (for registered participants only).

As the conference will start at 14:00, you are welcome to head to the first floor and enjoy a drink beforehand.

We look forward to welcoming you!

THANK YOU!

Your contacts:

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