

Aquaculture Advisory Council

WG2 Shellfish Meeting

10 June 2026 (09:30 - 13:00)

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

Minutes

PARTICIPATION LIST

WG2 MEMBERS

Lorenzo Gennari (AMA, Chair)

Paul Denekamp (Stichting Vissenbescherming,
Vice-Chair)

Isidro Blanquet (APA),

Andrea Fabris (API),

Alexandre Cottier-Pérez (CIWF),

Phil Brooke (CIWF),

Anne-Laure Prego-Cauchet (CNC),

Audrey Lainé (CNC),

Florian Guillou (CNPMEM),

Pier Salvador (COPA),

Philippe Le Gal (CRC Bretagne-Sud),

Angeles Longa Portabales (Consello Regulador
do Mexillon de Galicia),

David Basset (EATIP),

Thibault Pivetta (EMPA),

Teresa Morrissey (IFA),

Addy Risseeuw (PO Mosselcultuur),

Ola Öberg (RECIRKFISK),

Hein Sas (NORA),

Tamas Eisenbeck (AIPCE - Seafood Europe),

Wouter van Zandbrink (AIPCE – Seafood
Europe).

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Invited: Nicolas Boudaud (Actalia), Philine zu Ermgassen (Native Oyster Network), Sam Dupont (University of Gothenburg)

Observers: Joe Redfern (Shellfish Association of Great Britain), Wasseem Emam (Ethical Seafood Research), Tristan Macquet (Le Paysan Marin)

Member States Experts: Carol Collins (Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, Ireland), George Broulidakis (Ministry of Rural Development & Food, Greece)

Secretariat: Cécile Fouquet (AAC Secretariat), Alicia Mouthuy (AAC Secretariat)



MEETING AGENDA

Participation list.....	1
MEETING MINUTES	2
Welcome words by the Chair	2
1. Approval of the agenda and last meeting's minutes	2
2. Norovirus	2
3. Potentials and constraints in the implementation of restorative aquaculture	3
4. Roadmap to scaling up <i>Ostrea edulis</i> hatchery production in Europe	3
5. Ocean acidification and shellfish	3
6. Indicators on economic and social performances of shellfish aquaculture	3
7. Molluscan Welfare	4
8. AAC WG2 Strategic Plan	4
9. AOB & conclusions	4

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome words by the Chair

Lorenzo Gennari (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 (03.02.2026) had already been approved by written procedure; however, the Secretariat highlighted that further revisions had since been introduced. **The updated minutes were approved and will be published on the AAC website.**

2. Norovirus

- Presentation by **Nicolas Boudaud** (Actalia) and **Audrey Lainé** (CNC)¹
- Exchange of information on the latest news
- Exchange of views with the Working Group members and decision on next steps

Nicolas Boudaud (Actalia) and **Audrey Lainé (CNC)** provided an update on the current situation regarding norovirus. Members reacted with interest to this presentation, also exchanging views about the situation in their respective countries.

The topic will continue to be monitored moving forward.

¹ <https://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2.-Norovirus.pdf>



3. Potentials and constraints in the implementation of restorative aquaculture

- **Presentation** on the draft recommendation by Hein SAS (NORA)
- **Exchange of views** with the members and decision on next steps

Hein Sas (NORA) presented his recommendation on the potentials and constraints in the implementation of restorative aquaculture. Many members reacted, highlighting the need for further research and data collection, greater policy coherence across European Commission Directorates-General, and recognition of restorative aquaculture's contribution to sustainable food production. It was also suggested that the AAC requests a Staff Working Document on this matter to the Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM) and the European Commission, to further explore the concepts of restorative aquaculture and regenerative blue economy.

A new FG meeting will be organised to further discuss the draft recommendation.

4. Roadmap to scaling up *Ostrea edulis* hatchery production in Europe

- **Presentation** by Philine zu Ermgassen (Native Oyster Network)²
- **Exchange of views** with the members and decision on next steps

Philine zu Ermgassen (Native Oyster Network) presented a strategic roadmap for upscaling the production of European flat oyster spat, *ostrea edulis*, to support large scale restoration programmes.

Many members reacted to the presentation and will closely follow this file's developments.

5. Ocean acidification and shellfish

- **Presentation** by Sam Dupont (University of Gothenburg)³
- **Exchange of views** with the members and decision on next steps

Sam Dupont (University of Gothenburg) made a presentation on ocean acidification and its effects on shellfish. He later provided several references on bivalve aquaculture and CO₂ emissions⁴, as well as a position paper on the wrong narrative being used (in that case for conservation)⁵.

Following a discussion with the members, a corrective narrative about ocean acidification & shellfish farming CO₂ sink capacities will be developed, with the objective of developing an AAC position paper.

6. Indicators on economic and social performances of shellfish aquaculture

- **Presentation** of the draft recommendation by Thibault Pivetta (EMPA)

² aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/5.-A-Strategic-Roadmap-For-Upscaling-The-Provision-Of-European-Flat-Oyster-Ostrea-edulis-To-Support-Large-Scale-Restoration.pdf

³ aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/6.-Ocean-acidification-and-shellfish.pdf

⁴ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/raq.12954> & <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41758658/>

⁵ <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aed2480>



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

Thibault Pivet (EMPA) presented the state of play of the recommendation on indicators on economic and social performances of shellfish aquaculture.

Following a discussion with the members, a consolidated draft will be sent to WG2 for comments and approval.

7. Molluscan Welfare

- **State of play of Focus Group discussions** by the FG leader Paul Denekamp (Vissenbescherming)
- **Exchange of views** with the members and decision on next steps

Paul Denekamp (Vice-Chair) reminded members that the follow-up analysis is currently undergoing approval at Working Group level.

Once approved by the WG2, this follow up analysis will be sent to the ExCom members for comments and approval.

8. AAC WG2 Strategic Plan

- **Presentation** by the Secretariat
- **Approval** of the Strategic Plan for 2026-2027

The **Secretariat** presented the WG2 Strategic Plan for 2026-2027, which was adopted by the WG2 members.

WG2 members approved the SP with the following recommendations as commitments:

- Valorisation of shellfish farming by-products and co-products
- Contribution of shellfish farming to an EU nitrogen strategy

9. AOB & conclusions

Two AOBs were added by the Secretariat:

- **Strategy on predators**

The Chair mentioned the ongoing public consultation on the Nature Directives and encouraged WG2 members to contribute in the name of their own associations. Regenerative aquaculture is to be mentioned in the contributions, too.

- **Tour de table – severe episodes linked to climate change:**

WG2 members exchanged about the latest situations caused by climate deregulation in their respective countries.

- **Initiatives of the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)**

The Chair informed WG2 about EUSPA initiatives relevant to aquaculture, in particular the “User Consultation Platform”⁶.

⁶ <https://www.euspa.europa.eu/eu-space-programme/eu-space-market-and-users/UCP-2024>



Lorenzo Gennari (Chair) thanked the members for their participation and concluded the meeting.
The next meeting of this Working Group will take place in Brussels on **20 October 2026 (morning)**.

