MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & FOOD
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR FISHERIES

Greece's Initiatives to Support Sustainable Aquaculture Development

Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)General Assembly Meeting,
22 September 2026 | Online

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Director General for Fisheries
Ministry of Rural Development and Food

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Greek Aquaculture Today

127,500 tonnes
Total aquaculture production

€690 million
Production value

~115,000 tonnes
Farmed fish

~106,000 tonnes
Seabream & seabass

Source: ELSTAT, Aquaculture Survey 2024

A diverse production landscape

• Marine fish • Shellfish • Inland waters • Extensive lagoon aquaculture

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A Changing Operating Environment

RISING PRODUCTION COST

- Feed
- Energy
- Labour
- Transport

STRONGER GLOBAL COMPETITION

- Pressure on margins and markets

CLIMATE CHANGE

- warmer waters
- Extreme events

PRODUCTION RISK

- Fish health
- Biosecurity

The challenge is no longer only how much we produce, but how efficiently and resiliently we produce it.

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The Strategic Framework to 2030.

Greece’s Multiannual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2021–2030

📈
1. Resilience & Competitiveness

Stronger and more adaptable businesses

🌿
2. Green transition

Environmental performance & resource efficiency

👥
3. Social acceptance

Consumer information & local integration

💡
4. Knowledge & Innovation

Research, skills & knowledge transfer

The focus now is on turning strategic priorities into concrete action.

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From Strategy to Investment.

Fisheries, Aquaculture & Maritime Programme 2021–2027

105
approved investment plans

€131m
total investment

€87m
public funding

Modernization • Technology • Energy efficiency
Environmental performance • Biosecurity

Investment interest exceeded the initial available public budget.

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New Investment Directions in Practice.

MICROALGAE

Nannochloropsis

~€3.8 million
New production unit-
Pthiotida

LAND-BASED SHRIMP

New land-based production on a small Cycladic island of Kea

€4.0 million
Alternative farming

OYSTERS

New shellfish farm

~€156,000
Amvrakikos Gulf

Diversification is creating new opportunities alongside Greece's established aquaculture production.

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Modernizing Production, Reducing Environmental Footprint.

ENERGY
Renewables • Energy efficiency

TECHNOLOGY
Digital tools • Modern equipment

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
Better use of inputs • Lower environmental footprint

FISH HEALTH
Biosecurity • Disease prevention

APPROVED INVESTMENT IN PRACTICE

~€2.0m | Oxeia area

Modernization of an existing marine fish farm + new equipment + renewable energy systems

Environmental and economic performance can improve together.

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Creating More Value from Production.

2024 vs 2023

–10.2%
Production volume

–0.2%
Production value

Production volume alone does not give the full picture.

DEDICATED SUPPORT FOR PROCESSING

€26m
Call budget

PROCESSING ➡ PACKAGING ➡ QUALITY & TRACEABILITY ➡ MARKETS

Creating more value beyond primary production

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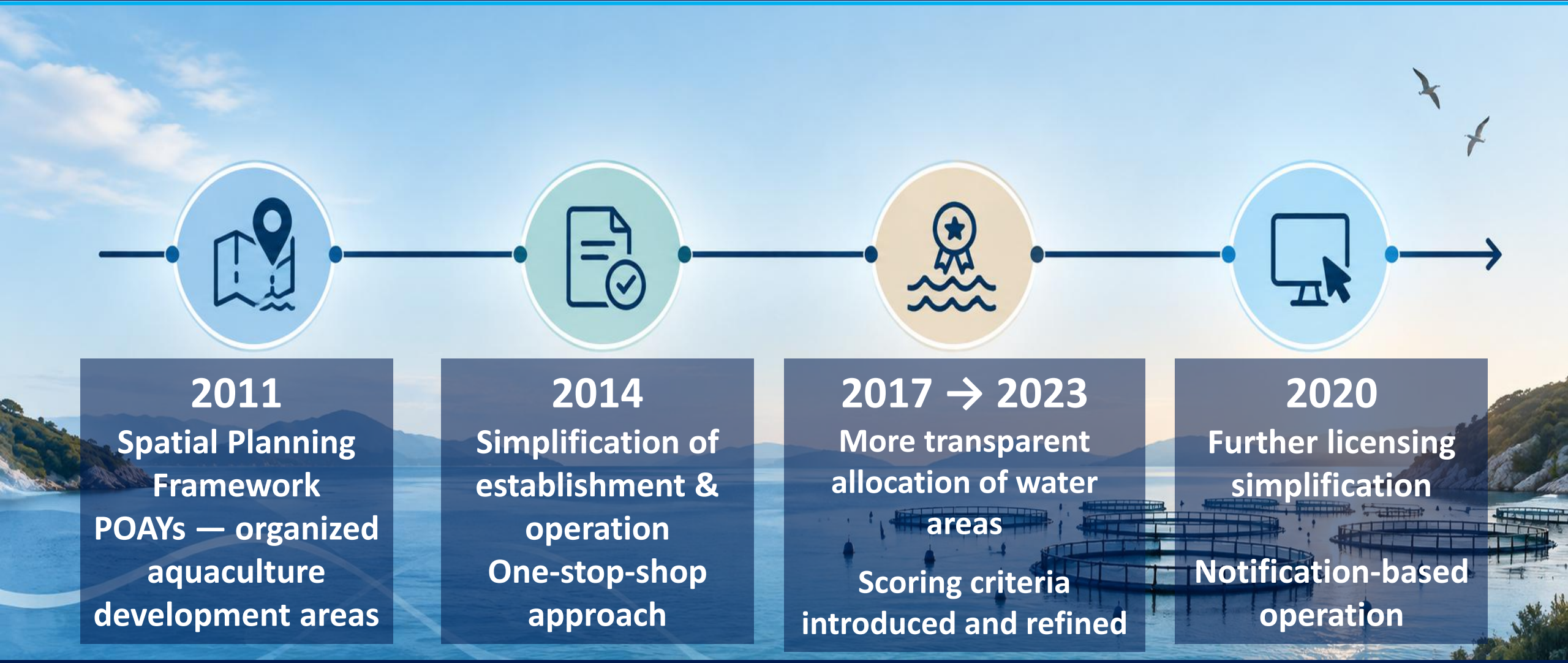
Regulatory Framework: Building Predictability



2011
Spatial Planning Framework
POAYs — organized aquaculture development areas

2014
Simplification of establishment & operation
One-stop-shop approach

2017 → 2023
More transparent allocation of water areas

Scoring criteria introduced and refined

2020
Further licensing simplification

Notification-based operation

Greater clarity • Transparency • Investment predictability

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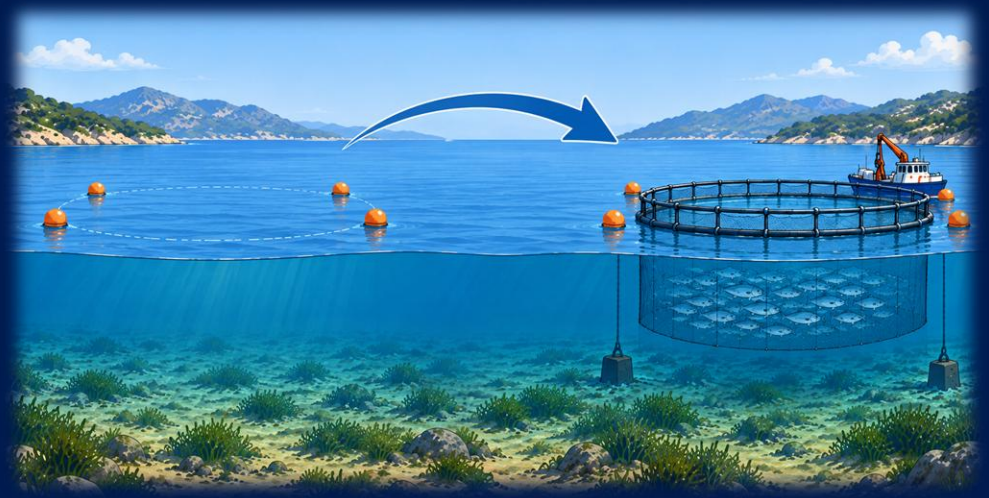
Adapting the Framework to New Needs

Recent legislative proposal: selected aquaculture provisions

1. *FALLOWING*

A more explicit framework for fallowing



2. *MULTI-TROPHIC AQUACULTURE*

A legal basis for combining different trophic levels

Proposed provisions — implementing details would follow through secondary legislation.

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Building Public Awareness & Trust

Supporting the EU Aquaculture communication campaign

EU Aquaculture:
“We work for you with passion”

PUBLIC SPACE
Campaign videos displayed in Athens Metro stations and trains

DIGITAL OUTREACH
Campaign content shared through public and sector channels

WIDER DISSEMINATION
Regions • Decentralized Administrations
Producer organizations • Sector bodies

Bringing aquaculture closer to citizens and consumers.

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Aquaculture Tourism: Bringing People Closer to Production

A new framework established at the end of 2024

VISIT & DISCOVER
Aquaculture techniques & production process

LOCAL EXPERIENCE
Traditions • Gastronomy • Coastal identity

ACTIVITIES
Recreational swimming & diving, under specific conditions

Framework covers aquaculture farms and public natural fish farms

A complementary opportunity for coastal and island communities.

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A Shared European Challenge

HIGH EU STANDARDS

- Food safety
- Environmental performance
- Fish health & welfare
- Traceability

COMPETITIVE & SUSTAINABLE EU AQUACULTURE

MARKET REALITIES

- Production costs
- Investment needs
- Global competition

High standards and competitiveness must advance together.

AAC stakeholder input: making EU policies ambitious and workable in practice.

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A Sustainable Future for European Aquaculture

- INVESTMENT
- INNOVATION
- ADAPATION
- COOPERATION

From growth to resilient competitiveness

Producing more efficiently

Creating more value

Managing risks better

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Thank you for your attention!

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