

AAC policy brief - Evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy

The European Commission has recently published its evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation (EU) 1380/2013 (CFP)¹.

The 2011 impact assessment² of the previous 2002 Common Fisheries Policy concluded that aquaculture production had not increased in the last 15 years and that aquaculture employment had decreased by 16%.

The current CFP introduced the mechanism of policy coordination to rectify the problems and established article 34 on promoting sustainable aquaculture to contribute to food security and supplies, growth and employment.

The mechanism of policy coordination includes Union non-binding strategic guidelines, Member States multiannual national strategic plans and the exchange of best practises across Member States.

The evaluation concludes that the previous problems have not been rectified and that the CFP objectives have not been achieved.

The problems on complex licensing producers and access to suitable sites for aquaculture have not been solved because the sector has not received sufficient political attention at national level.

The Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) arrived at the same conclusion in its recommendation on a reform of the EU's aquaculture policy³:

1. Establish an Aquaculture Sustainability Regulation including quantitative targets for production and sustainability indicators (environmental, economic social and animal welfare);
2. Establish a Common Marked Organisation on aquaculture products;
3. Amend the legal framework for Producer Organisations;
4. Establish a legal act on a Performance and Evaluation Framework;
5. Improve coherence between aquaculture policy objectives and EU environmental directives.

The AAC calls on the European Commission and Member States to support a reform of the EU's aquaculture policy.

¹ Evaluation Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, Commission Staff Working Document, SWD(2026) 120 final

² Impact assessment Common Fisheries Policy Regulation (EC) 2371/2002

³ [AAC recommendation for an aquaculture policy reform](#), July 2024

