

“FEUFAR”

The future of European fisheries and aquaculture research

Over the last decades, land and sea based human activities, such as maritime transport, coastal tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, seabed exploitation, and sea based renewable and conventional energy, have all made an immense contribution to the human wealth and welfare. But they have also had a growing impact on seas and oceans, to the point that the very balance of the oceanic system is being seriously affected, endangering the source of this crucial contribution to our wealth and welfare.

The current governance framework of maritime affairs deals with maritime affairs separately and thus tends to overlook the cumulative impact of our activities on the oceans and seas. For this reason, in 2005 the European Commission called for an all-embracing EU maritime policy, **supported by excellence in marine scientific research and technology.**

Within this framework, a new project, called **FEUFAR – the Future of Fisheries and Aquaculture Research**, was funded by the European Commission and started in January 2007. FEUFAR **focuses on the research that will be required in the next 10 years so as to allow for the exploitation and farming of aquatic resources (finfish and shellfish)** in the context of key challenges, risks and opportunities for meeting sustainability requirements.

Basically, the FEUFAR methodology that is being applied for the identification of research needs consists of three steps:

1. describe the system,
2. detect the driving forces in the system and,
3. by constructing hypotheses about the driving forces, sketch **potential scenarios** for the future of capture fisheries, aquaculture and of the ecosystems in which these activities take place.

These different scenarios will provide the basis for the identification of issues, from an economical, ecological, societal and managerial (governance) perspective, which may need attention or be the key challenges in future. Based on the analysis, some of the key future needs for research in capture fisheries and aquaculture will be identified.



SOURCE: WWW.FEUFAR.EU.



So far, two workshops have been organised, which aimed to determine the main factors that

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Future of European fisheries and aquaculture research

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drive the future of fisheries and aquaculture:

- **Expert workshop**, held in Brussels, 22 May 2007, which included a broad selection of (representatives of) research and advisory organisations across Europe.
- **Stakeholder workshop**, held in Haarlem (NL), 26 June 2007, which set up a stakeholder network of representatives of research, industry and management areas at a regional, European and international scale.



STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP HAARLEM.
SOURCE: MAUD EVRARD.

“FEUFAR WILL PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH AGENDA, CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION OF A EUROPEAN MARITIME POLICY”

To help the foresight scenario-building process, a comprehensive **state-of-the-art inventory of existing foresight analyses** worldwide is also being implemented. This will enable the distillation of key messages and the identification of themes, threats, drivers and

developments in fisheries and aquaculture science and policy.

The main output of the FEUFAR exercise will be a publication outlining key challenges, strategic options and the research needs of capture fisheries and aquaculture in European waters and in waters in which European fleets operate under bilateral or multilateral agreements.

This publication will act as a prospective research agenda, contributing to the development and subsequent implementation of a European Maritime Policy and to further strengthen the European marine research area through a better anticipation of research needs in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.



FISH LARVAE IN AQUACULTURE TANKS.
SOURCE: WWW.FEUFAR.EU.