

### “PROFET”

## European Workshops on RTD Requirements for Professional Aquaculture

*Considerable time, effort and resources are invested each year in fishery-related research projects, but there is widespread concern that the benefit of this investment is not fully realised. There is a continual need to review how information is disseminated and taken up by those whom the research is intended to benefit.*

*With the advent of the 6th Framework RTD Programme, the European Commission's Strategy for Aquaculture and Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, PROFET aimed to develop a clear focus on the immediate and long term RTD requirements of the European fish farming sector, and to improve the dissemination and increase the uptake of EU-funded project results.*

During 2003-2004, the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) organised 5 regional PROFET workshops that formed a **Europe-wide forum for debate** on the RTD issues affecting professional aquaculture in Europe. Each workshop was organised by Member Associations of the FEAP, with the assistance of the European Aquaculture Society and AquaTT. PROFET was supported by DG FISH of the European Commission as an Accompanying Measure to the Common Fisheries Policy.

Free entrance to the Workshops allowed representatives of the European aquaculture sector to have their say – representatives of the production sector (owners, managers, technicians, material and service suppliers), as well as the academic research sector, thematic network operators and public administrators.

Participants contributed to a wide range of broad **discussion points**:

- To give their opinion on a range of topics that affect European aquaculture, such as the Common Fisheries Policy, Sustainability, Food Safety, Fish Health...

- To identify the research needs on rearing technology, nutrition, diseases, new species, management, socio-economics, environment...
- To understand better what existing European networks like 'AquaFlow' (AA-ALL-NETS-01) and 'AquaTnet' (AF-ALL-TRAIN-01) are providing.

The 5 main workshops were held on the following **subjects**:

- Freshwater aquaculture and water use (Billund, Denmark)
- Warm water marine aquaculture (Athens, Greece)
- Hatchery technologies (Bordeaux, France)
- Inland fisheries and freshwater aquaculture (Budapest, Hungary)
- Coldwater marine aquaculture (Dublin, Ireland)

**Project acronym:**

PROFET

**Full title of Project:**

European Workshops on RTD Requirements for Professional Aquaculture

**EU contract number:**

Q5AM-CT-2002-00256

**Web-site:**

[www.feap.info/news/RTD/profet\\_en.asp](http://www.feap.info/news/RTD/profet_en.asp)

**Coordinator**

Mr. Courtney A.M. Hough  
Federation of European Aquaculture Producers  
Rue Nicolas Fossoul 54  
4100 Bonnelles  
Belgium

Phone: +32 433.82.995

Fax: +32 433.79.846

Email: [secretariat@feap.info](mailto:secretariat@feap.info)

In each case, presentations were made by Regional and International experts on topics and issues concerning the theme of the individual Workshop.

The workshops aimed to achieve the following **targets**:

- Be producer-oriented, identifying research and technology needs for species, topics or geographic regions;
- Provide guidelines, from the European professional aquaculture sector, as to the desired direction of European RTD policy and promote the opportunities for sustainable networking;
- Familiarise the producers with the activities of the networks, EU RTD policies and trends and RTD support mechanisms (particularly those concerning SMEs );
- Contribute to the creation of new inter-professional contacts.

strengthen their international contacts. In each case, officials of DG FISH of the European Commission participated and provided valuable information on policies and actions that concern European aquaculture.

A final Summary Meeting was held in Belgium (Brussels) in June 2004 for the presentation and preparation of the conclusions and recommendations of PROFET.



SPEAKERS AT THE PROFET WORKSHOP ON INLAND FISHERIES AND FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE, BUDAPEST, FEBRUARY 2004.

“ALL OF THE WORKSHOPS WERE TRANS-NATIONAL AND PROMOTED PAN-EUROPEAN COOPERATION”

All of the workshops were **trans-national** and promoted **pan-European cooperation**, not only at the professional level but also through the existing European networks of ‘Aquaflow’ and ‘AquaTnet’, where the network representatives demonstrated their activities and results so as to