

Debate on European policies for aquaculture and fisheries – how can RTD respond?

Profet Policy – a new action to support aquaculture and fisheries in Europe

European policies inevitably affect the operations and development of aquaculture and fisheries. While the Common Fisheries Policy provides the core direction for both sectors, there are many Directives and Regulations that result from other European policies and Action Plans, which also affect aquaculture and fisheries.

Profet Policy actions

Profet Policy will organize 9 workshops to present the policy issues that concern the aquaculture and the fisheries sector and to identify their needs for European RTD. It is anticipated that the workshops will provide opportunities for stakeholders to become better informed on European policies that affect their sector and, in addition, provide a platform for informed debate to identify the future research needs and other critical issues affecting the aquaculture and fisheries sector.

In addition, the possibilities of the 7th Framework Programme and the current consultation on the Green Paper for a Future Maritime Policy for Europe are additional elements that will be presented and discussed.

The workshops will be organised throughout Europe over the next 2 years, made on a regional and thematic basis. While some will treat aquaculture and fisheries separately, there will be at least 2 combined workshops.

The project also includes the preparation and communication of summaries on EU-funded research projects, made under recent Framework programmes, for aquaculture and fisheries.

Upcoming Workshops

2 workshops will be organized in the first 6 months of 2007:

1. Cold water marine aquaculture in Bergen (Norway)

on 15th-16th March, which is coordinated by the FEAP with FHL Havbruk, the Norwegian fish farmers association.

The topics include:

- Identification of critical and technical policy issues
- A review of the contribution of EU-funded RTD projects
- Opportunities for aquaculture research within the 7th Framework Programme
- Controlling diseases and maintaining healthy fish
- Providing sustainably-produced feeds
- Welfare and ethics in aquaculture
- Skill development and lifelong learning

Several individual projects will be presented – such as the integrated projects ‘Seafood Plus’ [the benefits of seafood] and ‘Aquamax’ [**Sustainable Aquafeeds to Maximise the Health Benefits of Farmed Fish for Consumers**], either as presentations or on presentation stands.

- **Baltic Fisheries in Vilnius (Lithuania)** on 19th-20th April which is organized by Eurofish.

The topics include:

- Ecosystem management and Baltic fisheries
- Baltic cod
- Sustainable development of Baltic fisheries

Preliminary programmes, agendas and registration forms for both events are available on the Profet Policy website (www.profetpolicy.info) under the Workshops Tab.

Speakers include senior representatives of the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, European RTD scientists and representatives of National Ministries and Institutes.

Commission officials will be present to describe the opportunities within the newly-launched 7th Framework programme and to discuss policy issues affecting the sector.

Policy documents

Each participant of the workshops will receive thematic compendia of Technical Leaflets on European RTD projects that relevant to the subject of each workshop. These Technical Leaflets, as well as background documents explaining different policies and the relevance of RTD themes to policy positions will also be provided through the website.

Profet Policy – Project Organisation

The consortium that manages Profet Policy is composed of different European organizations and associations that represent aquaculture and fisheries interests.

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) represents the professional side of European fish farming while the European Association of Producer Organisations (EAPO) covers professional fisheries. Eurofish provides access to stakeholders in the Baltic, Central and Eastern Europe.

The International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and the European Aquaculture Society (EAS) provide the bridge to scientists that are specialized in fisheries and aquaculture research.

Finally, AquaTT brings to the consortium its wide experience of training, dissemination and networking.

For more information, contact the FEAP Secretariat [tel: +32 4 338 2995 – email: secretariat@feap.info] or consult the project website at www.profetpolicy.info .

Programme and Agenda for Workshop on Coldwater Marine Aquaculture

Scandic Bergen City Hotel

Bergen, Norway,
15th-16th March 2007

Draft Agenda

- Target audience: fish farmers and aquaculture associations, government representatives, research institutions and other stakeholders.
- Duration: 1 ½ days

DAY 1		
SESSION 1: REGIONAL AQUACULTURE AND RESEARCH		
Time	Issue	Speaker
8:30	Registration in Hotel	
09:30	Opening Remarks on Profet Policy <i>Background on Research Compilation and poster presenta-</i>	Courtney Hough (FEAP) – Project Co-ordinator
09:40	The Community Framework Programmes – Support for Aquaculture	Jacques Fuchs – European Commission
10:10	Relevance of European and National aquaculture research to the sector	Olav Breck - Marine Harvest)
10:30	Critical technical and policy issues affecting cold water marine aquaculture – integrating sustainability within an economic sector	Knut Hjelt/Kjell Maroni/Jon Arne Grottum (FHL Havbruk)
11:00	Coffee Break	

This session is an introductory session.

- Opening remarks to explain the background on Profet Policy.
- The Community Framework Programmes and aquaculture – covering how the Community programmes support RTD in European Aquaculture – particular reference to FP5 and FP6
- The second talk will cover how the professional sector views the relevance of research activities to its function – strengths/weaknesses and gaps.
- The third talk will aim to present the context in which professional cold water marine aquaculture operates, while highlighting policy and technical issues that affect future development.

Effectively, the idea is to generate a review of the approach of European and national research – how does National research differ from European research areas – complementarity – who does what?

SESSION 2: POLICY FRAMEWORK		
Time	Issue	Speaker
11.30	Aquaculture development in Europe	A representative of the Aquaculture Unit of DG Fisheries)
11.50	Additional policies affecting aquaculture development – environment, food safety, welfare...	Richie Flynn (IFA)
12.10	Impact of the proposal for an integrated maritime policy on aquaculture	A representative of the Maritime Policy Task Force)
12.30	Questions and Answers with Speakers of Sessions 1 & 2	

This session will give the policy background to aquaculture in Northern Europe – providing a general position on the sector within the Common Fisheries Policy/Sustainable aquaculture development.

- The first talk will reflect on the policies for marine aquaculture in Northern Europe and particularly the CFP and the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture
- Links between the content of the CFP and other European policies – and accompanying legislation – that affect aquaculture will be highlighted, including environmental policies, consumer protection, welfare/health.
- The last presentation will present the Green Paper on a proposal for an integrated maritime policy in Europe, demonstrating the different issues and topics that may affect or support the position of marine aquaculture.

Discussion should provide positions on how national/regional issues affect the application/development of national policies in the Region and provide information on how different States are approaching the topics raised.

SESSION 3: RTD NEEDS RELATED TO EUROPEAN POLICIES		
Time	Issue	Speaker
14.00	Maintaining healthy fish – RTD contributions and needs	Brit Hjeltnes (Norwegian Veterinary Institute)
14.20	Controlling infectious diseases – a progress review and the choices available for the future	Representatives of Schering Plough Aquaculture/Intervet Norbio/Pharmaq
14.50	Marine Protected areas or aquaculture in the coastal zone? Choice or combination?– Research results and the needs for RTD	Aina Valland (FHL Havbruk)
15.10	The benefits of seafood to the Consumer – results of the Sea-food Plus project	Torger Borresen – Pro-

These presentations will all provide a review of the issues and appropriate RTD projects that have addressed these (by instruction from the organisers)

This session will focus on the broader issues of development and how policies are influencing the response and viability of the sector. It will present an analysis on the policies and legislation that are driving or hindering development and identify research requirements.

SESSION 4: RTD NEEDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
Time	Issue	Speaker
16.00	Sustainable feeds for fish farming – a review of progress and the issues (FORM and Aquamax)	Oyvind Lie – Coordinator of Aquamax
16.20	Welfare and ethics in aquaculture	Anders Kiessling – COST Welfare
16.40	Skill development & Lifelong learning in Aquaculture	David Murphy (AquaTT)
17.00	Interactions of aquaculture with the environment	Kenneth Black – ECASA project
17.30	Questions and Answers with Speakers of Sessions 3 & 4	

These presentations will also provide a review of the issues and appropriate RTD projects that have addressed these (by instruction from the organisers)

This session will target some of the broad issues identified within sustainable development discussions that affect aquaculture, looking particularly at the work environment and the knowledge-based skills required in the sector.

DAY 2		
SESSION 5: SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT		
Time	Issue	Speaker
09.00	What opportunities for diversification in northern European aquaculture?	tbc
09.30	Certification and Labelling - A contribution to consumer demands	Brit Lonnas (Standard Norway)
09.50	Knowledge on the professional sector – Data collection	Jon Arne Grottum (FHL Havbruk)
10.20	Interaction with fisheries – the cod position	Pal Arne Bjorn
10.40	A proposal for a European Aquaculture Technology Platform	Torgeir Edvardsen

The 5th session will examine different measures that provide support for the development of aquaculture.

- Certification and labelling positions will be reviewed and addressed
- Interactions with fisheries will be reviewed
- A presentation on the proposal for a European Aquaculture Technology Platform will be made.

SESSION 6: FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS		
Time	Issue	Speaker
11.15	Questions that need answers – future research requirements	Lars Horn (ESF Marine Board)
11.35	7 th Framework Programme – impact on and opportunities for aquaculture	Mario Lopes Santos European Commission
12.00	Discussion with Workshop Participants	Moderated by Courtney Hough (FEAP)
12.45	Conclusions and recommendations	Rapporteur

The closing session on the workshop will focus on assessing future research needs for coldwater marine aquaculture, including

- An assessment of the main questions that need answering (including those that have been raised already)
- A presentation of the 7th Framework programme and its contribution to aquaculture research

It will be concluded by an open discussion with workshop participants to discuss policy issues and needs for future research.

Conclusions and recommendations will be provided by the Workshop Rapporteur.

Poster Presentations will made on specific European projects (draft list)

1. Consensus – prepared by EAS
2. Seafood Plus – prepared by Project Consortium
3. Aquamax – prepared by NIFES/FEAP
4. Finefish – prepared by Akvaforsk/FEAP
5. Wave – prepared by AquaTT
6. Safe working place – by Mr. Karlsen
7. ECASA – Kenneth Black – to confirm

Other handouts can be placed on registration desk or Profet Policy presentation desk/stand