Statistics on aquaculture

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In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 762/2008, the Commission presents a report on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture. The report documents the progress made by Member States and EEA countries, together with the Commission, on implementation of the Regulation. The information supplied by Member States in their asessments forms the basis of the report.

Main findings: the main results of the analysis are the following:

- 21 Member States and Norway provided information for Eurostat's cost-effectiveness analysis for fields covered by the 2008-2012 Community Statistical Programme. Of the countries not providing aquaculture data under transitional arrangements, **more than half assessed the burden of responding to Eurostat as being low with the remainder assessing the burden as being medium** . As not all Member States are currently sending data, a more detailed cost benefit analysis would not be useful at this stage.
- In addition to this Regulation, there are a number of other EC requirements for collecting and providing information on the aquaculture sector and for which a monitoring and reporting infrastructure will already have been established. This partially explains why the statistical reporting burden is not seen by Member States as being particularly heavy.
- In 2009, **the volume of production in the EU amounted to nearly 1.3 million tonnes**, 77% of which came from marine areas: 52% from the Atlantic and 24% from the Mediterranean and Black Sea.
- Four countries, **Spain, France, the United Kingdom and Italy accounted for more than 66% of EU production in 2009**. Spain with production of over 268 thousand tonnes (22%) made the major contribution followed by France, over 236 thousand tonnes (21%), the United Kingdom, nearly 197 thousand tonnes (15%), and Italy, more than 162 thousand tonnes (13%). Norwegian production at nearly 962 thousand tonnes, is equal to more than 74% of total EU production.
- In 2009 **molluscs (mainly Mediterranean and Blue mussels) accounted for more than half of total volume of production**. Of the marine fish cultivated, Atlantic Salmon, Gilthead Seabream and European Seabass were the most significant in terms of production volume, and Trouts and Common Carp the most important freshwater species.
- A number of Member States report economically significant production of **fish eggs** for human consumption totalling just under 1,000 tonnes for those countries reporting with a value of more than EUR 22 million. Production of trout eggs accounted for nearly 98% of production by volume but less than half of the value of production. Production of sturgeon caviar although less than 2% of production made up more than half of the total reported value.
- Information on **capture-based aquaculture** was provided for eight Member States. The most significant species are mussels (Blue Mussel and Mediterranean Mussel) and Bluefin Tuna.
- Information supplied on production of hatcheries and nuseries in terms of volume by country, largely follows that for overall production, with **Spain and France being the most important producers**.

Recommendations: as a number of Member States are still operating under transitional arrangments for implementing Regulation (EC) No. 762/2008 a comprehensive evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with producing the data has not been possible at this time. A more detailed evaluation will be conducted at the end of the transitional period under the auspices of the Working Group on Fisheries Statistics.

As not all Member States are yet supplying data under the Aquaculture Statistics Regulation, it has not been possible to compile full figures for the EU for aquaculture data except for production. A number of Member States have encountered issues with collecting the full data in compliance with the new requirements when implementing their data collection systems but are addressing these in consultation with Eurostat and as part of their own processes of continuous improvement. Data quality at the aggregate level appears to be quite high for production data and for input to hatcheries and nurseries for most Member States. However this is less good at the more detailed level and more **needs to be done to ensure data consistency in the future**. Specific problems with **definitions for stages in lifecycle** need to be addressed.

There are **outstanding issues with data quality for some Member States particularly for structure data**. These are being addressed bilaterally with Member States. Eurostat is currently involved in implementing new information systems which will flag up quality problems early and allow them to be more speedily rectified and the data published. For structure data, some are supplied annually to FAO between years where Eurostat collects data, and these reports should be used to cross-check the Eurostat structure reports.

Eurostat is developing a '**Confidentiality Charter**' which will define how data will be treated by Eurostat to preserve confidentiality and how data may be shared within the Commission services and other interested bodies, including the FAO.