Basic information

2002/2058(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Aquaculture in the European Union: present and future **Subject** 3.15.02 Aquaculture 8.20.13 Enlargement's fisheries point of view	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	MARTIN Hugues (PPE-DE)	13/03/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	MCKENNA Patricia (V/ALE)	23/04/2002

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2481	2003-01-27

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/05/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/12/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
10/12/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0448/2002	
16/01/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0022/2003	Summary
16/01/2003	Debate in Parliament		
16/01/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/01/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		

12/02/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2058(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/16120

Aquaculture in the European Union: present and future

2002/2058(INI) - 19/09/2002 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE : to present a strategy for the sustainable development of European aquaculture. CONTENT : the Commission strategy for a sustainable development of the European aquaculture industry aims at: - creating long term secure employment, in particular in fishing-dependent areas; - assuring the availability to consumers of products that are healthy, safe and of good quality, as well as promoting high animal health and welfare standards; - ensuring an environmentally sound industry. 1) concerning the creation of long term secure employment : the success of aquaculture in creating employment will depend on the ability of the industry to be economically viable and self-sufficient. This involves aspects related to production development, market, training, and governance. Production development is possible at a quicker pace than in the recent past but aquaculture has to remain a market-led activity. A variety of "structural" actions is needed: enlarging the number of farmed species, not encouraging the construction of new production capacities for branches that are already close to market saturation, developing tools to check and inform stakeholders about production and markets, improving marketing, communication efforts, promotional campaigns and generic advertising, improving the partnership between producers and promote good management practice. These actions should include preventive measures aiming to avoid introduction of new pathogens and the spread of diseases to farmed and wild stocks. The FIFG regulation will be adapted in order to take in consideration these new challenges and objectives. Quality aspects are also important: the Union has provided for the key legislative instruments and incentives, so now it is up to the producers and their associations to take the initiative. The emerging sector of organic production will contribute to expanding the industry; it is necessary, however, to establish a common definition of "organic aquaculture production" with specific norms and criteria. A critical limiting factor for production development is the availability of space and clean water. Developing certain technologies such as water re-circulating systems, offshore cages and long-lines will allow for a reduction of dependence on local resources. Nevertheless, this cannot solve all the problems; Integrated Coastal Zone Management will be needed for a proper integration of aquaculture with the other activities carried out on the coast. Training is needed in order to maintain the entry of well-qualified technical and managerial staff into the sector in the future, especially women. Stakeholders' participation in the process of policy planning for aquaculture at local, national and international level needs to be improved. Member States are invited to consider this issue. The Commission encourages the industry to self-regulate and to adhere to the EMAS scheme. 2) to ensure the availability of healthy products for the consumer, the Commission is working on the key issue of product safety, through the current revision of the existing legislation, the new provisions on dioxin control and the reinforced surveillance for antibiotic residues. The Commissionis also working on a recasting of a number of key Directives on public and animal health issues, and on updating the legislation on veterinary medicines. In addition, a regular updating and adaptation of the animal health legislation to developments in the industry, practical experience and scientific knowledge gained, is carried out. International action to improve the welfare of farmed fish is progressing, and the Commission is contributing to it. The Commission will consider proposing legislation in due course. 3) in order to promote an environmentally sound industry, the Commission will consider the development of specific criteria and guidelines for aquaculture Environmental Impact Assessments. It may also consider extending the field of application of the "nitrates" Directive (91/676/EC) to include intensive fish farming. The inclusion of intensive fish farming within the scope of the IPPC Directive 96/61/EC would also lead to improved environmental performance across the board and will help to reassure the European consumer about the environmental sustainability of the industry. To minimise other potential environmental risks, the Commission will consider the development of rules on containment of farmed fish, the implementation of management rules on the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species, as well as the need for specific legislation on transgenic fish. The Commission invites the relevant national authorities to recognise and support the potential beneficial effects of extensive aquaculture on the environment. This will also require to take measures to protect it against predation from wild species. Finally, research in aquaculture should be strengthened. EU-wide aquaculture research and development needs with a clear relation to CFP issues should be addressed by EU research funding schemes. Research related to industrial development will mainly be addressed by the industry itself, helped by national programmes and by general Community incentives such as SME research funding, although it is envisaged that in the future these needs will also be in the supported by national FIFG programmes.

Aquaculture in the European Union: present and future

2002/2058(INI) - 16/01/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Hugues MARTIN (EPP-ED, France) on aquaculture in the EU. (Please refer to the document dated 10/12/02.) The resolution was adopted by 421 votes for, 7 against and 42 abstentions. Parliament also

pointed out that tests for detecting toxins are not sufficiently accurate and methods of measuring toxicity have not been standardised at European level, resulting - because excessive precautions are sometimes taken - in longer harvesting and marketing bans. This can threaten the most vulnerable farms and significantly restrict the development of production activities, especially as regards farming of marine bivalve molluscs. The positive trend in recent years towards reduced use of pharmaceuticals, chemicals and other artificial substances in aquaculture should be promoted and resources invested in the further prevention of diseases. Parliament asked the Commission to encourage research into the problems of escaped fish, transgenic fish, and alien species, and to put forward proposals concerning the introduction of the latter into the environment. It expressed concern that salmon from fish farms can affect natural fish populations, primarily genetically but noted that work is being done to minimise the risk. The Commission was also asked to introduce a code of conduct that clearly defines best practice in the production of smoked fish, in particular, avoiding the use of colouring agents and smoke essences combined with ultra-short smoking times. Finally, Parliament suggested that the Commission, the Member States, professional and inter-professional organisations should together draw up a concerted communications programme to improve the image of the aquaculture sector, and to inform the public about the advantages and potential offered by the sector. Specific legislation must be incorporated in Regulation 1263/1999/EC promoting the quality of aquaculture products by means of designations of origin. Communication operations should present aquaculture products as non-genetically modified products.