

Workshop:

Scientific input to the integrated management of sea bass

European Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference
Rome, May, 19 – 20th, 2009

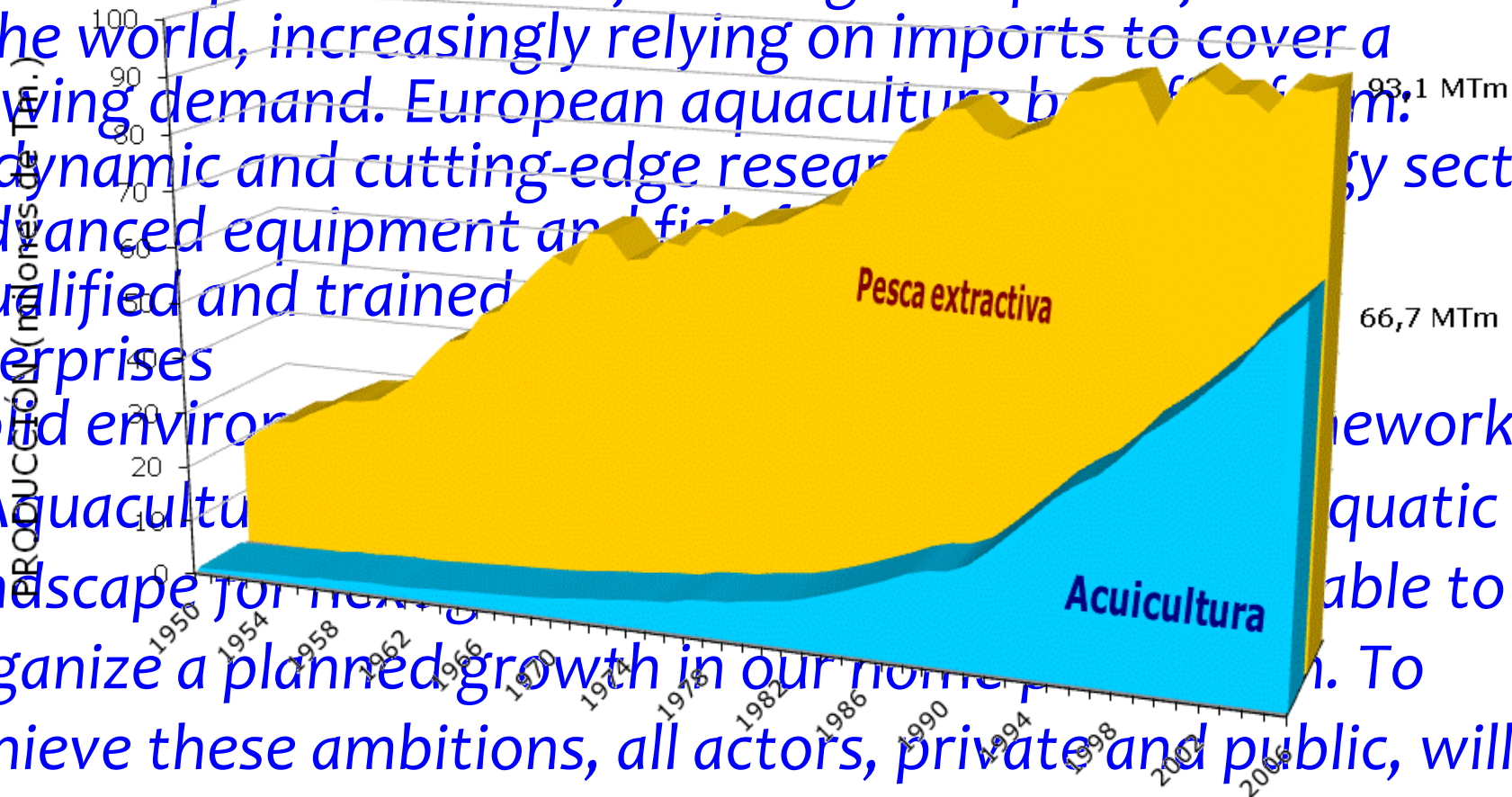
Dr. Fernando Torrent

EATIP Core Group – Chairman of Thematic Area “Interactions with the environment”

• The EU represents one of the largest aquatic-food markets in the world, increasingly relying on imports to cover a growing demand. European aquaculture production is estimated at 66,7 MTm.

- A dynamic and cutting-edge research and development sector
- Advanced equipment and fish health management
- Qualified and trained workforce
- Solid environmental management

• Aquaculture production is expected to increase significantly in the coming years. To achieve these ambitions, all actors, private and public, will have to be committed to the future of the European aquaculture sector.





a.- Brief presentation of the very recent European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform

Main objectives

- To enable stakeholders of relevant economic and social interests to identify together the innovation challenges for their collective interests.
- To develop a STRATEGIC RESEARCH AGENDA that responds to the challenges identified.
- To implement the results of appropriate RTD through effective dissemination and technology transfer mechanisms.

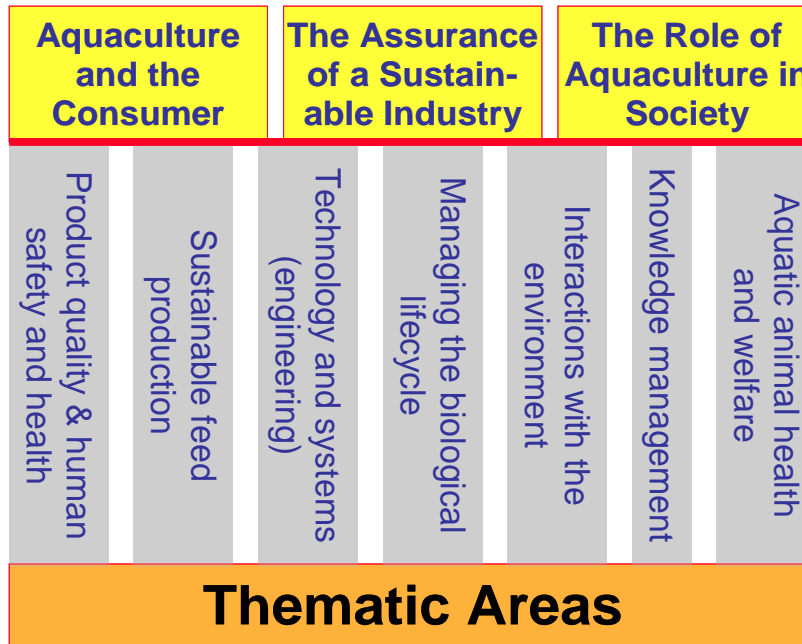
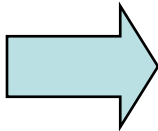
Main priorities

- v Establishing a strong relationship between aquaculture and the consumer. Including contributions to health, quality, traceability...
- v The assurance of a sustainable industry. Covering social, environmental and economic issues
- v Consolidation of the role of aquaculture in society. Addressing knowledge management, skill development, communications, networking...

Strategy, Structure, Processes

Vision

SRA



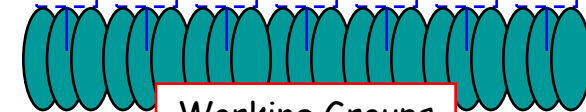
Stakeholders Meeting

Board of Directors

Secretariat

Operative Council

Thematic Areas



Working Groups

Implementation Plan

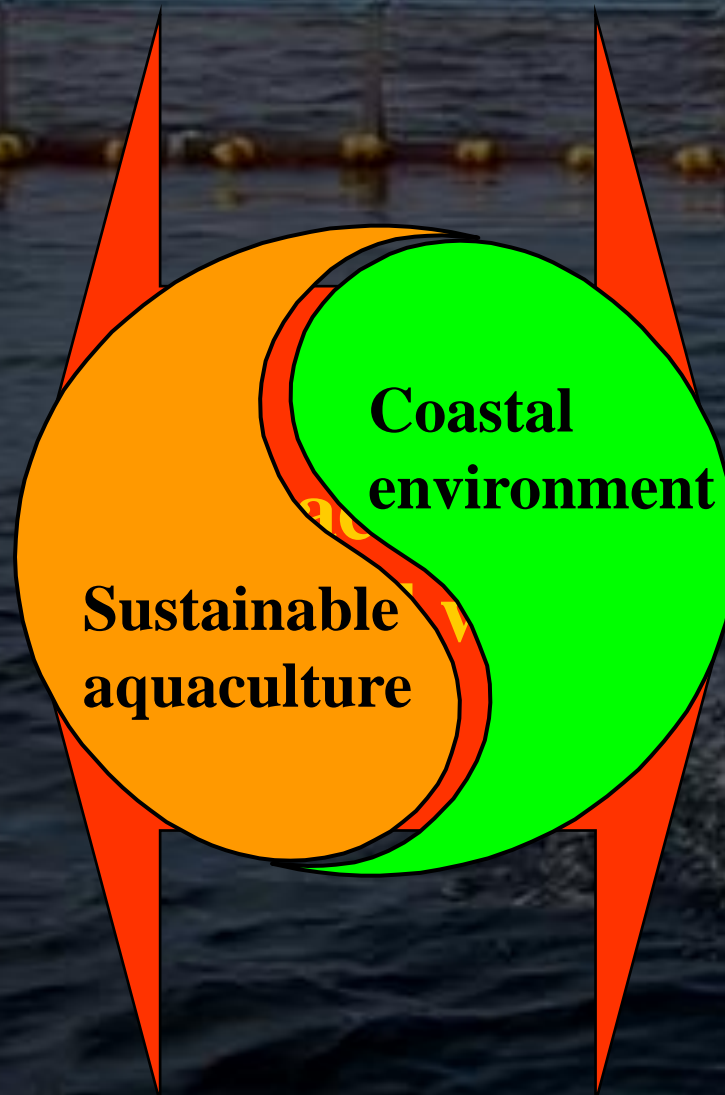
b.- Identification of and response to main environmental challenges

- Aquaculture is expected to develop widely in the near future, in Europe. We have improved our knowledge in the recent years about aquaculture planning. In order to avoid potential environmental disruption issues, it is important that the aquaculture sector is provided with clear, user friendly and scientifically based guidelines to ensure its sustainable development

Aquaculture interaction with environment

Aquaculture may contribute to:

- ✓ Nutrient and Organic wastes, harmful coastal eutrophication
- ✓ Chemicals
- ✓ Interaction with fisheries
- ✓ Escapes, including interactions with wild stocks, some harmful



Aquaculture is sensitive to:

- ✓ Other polluting industries
- ✓ Urban run-off
- ✓ Chemicals
- ✓ Harmful coastal eutrophication
- ✓ Food safety generally, reputation

c.- Adaptation to environmental changes and space limitation

- Most of the potential environmental impacts of aquaculture can be managed and minimised through the understanding of the processes, responsible management and the effective siting of farms (UICN; 2008).
- Site rotation, separation of year class generations. These methods are vital for sustainable cage farming and will require more space in the coastal zone. We should avoid making mistakes due to lack of knowledge in the past. As it happened to Norway, Scotland, Faroe island, and now Chile.

- The increasing competition for space represents a major challenge for further developing or even maintaining all forms of coastal aquaculture.
- Area choice is crucial and spatial planning has a key role to play in providing guidance and reliable data for the location of an economic activity, giving certainty to investors, avoiding conflicts and finding synergies between activities and environments with the ultimate aim of sustainable development.
- The future framework needs to be predictable, consistent and cost effective in order to allow the industry realise its potential.

(EU Comission,Com (2009)162;08/04/2009)

d.- Interface with science and policy

- The sustainable development of aquaculture should be supported by excellence in research and innovation. As we have described, European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP), is aiming to provide a strategic vision and define priorities for the European aquaculture sector with respect to research and technological development.
- Technological innovations in farming systems have proven efficient means for the aquaculture industry to reduce their environmental impacts. We need to improve this efficiency.

e.-What are the gaps and the way forward:

Guiding principle for European aquaculture

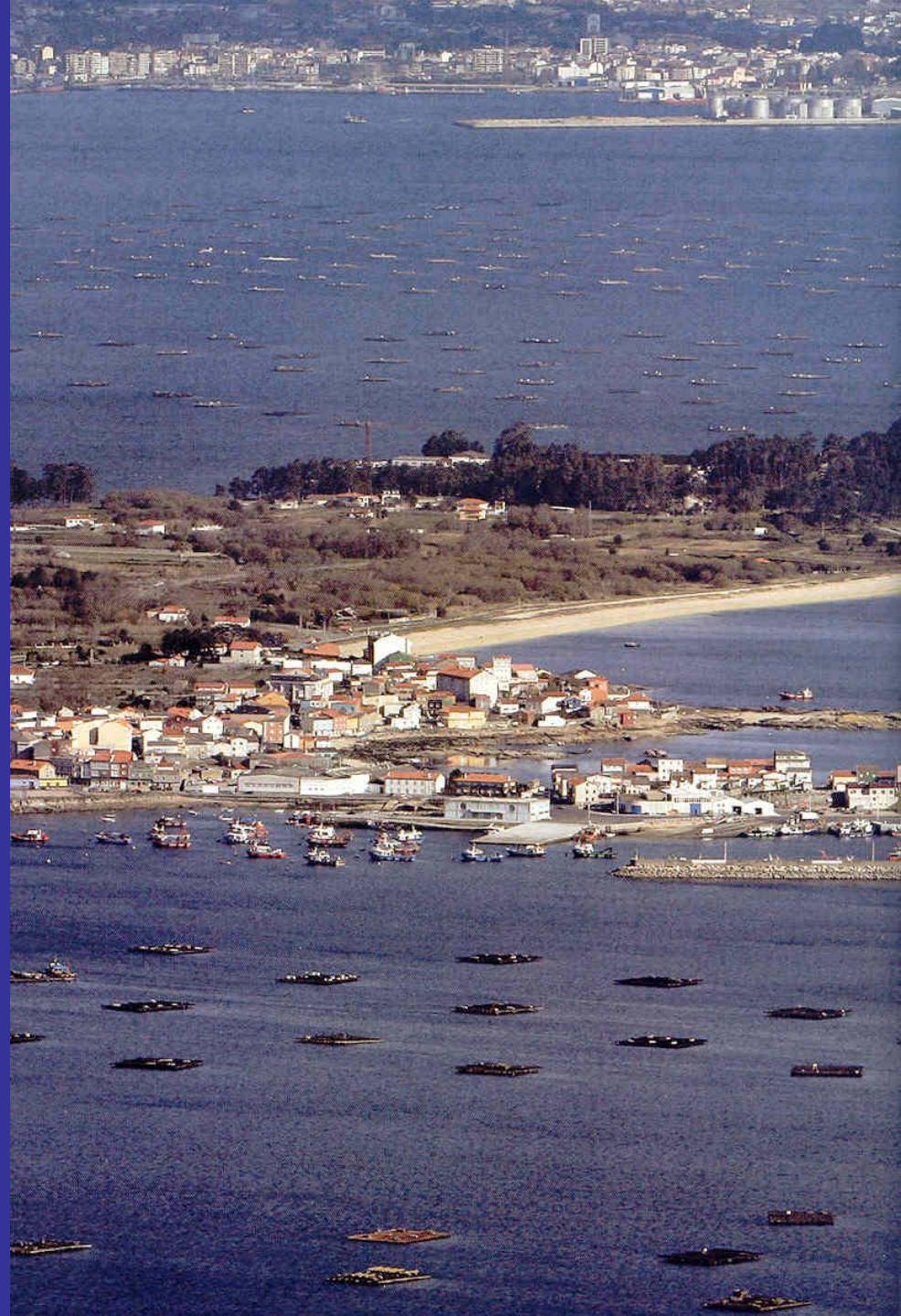
“Search for environmentally sustainable solutions for production, which are also economically, socially, and energy-wise sustainable”

Paramount for that development:

- *Choosing the right priorities and Implementing our research capacity, allowing the industry sector develops structurally and technologically*
- *A recognition that a pure aquatic environment is paramount for seafood security and the aquaculture industries*
- *The public perception of aquaculture and its environmental interaction*

An example Galicia (Northwest Spain)

*Mussel farming existing since 1945,
sustainable aquaculture,
economically vital for coastal
communities and socially
accepted (11.500 employees)*



Thank you for your attention