HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Rural Development and Food

General Directorate of Sustainable Fisheries
Directorate of Aquaculture & Products Utilization

"Single Law on Aquaculture in Greece"

"Tapping into blue growth:
the way forward for European aquaculture"
(Brussels, 24 May 2016)

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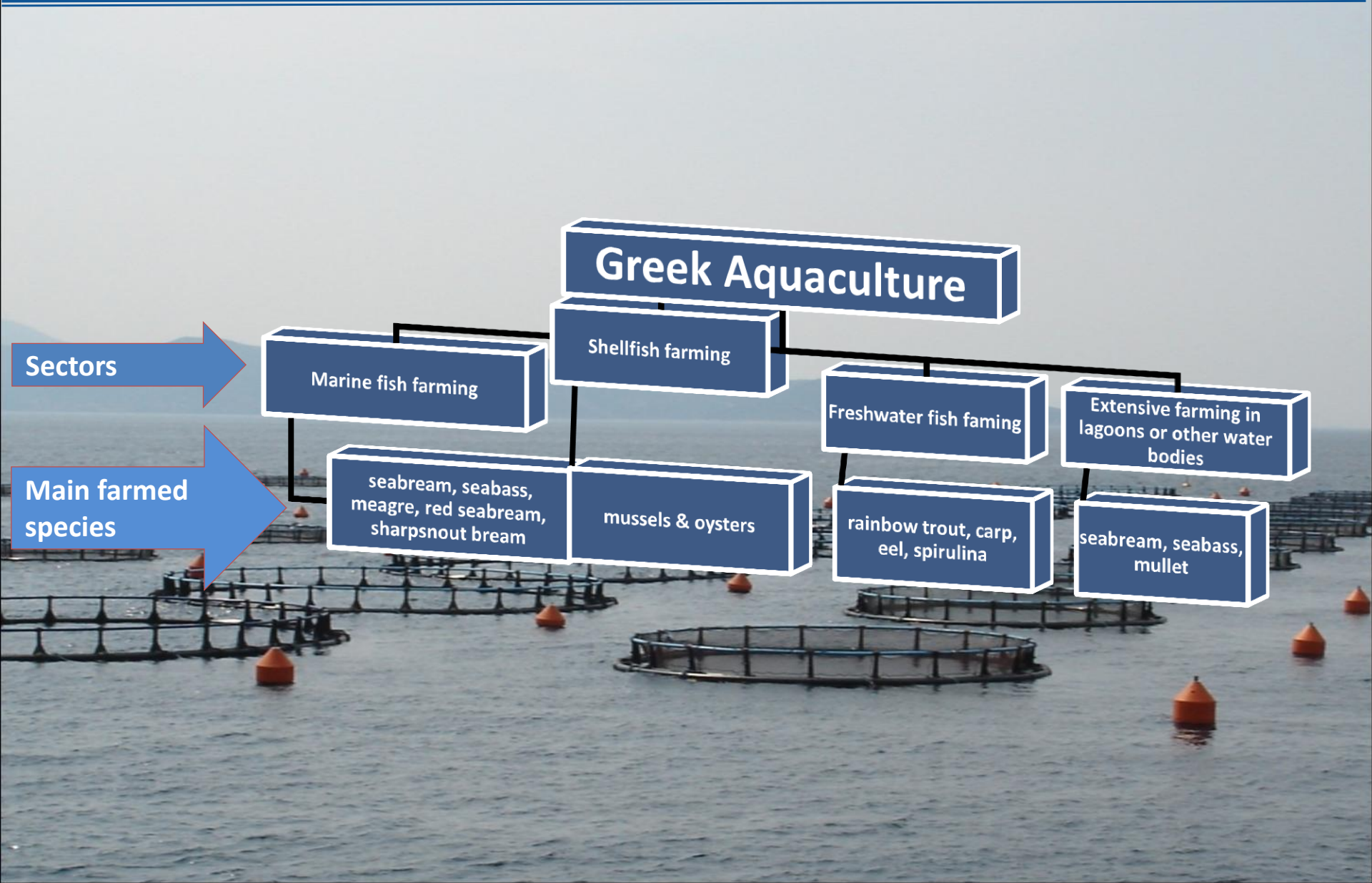
Aquaculture in Greece
AN OVERVIEW



Aquaculture in Greece
AN OVERVIEW

The Greek aquaculture industry, with emphasis in marine aquaculture, had a considerable development during the last 30 years.

- With a production of more than 100.000 tones, it became **a strategic pillar of the Greek economy** being steadily one of the top three exporters of agricultural products.
- Considerably adds to the national balance of seafood trade.
- Became **major employer** in rural and remote islandic and border areas of the country.
- Offers considerable number of direct (10.000) and indirect (8.000) jobs, mainly in aquaculture relate activities (cage and equipment manufacturing, fish feed production, fish processing industry & services, etc.).
- Offers a high-quality, fully traceable, safe and tasty product to the consumer in Europe, USA and other countries, at a reasonable price.
- Marine aquaculture related research and technology flourished and research institutes have gained a worldwide recognition.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE LAW FOR AQUACULTURE

Law 4282/29.08.2014 (GG A' 182)

- **Defines the institutional framework for aquaculture development**, by permitting the use of aquatic areas (marine and lakes) for the installation of intensive or semi-intensive aquaculture units

- **Describes the rules and procedures for licensing** of aquaculture units in aquatic and terrestrial areas

- **Solves problems of the previous institutional framework** :
  - Previous legal framework incomplete, fragmented, complicated
  - Complex and bureaucratic licensing procedures
  - Implication of a numerous authorities
  - Confusion and uncertainty for competent authorities & the applicants
  - High administrative costs for administration services
  - Large economic costs for investors

CHAPTER I: Scope and Definitions

Scope

- It defines the institutional framework for the development of the aquaculture sector.
- It describes the rules and procedures for the concession of aquatic areas and for issuing the establishment and operation licence
- It is referred to intensive and semi-intensive aquaculture units

The National Aquaculture Development Programme (NADP)

- It poses the national development objectives for the sector, applying the guidelines of national spatial planning and in the frame of the Common Fisheries Policy.
- It is prepared under the responsibility of the competent services of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and approved by the ministry, following an opinion by the National Council for Aquaculture.

The National Aquaculture Council (NAC)

- **Its role** is to advice the Minister of Rural Development and Food:
  - ✓ On the formulation and implementation of the NADP
  - ✓ On the institutional reforms needed to support the sector's development strategy
- **Its composition** (10 members):
  - ✓ Representatives of competent authorities
  - ✓ Research experts
  - ✓ Industry representatives
  - ✓ The Geotechnical Chamber of Greece
  - ✓ Environmental & consumers organization

CHAPTER II: Concession of aquatic and public terrestrial areas

- Describes **procedures for leasing aquatic areas** and for **concession without an exchange** (pilot units, experimental purposes).
- Defines the **time duration for leasing** (introduction of an increase to 20 years for marine areas).
- Defines procedures for **the pre-authorization for marine space leasing**, as well as the competent authorities that give their assent or opinion, regarding the suitability of the area.
- Specifies the obligations, preconditions, time limits etc., for issuing the establishment and operation license.
- Introduces granting of **the right for administration and management of leased aquatic areas to the management bodies of the Organized Areas of Aquaculture**.
- Describes procedures for concession renewal, expansion and relocation of a unit.
- Introduces procedures for **temporary relocation of a unit for 3 years max** (e.g. for fallowing).
- Describes the **determination of leasing rates**.
- Defines **lease attribution**, introducing that part of it goes to the management bodies of the Organized Areas of Aquaculture.

CHAPTER III: Establishment and Operation License

- Describes the **procedures for the authorization of the establishment and operation license** of aquaculture units in aquatic and terrestrial areas.
- Defines **the necessary documentation**, including individual permits and licenses, like environmental licensing, veterinary license, water use permit etc.
- Introduces **the single licensing authority, (one-stop shop)**, which undertakes to process and complete the procedures, in collaboration with the co-responsible authorities. This is the Directorate of Rural Development of the local Decentralized Administration.
- Describes the procedures for renewal, modification, recall and suspension of a license.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE LAW

CHAPTER IV: Administrative sanctions, authorizing and transitional provisions

- Defines **the inspection services** and their responsibilities, the **enforcement procedures** of posing **administrative sanctions** relating to aquaculture units infringements, especially arbitrary occupation of water areas.

- **Authorizes the Minister** of Rural Development and Food, with competent Ministers, as appropriate, to regulate and specify technical issues and details for the implementation of the law, with their decisions (delegated acts).

- Lays down **transitional provisions** regarding administrative procedures and operation of units. Operating units can adjust their licensing to the provisions of the law, under certain rules and preconditions, within a period of 2 years from the entry into force of the law.

THE MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE LAW

- **A single text law for aquaculture development**, with clear regulations for the concession of aquatic areas and licensing procedures, for intensive and semi-intensive units

- **Innovations:**
  - ✓ The National Aquaculture Development Programme
  - ✓ The National Council for Aquaculture

  (This is an important tool, a sound voice of all stakeholders for taking the correct political decisions)
  - ✓ One single licensing authority (one-stop shop), to facilitate the applicants access

- **Simplification of licensing procedures**:
  - ✓ A pre-authorization for the lease of aquatic areas is issued (lease payment follows final license)
  - ✓ Veterinary license is incorporated in the establishment and operation license
  - ✓ Separate permits (i.e. water use) are abolished or incorporated in environmental licensing
  - ✓ Time limits are set, to defined and with concrete role competent authorities
  - ✓ Leasing time duration is increased

- **Other benefits**:
  - ✓ Regulates matters for the management of Areas for Organized Aquaculture Development
  - ✓ Reduces time and costs for the investors

Thank you for your attention