

## Criteria and thresholds for requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment in aquaculture

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	<b>Criteria for requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Thresholds for requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment</b>
<b>Austria</b>		
<b>Belgium</b>	Wallonia: production	Wallonia: >30 tonnes production / year
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Case by case assessment	
<b>Croatia</b>	Marine: production. Freshwater: production, surface area.	>100 tonnes production / year (marine fish farms inside Coastal Protected Areas) >700 tonnes production / year (marine fish farms outside CPA but within 1 nautical mile of the coast) >3.500 tonnes production / year (marine fish farms outside CPA and more than 1 nautical mile away from the coast)  >400 t production / year (shellfish farms inside CPA)  Case by case assessment of need for EIA for: - marine fish farms inside CPA with production <100 t - freshwater salmonid farms with production >5 t (national competence if >10t) - freshwater cyprinid farms with area >50ha (national competence if >100ha)
<b>Cyprus</b>		
<b>Czech Republic</b>		
<b>Denmark</b>	Nutrient discharges. Effects on Natura 2000 sites.	No specific limit; case-by-case assessment of need for EIA. Freshwater fish farms are able to reduce nutrient discharges (and thereby need for EIA) by increased recirculation, mechanical filters, biofilters etc. Shellfish farms (i.e. marine farms without use of feed) are not

		themselves subject to EIA.
<b>Estonia</b>	Feed use (same for marine and freshwater)	> 200 tonnes / year feed: preliminary environmental impact assessment (EIA) < 200 tonnes / year feed: case by case. preliminary environmental impact assessment (EIA)
<b>Finland</b>	Mainland Finland: feed use, annual growth, surface area.  Aaland: production.	Mainland Finland: 1. >2.000 kilograms of dry feed (or a nutritionally equivalent amount of other feed); or 2. annual growth (proliferation) of fish > 2.000 kilograms; or 3.>20 hectares in area (extensive ponds).  Aaland: > 20 tonnes production / year
<b>France</b>	Production	>20 tonnes production / year (<20 tonnes: case by case)
<b>Germany</b>	Production	Individual federal states of Germany have fixed different thresholds. example federal state of Schleswig-Holstein: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 – 100 t production per year: obligation to carry on a preliminary assessment</li> <li>• &gt; 100 t production per year: a general assessment is required</li> </ul>
<b>Greece</b>	Common criteria for marine & freshwater aquaculture. 1. Inclusion or not in AZA. 2. Inclusion or not in environmentally protected areas. 3. Production volume. 4. Technologies and types of aquaculture appearing for first time. 5. Protected species. 6. Alien species.	- All fish hatcheries when not located in AZA. - Marine fish farms not located in AZA. - Marine fish farms located in AZA and in NATURA 2000 areas. - Marine fish farms located in AZA but not in NATURA 2000 areas and ≥ 500 tons/year. - Shellfish farms not located in AZA. - Shellfish farms located in AZA and ≥ 200 tons/year. - Freshwater farms located in NATURA 2000 areas. - Freshwater farms ≥ 200 tons/year and not located in NATURA 2000 areas. - Technologies and types of aquaculture appearing for first time. - Protected species. - Alien species.  In cases that EIA is not needed, instead, farms issue and submit for approval a “Letter of Commitment to Environmental Norms”.
<b>Hungary</b>	Type of production (intensive,	Obligatory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- intensive pond or cage farms in nature protection areas of state significance;</li> </ul>

	<p>extensive)  Location in nature protection areas of state significance  Production area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pond farms whose area covers at least 30 ha of nature protection areas of state significance.</li> </ul> <p>Case by case assessment of need for EIA for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- other intensive cage or tank farms,</li> <li>- fishpond systems of more than 30 ha,</li> <li>- intensive fishpond systems of more than 5 ha;</li> <li>- fishpond systems situated in legally protected or Natura 2000 areas</li> </ul>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>All new and renewal aquaculture licences are subject to a screening process to determine if a full EIA is required. An EIA/EIS is mandatory for seawater salmonid breeding installations in accordance with 'Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations', 1998 - S.I. No. 236/1998.</p>	<p>There is no lower threshold for an EIA in Ireland, therefore a screening assessment is carried out on each licence application and renewal on an individual basis except for marine salmonid licences where an EIA/EIS is mandatory.</p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>Surface area</p>	<p>Obligatory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new intensive fish farms on surface exceeding 5ha</li> </ul> <p>If fish farms are placed in "<i>sensitive areas</i>" the threshold is reduced of 50%.</p> <p>"<i>Sensitive areas</i>" are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Wetlands</i></li> <li>- <i>Coastal areas</i></li> <li>- <i>Mountain and forest areas</i></li> <li>- <i>Reserves and natural parks, areas classified or protected under the national legislation</i></li> <li>- <i>Special protection areas (Dir. 2009/147/CE and 92/43/CEE)</i></li> <li>- <i>Areas in which the environmental quality standards set by European Union legislation have already been exceeded</i></li> <li>- <i>Areas of high population density</i></li> <li>- <i>Landscapes of historical , cultural or archaeological</i></li> </ul>

		The EIA is evaluated by the national and/or regional government depending on the relevance of the project. Other public bodies are consulted. Regional laws can provide additional criteria (eg. Liguria EIA is applied also to shellfish culture)
<b>Latvia</b>	Surface area	>10 ha
<b>Lithuania</b>	Surface area	>5 ha. the planned activity may have significant impact on "Natura 2000" areas;
<b>Malta</b>	Always required	Always required
<b>Netherlands</b>		
<b>Poland</b>	Production intensity (tonnes/hectare), water use	
<b>Portugal</b>	Marine finfish: production Freshwater finfish and lagoons: surface area or production Shellfish: no EIA	> 1.000 tonnes production / year (marine finfish) > 2 ha or > 200 tonnes production (freshwater finfish) > 5 ha or > 2 tonnes production (lagoons)
<b>Romania</b>		
<b>Slovakia</b>		
<b>Slovenia</b>	Always required	Always required
<b>Spain</b>	Production	> 500 tonnes production / year (national requirement; regional governments can require EIA also below this threshold) Also for <500 tonnes production/year in Natura 2000 Always to designate allocated zones for aquaculture
<b>Sweden</b>	Feed use	>40 tonnes of feed (case by case if <40 tonnes)
<b>United Kingdom</b>	ENG: Shellfish: no EIA. Finfish: production	ENG: >10 tonnes production (finfish, terrestrial) > 100 tonnes production (finfish, marine).