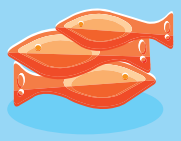
European Commission

Austria: Multiannual national plan for the development of sustainable aquaculture an overview

Current situation

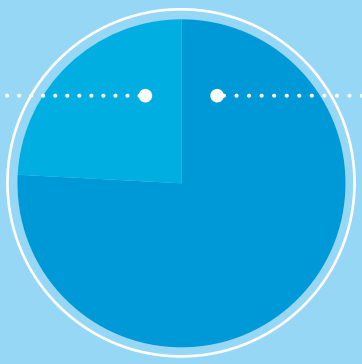


Total volume (2013): 2 946 tonnes

Total value (2013): 16 million euro

Austria's contribution to EU aquaculture: 0.24% volume 0.41% value

Main species by volume



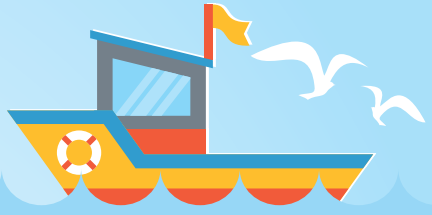
Freshwater finfish

Source of data: Eurostat

National Growth Objectives (2014-2020)

Production volume from 3 100 tonnes to **5 500 tonnes** in 2020 (77% increase).

Maritime affairs and Fisheries



Response to the strategic guidelines

Simplify administrative procedures:

- Development of new guidelines for licencing procedures that increase transparency and efficiency of water use, effluent water quality and treatment.

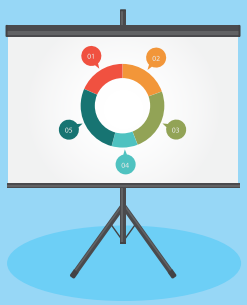
Level playing field:

- Securing sustainable aquaculture with certification of responsible production and the quality of products. A 'level playing field' will be promoted at a national level through the 'AMA' certification mark. Certification will be strengthened through organic standards or other labels. A label for regional products should also be developed in order to help secure the sector and promote the local gastronomy that is based around traditional aquaculture products.

Enhance competitiveness:

- Development of a competence centre for education and scientific accompaniment through the centralisation of vocational education programs in two major institutes in order to provide better education and training.
- Provision of new consulting resources and short training courses in water quality and use in aquaculture, hygiene / HACCP planning and fish health.
- Support of innovative pilot projects to develop key aquaculture innovations such as the development of alternative therapeutics, the use of new secondary species in carp farming, the use of new species in recirculation systems, or the testing of fish feed from sustainable sources in salmonid production.
- Production increases through technological innovation and the establishment of new sites: this key area focusses on recirculation systems, water use and recycling, reduction of fish stress and improved welfare in trout farming. Carp production efficiencies will be optimised through the rehabilitation of dry ponds and the creation of new sites that utilise available water resources.

Best practices



The Plan identifies a number of examples of best practise covering different species, production systems and scales, including:

- Reduction of environmental impacts: e.g. through the use of sustainable feed for trout farming or the treatment of water or pond polyculture rather than intensification.
- Certification and product quality: e.g. through organic certification (AMA) or regional or national production labels for the stronger identification of local products.
- Strengthening of innovative technologies and practices: e.g. through 'pond in pond' culture, recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) and the production of new species (e.g. pike-perch and African catfish).

EU Aquaculture Online: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/aquaculture/
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