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

**Current situation**

**Total volume (2013):** 5,339 tonnes

**Total value (2013):** 29 million euro

Cyprus’s contribution to EU aquaculture:
- 0.44% volume
- 0.73% value

**Main species by volume**

- **Seabass:** 1,422 t (27%)
- **Gilthead bream:** 3,795 t (72%)
- **Trout:** 55 t (1%)

**Source of data: Eurostat**

**National Growth Objectives (2013-2023)**

**Production volume** from 5,339.3 tonnes to **6,332 tonnes** in 2023 (19% increase).

**Production value** from 29.2 million euro to **34.5 million euro** in 2023.
Response to the strategic guidelines

Simplify administrative procedures:
- Reduction of time-consuming aquaculture permitting and license allocation through (i) the development of suitable time schedules, guidelines for the licensing and establishment of aquaculture facilities; and (ii) the designation / zoning of specific aquaculture areas.

Coordinated spatial planning:
- Promotion of Marine Spatial Planning and the designation/ zoning of aquaculture areas, through (i) the establishment of at least two new zones; and (ii) the assurance of the continued operation of existing aquaculture businesses.

Enhance competitiveness:
- The improved competitiveness of Cyprus’ aquaculture will be achieved through encouraging the following approaches:
  - increased scale of production;
  - implementation of quality and environmental control and monitoring;
  - improvement of working conditions and safety through the modernisation of aquaculture units;
  - improved animal welfare;
  - minimisation of negative impacts on the environment;
  - investments in product quality;
  - diversification of businesses in product processing;
  - research and development of novel production methods;
  - installation of commonly-used infrastructure for neighbouring aquaculture facilities e.g. development of aquaculture clusters;
  - supply of expert advice and guidance;
  - reinforcement of personnel and networking activities.

Level playing field:
- Exploitation of competitive advantages through the (i) establishment of producer’s associations; (ii) improvement in marketing and trade; and (iii) the promotion of processing and packaging of the aquaculture products.

Best practices

The Plan identifies a number of examples of best practise covering different species, production systems and scales, including:
- Reduction of environmental impacts and conflicts with other coastal/marine activities; promotion of marine aquaculture in open sea fish cages (located between 2 to 4 km off-shore, in 40 to 70 meters depth).
- Environmental licensing and control: development of legislative procedures requiring frequent environmental assessments and studies with strict specifications.
- Decrease of operational costs, improvement of environmental and animal welfare conditions: operation of automated fish feeding systems.
- Development and implementation of aquaculture policy: establishment of the National Aquaculture Counselling Committee, which has been established through national legislation.

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