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## **Table 1: Member States with charges/taxes for the provision/use of freshwater for aquaculture**

### **Bulgaria**

Use of water sites, surface and groundwater and issue of discharging permits is under the responsibility and is administered by the regional Basin Directorates of the Ministry of Environment and Water. The Directorates control also monitoring and implementation of the principals and rules for ensuring the water quality, as well as activities related to spatial planning.

For water – taking and use of the water sites for business a fee must be paid for using the natural resource as a guarantee for creating equal legal business conditions for all the citizens and corporate bodies. The fees are defined with a Rate of the Council of Ministers.

1. A license for water- taking and/or use of a water site is required for aquaculture.

Water - taking involves the extraction of water from water sites and / or its diversion from them as well as the use of water power.

No license is required for water- taking in case of:

- Transformation of water energy without its diversion from water currents into electricity through turbines with a capacity of up to 20 kilowatts;
- Construction of a well for individual free water- taking of underground water. The owner shall notify the Director of the particular Basin Directorate within three months.

License to use the water site shall be issued for aquaculture and related activities.

2. Permits for surface water supply

Permits shall be issued upon submission of a number of documents, depending on whether it is a new construction or existing facility.

When the permit is for water supply for aquaculture, together with the feasibility (pre-investment) study the applicant shall also enclose a description of technology of cultivation and description of the type and purpose of the facility (including fattening, ongrowing, etc.).

The intake facilities for surface water shall be equipped with approved under the procedure of the Measurements Act measuring devices for measuring the used water volumes.

When the measuring device is not mounted to or the mounted measuring device is not certified or it is damaged, the water supply charge is calculated based on the utilised annual

amount of water and depends on the purpose of the use.

Operators should perform their own monitoring (at their expense), which shall include:

1. Observations of the quantitative status of surface waters by monthly measurement of the total and the used water volumes;
2. Sampling, to assess the quality of water used.

The administrative fee is in the amount of BGN 250-500.

To extend the permit license the applicant shall pay a fee in the amount of BGN 100. (1 EUR = 1,9558 BGN)

## **France**

In France, there are some charges for water since 1987, based on official annual declaration prepared by the competent authority for water management. Six agencies deal with water. Charges are based on the annual declaration of feed used per year submitted to one of the regional agencies and, depending on the region they are calculated differently.

For example, in one region for use of 200 tons of fish feed breeder can pay up to 4 000 €, and another 2 000 €. Furthermore, it is possible to reduce costs, if the farm has the filters, used decantation or there is treatment of suspend matter. The costs can also be lower due to government subsidies of up to 50% of the costs incurred for the purchase of filters.

## **Germany**

Individual federal states of Germany have water usage charges for the aquaculture under certain conditions.

Example federal state of Schleswig-Holstein (see „Wasserabgabengesetz des Landes Schleswig-Holstein (LWAG) vom 13. Dezember 2013“):

- water usage charge for fish farming of 0,03 €/m<sup>3</sup> for the usage of ground water
- no water charges for fish farming in the case of using surface water

## **Hungary**

Hungary is introducing water use charges in 2016. Water fees in aquaculture consist of two components: water abstraction fee (vízkészletjárulék, VKJ), payable to the state, and agricultural water supply fee (mezőgazdasági vízszolgáltatási díj), payable to the supplier.

Water abstraction fees are currently calculated according to the following formula:

$$VKJ = V (m^3) \times A (Ft/m^3) \times m \times g;$$

where V = volume of used water,

A = a basic fee, currently 4.5 HUF/m<sup>3</sup>,

m = a factor showing whether the volume of the used water is measured; its value is 1 if the

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water volume is measured and 2 if not,

$g$  = a factor depending on the water use, water source and water quality; in case of water abstraction from surface waters for fisheries purposes, its value is currently 0; if the water comes from different sources, the value may be 10 (medicinal water), 4–6 (karst and fissure water), 7.5 (thermal water), 1–4 (bank-filtered water), 2–5 (aquiferic water) or 1.5–3 (groundwater), depending on water quality.

The agricultural water supply fee is determined so as to cover the operational expenses, services, depreciation and paid charges of the water supplier. The Governmental Decree 115/2014. (IV. 3.) contains a detailed list of eligible cost items. The State currently takes over the payment of the agricultural water supply fee in case of fisheries water uses, i.e. pays it from the state budget. However, similarly to the water abstraction fee, this is expected to change in 2016 so that water users pay directly for the water used.

However, the current situation is expected change in 2016. The Governmental Decision 1308/2015. (V. 15.) requested the Minister of Interior and the Minister of National Development to prepare, together with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of National Economy, a joint proposal on legal changes required for the development of an efficient water pricing policy, including the cancellation of the above exemption.

## **Italy**

Water charges are established at the regional level.

Fees change depending on the source of supply (surface fresh water, underground fresh water, brackish and salt water).

The fee for the use of fresh water (in 2013) was on average between 350 and 400 Euro per 100 litres/second flow for fresh water; however with important variations in some regions where for example the annual fee can be more than 600 Euro for the same flow rates.

A license fee for the use and discharge of water must also be paid every 4 years.

The analysis of the water discharged must also be paid (up to 2.000 Euro / year).

For salt and brackish water the fees are calculated from the surface used for fish farming activities.

## **Lithuania**

Two water-related charges are applied to aquaculture in Lithuania:

- use of surface water (i.e. to fill the ponds in the spring); the tax tariff is certain sum of EUR/m<sup>3</sup> of water (national legal basis: Law on Taxes for State's Natural Resources)
  - discharges: pollution from stationary sources of pollution (includes aquaculture ponds or closed recirculation systems); the tax is paid by operators of such stationary sources of pollution, who according to national legislation must have the permit for integrated pollution prevention and control or the pollution permit, indicating the maximum allowable emissions into the environment; the tax tariff is certain sum of EUR/t of pollutants. Some tax reliefs are foreseen for operators who implement environmental measures to reduce the emissions (national legal basis: Law on Pollution Tax).
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## Portugal

The tax that has to be paid for aquaculture activities varies by location (marine/inland/rivers/ponds/ estuaries).

The uses that are subject to the payment of TRH (hydric resources tax) are:

- Private Use of waters of the State public water domain (DPHE);
- Discharges, direct or indirect, of effluents to water resources, likely to cause significant impacts;
- Extraction of inert materials of DPHE;
- Occupation of land or water DPHE plans;
- Use of waters, whatever their nature or legal regime, subject to planning and public management, susceptible of causing significant impact.

To calculate this tax we have a formula that includes the different uses.

The water resources tax that as to be paid is a result of article 9 of Water Framework Directive. Our tax (TRH) is an economic and financial instrument which aims to offset the benefit that results from the private use of the public water domain, the environmental cost inherent in activities likely to cause a significant impact on water resources, as well as administrative costs inherent in the planning, management, supervision and guarantee of the amount and quality of water. The amount of the tax is the product of the values of base rate (unit values defined in REF) by "quantities of use" (volume of water, effluent discharge, occupied area, etc.). Therefore, the amount to be paid depends directly on the amount of use "performed, since the unit value is equal to the national level, with the exception of the coefficient of scarcity that will be applied by river basin district. To calculate TRH we have 5 components:

$$TRH = A + E + I + O + U$$

The implementation of the components is cumulative, ex. for the same use, e.g. water harvesting, there may be place in the payment of more than one component. Even if one or more components are not applied to a particular use, the others are always calculated.

**Component A:** corresponds to the private use of the public water domain waters of DPHE State, calculating by applying a base value (€/m<sup>3</sup>) the volume of water captured, diverted or used, multiplied by the coefficient of shortage if not marine waters (coastal and territorial waters are, but not the transitional waters); In additional to the information sent before another document that informs that the component A of the water tax for aquaculture is not considered has been added.

**Component E:** corresponds to the discharge, directly or indirectly, of effluents on water resources, likely to cause significant impact, and by applying a base value (€/m<sup>3</sup>) to the amount of pollutants contained in discharge, expressed in kilogram.  $(CQO + 2 CBO5)/3$

**Component I:** is not for aquaculture.

**Component O:** corresponds to the land occupation of DPHE and occupation and creation of water plans, and by applying a base value (€/m<sup>2</sup>) to the occupied area, expressed in square meter.

**Component U:** corresponds to the private use of waters, whatever their legal nature, subject to planning and public management, likely to cause significant impact, and by applying a base value (€/m<sup>3</sup>) the volume of water captured, diverted or used, expressed in

cubic meter.

The base values for each component are listed in Decree-Law No. 97/2008 and shall be deemed to be automatically updated every year by applying the consumer price index, published by the INE.

In Portugal the aquaculture breeders, as other water consumers, have to pay water resources tax/fee. Our legal framework is: law No. 58/2005, of 29 December (Water Law), which carried out the transposition into national law of Directive 2000/60 Portuguese/EC of Parliament and of the Council of 23 October (Water Framework Directive) define, in its article 66 paragraph 2, art. 67 paragraph 4 a) and art. 68 paragraph 8 which by virtue of obtaining the title of use and respective exercise, is due a rate of water resources by the negative impact of the authorized activity in water resources. The charging of this fee is provided for in economic and financial regime of water resources approved by Decree-Law No. 97/2008, of 11 June, which constitutes an instrument of major importance in the realization of the principles that are at the genesis of the law of water, and in which is based the national water resources management.

## **Romania**

Since 2010, the volume of water a farmer has to pay like this:

1. for dam lakes (usually 150 - 300 ha which can be drained for harvest in the autumn): the volume of the lake + the volume of the yearly flow+ yearly evaporation + yearly infiltration + volumes released when the farmers need the water levels down/empty for harvesting the fish
2. ponds and pools: the volumes for filling the ponds/pools + the evaporation + infiltration + the water needed for the normal water circulation in ponds/pools.

Until 2010 the price for water “used” in aquaculture was 3.00 RON (0.60 €) per 1000 cubic meters. It was reduced in 2010 to 0.5RON (0.10 €) per 1000 cubic meters.

“bonuses” and “incentives” also exist in the Water Act provided for maintaining the water quality.

Annex 1 of the Romanian Government Decision 1202/2010 for establishing the water charges gives further details.

## **Spain**

The River basin authority applies taxes for regulation and utilisation, and for discharges. The costs are the same in all regions although regional acts that set the taxes for discharge:

- Tax for regulation and utilization

This taxes only applied for facilities that benefit from infrastructures built by the state such a reservoirs, ditch, etc . It is calculated by adding operating cost, the cost of maintainance and administrative cost and the 4% of the value of the state investment. The total cost is

divided between beneficiaries, considering the use of water.

- Discharges

$CCV = \text{Authorized Volume of Discharge (m}^3) \times \text{unit price (€/m}^3)$

$\text{Precio unitario (€/m}^3) = \text{Basic price (€/ m}^3) \times \text{Coefficient}$

Nowadays, basic price for industrial waste water (included aquaculture) is 0,04207 €/m<sup>3</sup>. This price may be updated by Budget Law.

Coefficient for aquaculture is calculated as following:

If emission limits values of the characteristic parameters of water pollution are lower than the limits set by environmental quality standard for receiving environment:  $C=0.0006$

Otherwise this coefficient is multiplied for 3:  $C=0.018$

Furthermore, the different regions apply different tax rates:

In a general way, taxes applied by regions are set considering water supply and waste water. However, some regions apply a reduction coefficient that is calculated differently in different regions so taxes vary widely.

Regions with neither specific acts for water taxes for aquaculture nor reduction coefficients have the highest taxes in Spain.

## **Table 2: Member States with no charges for water use/provision, but with fees for discharges, or other points of note**

### **Austria**

There is a law regulating the emission of waste water (discharges) from aquaculture . This is called Aquaculture Emission Regulation.

Please refer to the Austrian “AEV Aquacultur BGBl” regulation. “AEV ... Anhänge” defines the maximal allowable concentrations, in German.

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### **Croatia**

Since May 2015 all water charges for freshwater fish farming have been suspended by a new regulation under the Agriculture Land Act regarding usage of water for fresh water fish farming

### **Czech Republic**

There is no fee for water use in aquaculture.

### **Denmark**

No fees for aquaculture water use, but discharge fees exist.

### **Estonia**

water abstraction charges for the right to abstract water from a water body or aquifer exist, however this is not required for fish farming purposes.

### **Greece**

There are no freshwater charges for any land-based freshwater unit. However charges exist for marine aquaculture (by surface area) The fee is 150 euros per 1000 sq. meters of occupied sea surface per year, while for marine shellfish farms the fee is 50 euros per 1000 sq. meters of occupied sea surface per year.

### **Malta**

In Malta there is no specific water charge applied to farms.

### **Poland**

No fees of water use in general. Further information is available in the Polish multi-annual national strategic plan for aquaculture (AQUACULTURE 2020) – SECTION 5.3: WATER MANAGEMENT (pp. 28-29).

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