Special Framework for the Aquaculture – Greece

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FOTEINI (EFI) STEFANI
Surveying Engineer
MSc. in Spatial-Urban Planning

Head of Department Of Special Spatial Interventions
Directorate of Spatial Planning

Ministry for Environment and Energy

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Spatial Planning

Space has emerged as a priority for economic development, environmental protection and social cohesion.

Spatial Plans = Strategic Plans

Spatial plans = tools with two basic components: planning & space
Spatial Planning Frameworks - GREECE

There is a multilevel management of spatial planning and Sustainable Development through the following plans:

- **General** Framework for Spatial Planning (2008)
- **Special** Frameworks for Spatial Planning (2008, 2009, 2011)
General Framework for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development:

In terms of **aquaculture**, the General Framework:

- Supports the aquaculture activity
- Stresses the particularities in terms of development of coastal and sea regions.
- Sets guidelines for the sustainable management of sea natural resources.
Frameworks for Special Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development

- Renewable Energy
- Industry
- Tourism
- Aquaculture
Aquaculture Development - Greece

The advantages of Greek coasts, the environmental and geomorphological conditions helped the development of the aquaculture activity.

- The scale of production
- The territorial expansion of the activity (mainly in coastal zone and close to coastline),
- The reactions of local population etc.

led to the publish of the Ministerial Decision

"Approval of a Special Spatial Planning Framework and Sustainable Development for Aquaculture and its strategic environmental impacts assessment"
Special Spatial Planning Framework for Aquaculture

- Strategic Environment Impact Assessment is an integral part of the Ministerial Decision
Spatial Framework for Aquaculture: Aim

It’s purpose is to provide guidelines, rules and criteria for the spatial structure, organization and development of the aquaculture units in the Greek area, in a way that:

- a) their operation does not conflict with the development of other activities
- b) their operation does not irreversibly damages the environment
- c) the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector can be ensured
Spatial Framework for Aquaculture: Content

Provides guidelines, rules and criteria for
- spatial organization of the Aquaculture Management Areas and units both at sea and inland waters
- spatial organization for the aquaculture activity by type of plant (species of marine aquaculture, shellfish, freshwater species, fish farming in lagoons etc.)
Special Framework for Aquaculture

- Guidelines for the location of marine aquaculture activity in national level.
- Specifies areas - after evaluation of spatial environmental and development aspects - for the development of aquaculture.
- Gives priority to these areas for the development of organized units.
- Required minimum area for the development of organized units.
- Existing individual units remains under prerequisites.
The spatial organization of aquaculture activity

- According to the framework the development based on a zoning principle
- It comprises a map with the areas that have been proved suitable for the development of aquaculture
- The Areas for the development of aquaculture are sea areas with uniform characteristics
- These Areas are divided in 5 different categories according to environmental and socioeconomic factors such as the vulnerability of the environment, the intensity and density of aquaculture activity, the neighboring competitive uses, the proximity with urban areas etc
Types of areas for the development of aquaculture

- A: Highly developed aquaculture areas that require improvement, upgrading of units and their infrastructure, protection and enhancement of the environment

- B. Areas with significant potential for further aquaculture development

- C. Inaccessible areas with high potential for development

- D. Areas with great sensitivity of their natural environment (marine protected areas)

- E. Areas with suitable characteristics for aquaculture development, but with peculiarities that do not allow concentration of aquaculture units (inaccessible, small islands, urban and tourist etc).
Spatial Framework for Aquaculture: Content

- The main part is referred to marine aquaculture, due to the major need for spatial regulation.
- All kind of organized zones or individual units should be within those areas for the development of aquaculture.
- In special cases it recognizes the need for individual location.
- Additionally it provides directions for its implementation to lower planning level.
System’s main provisions for Aquaculture Activity

- Allocated Zones can be designated exclusively within the areas for the development of aquaculture.
- Allocated Zones are organized and managed by a special authority formed (by the aquaculture operators and/or other legal persons - public or private) for the specific zone.
- The procedure for establishing Allocated Zones (by Presidential Decree) prerequisites also a development and spatial planning study that includes conjunctive and support onshore facilities and an Environment Impact Assessment Study.

The installation of single units is permitted under specific prerequisites regarding the size, capacity and distance from other units: a) within Suitable Zones b) outside the Suitable Zones c) for experimental farms and small parks accompanying agro touristic units d) remote areas, Uninhabited islands mainly close to the borders.
Allocated and Informal Zones for Aquaculture activity

- **Prerequisites for Allocated Zones:**
  more than 5 aquaculture farms and surface superior to 100,000 m².

- **Prerequisites for Informal Zones** *(Clusters of small installations)*
  Less than 5 aquaculture farms and occupying a surface inferior to 100,000 m², having a distance of 500m to 2 km between them.

- The purpose for Informal Zones is that they will have to be granted the status of the Allocated Zones.
Criteria for marine aquaculture units by type of plant

- The depth of the sea should be at least 18 m.
- The distance between two neighboring units should be at least 500 m. (or 300 if both of them are units of biological fish farming).
- The distance between farming parks of the same unit, should be more than 100 and less than 250 m.
- The maximum percentage for coverage of the leased area, from floating infrastructure, should be 50% (up to 60% in case of biological fish farms).
- The limits of the leased area should be at least 50 m. from the coastline.
- The distance between Allocated zones should be at least 3km
- The distance between fish aquaculture units and shellfish aquaculture units should be at least 200m.
Prohibitions for marine aquaculture units

- In areas where the sea bed is covered by protected species (*Posidonia oceanica*, etc.)
- In areas where the sea bed is covered by species under restrictions defined by EU and national legislation
- In areas used as navigation channels or cables, structures, military areas, pipes for energy transfer etc.
Criteria and compatibilities for establishing allocated zones, Informal zones & single units of aquacultures

The boundaries of the leased marine area it’s appropriate to have a distance:

• 1000 m. at least, from a functioning touristic facility or existing residential developments (or 500 m. as long as there is no visual contact)
• 1000 m. at least, from incompatible uses (industrial plants, mining facilities, etc.).
• 1000 m. at least from harboring facilities, handling oil or industrial units having serious risks for marine pollution.
• 500 m. at least, from diving parks
• 500m. at least from beaches designated for swimming in close proximity to touristic facilities or residential areas.
• 2 nautical miles from airports that are on the coastline

The above restrictions must be taken also into account vice versa
Criteria and compatibilities for establishing allocated zones, informal zones & single units of aquacultures

- Wind farms should be avoided within allocated and informal zones. Only from operational units they should be at a distance of 500 meters.

- Energy production from Renewable Energy Sources for the needs aquaculture units is encouraged.

- 50 meters from professional fishing activity, with the exception of an agreement between the 2 parties.
Benefits for Productive Activities from the implementation of the framework as a legally binding process

- **Investments security** (the provision of greater certainty to developers concerning potentially acceptable locations)
- Increase investments
- Reducing conflicts between sectors
- Ensure multiple use of marine space while protecting the environment (greater certainty to developers not only for aquaculture farms, but also for other activities that locate in the vicinity of the latter)
- Secure the link between coastal and maritime activities
Some important goals of Spatial Planning for Aquaculture

- Economic development through the synergy of sectoral policies
- Diversity of each region becomes an asset for the sustainable development of the sector
- Establishment of a monitoring system for the implementation and efficiency of the Framework for the aquaculture