



Aquaculture in the EU

Tapping into Blue Growth



Aquaculture covers the farming of aquatic organisms (finfish, molluscs, crustaceans, algae...).

It takes place in both inland and marine areas.

The Commission is helping EU Member States to simplify administrative procedures, implement spatial planning and promote sustainable aquaculture.

Commission has identified the main priorities to facilitate its sustainable development.

Aquaculture is a key component of both the Common Fisheries Policy and the Blue Growth agenda. In consultation with stakeholders, the Commission has identified the main priorities to facilitate the sustainable development of EU aquaculture:



Simplify administrative procedures



Ensure access to space through coordinated spatial planning



Enhance the competitiveness of EU aquaculture



Promote a level playing field for EU operators

In their multiannual plans, Member States have defined measures to address these issues at national and regional scales.

Funding to support the sustainable development of aquaculture is available through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

The Multiannual Plans and all documents referred to here are available on EU Aquaculture Online: <http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/aquaculture/>

Simplification of administrative procedures

Aspects covered by aquaculture licencing procedures

- ▶ Planning/building permission
- ▶ Land/sea use (ownership, lease, consent)
- ▶ Environmental Impact Assessment
- ▶ Animal Health
- ▶ Food safety, health and hygiene
- ▶ Water use
- ▶ Discharge into water
- ▶ Health & safety
- ▶ Farming of alien species

Typical features



Application processing **time** and uncertainties are seen as the main problem



Application **fees** are low, but other costs such as an Environmental Impact Assessment when required must also be considered

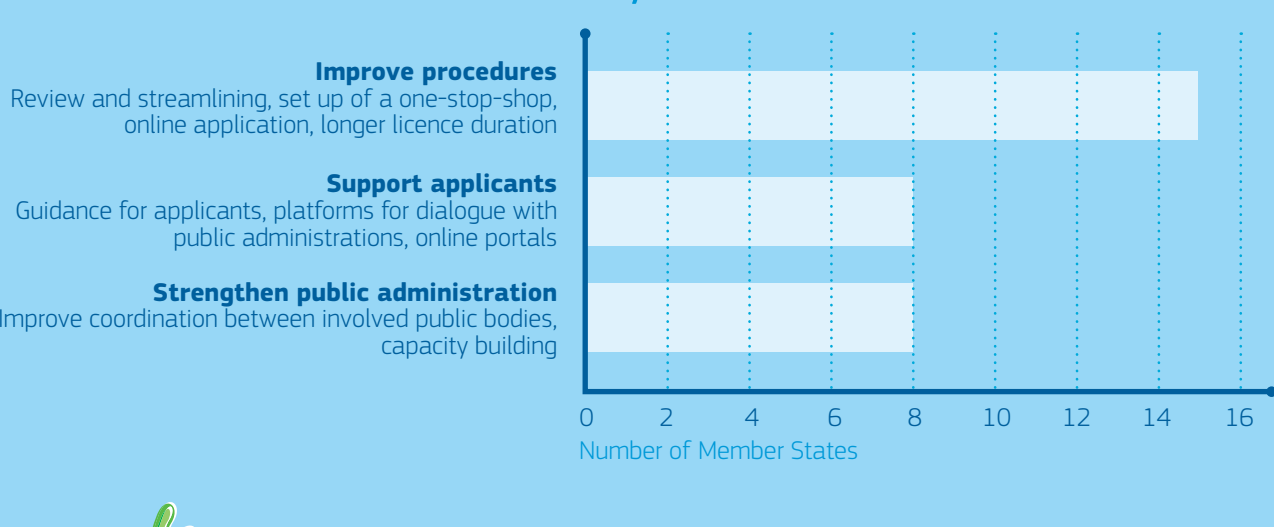


Reported application **success rate** is more than 90% in most Member States



Licence duration is typically 10 years but can vary between 5 and 30 years

Planned actions by Member States



The Commission has published guidance documents to help implement relevant EU legislation.

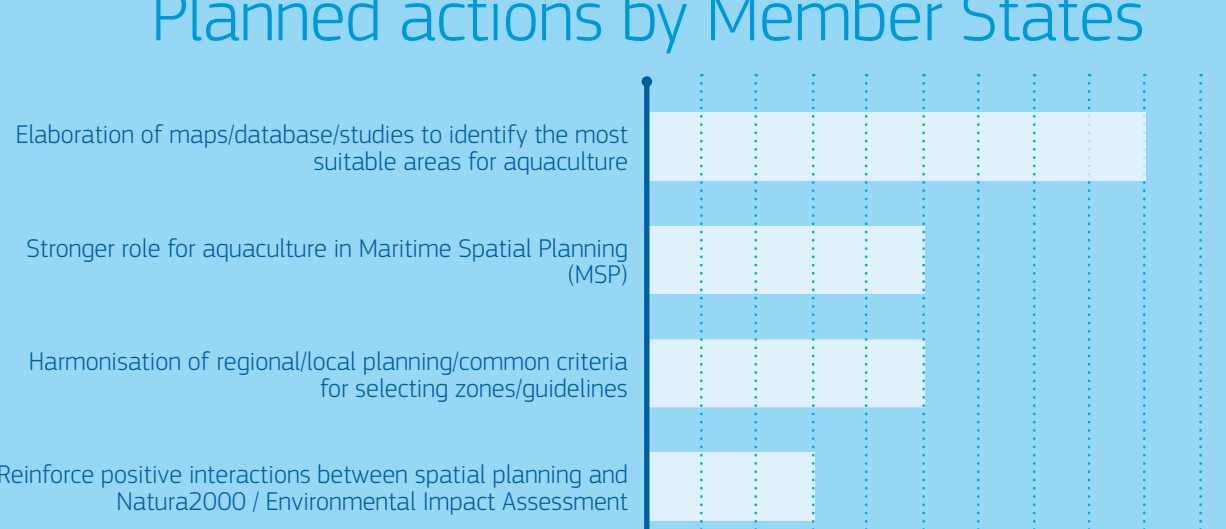
Coordinated spatial planning

Planning when and where activities take place ensures maximum efficiency and sustainability

Benefits

- Reduces **conflict**
- Encourages **investment**
- Increases **coordination**
- Fosters **cross-border cooperation**
- Protects **the environment**

Planned actions by Member States

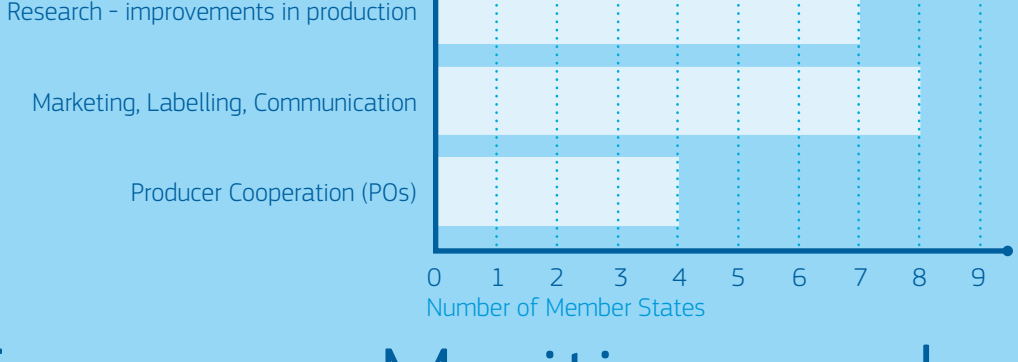


The Maritime Spatial Planning Directive creates a common framework for the planning of human activities at sea.

Competitiveness and level playing field

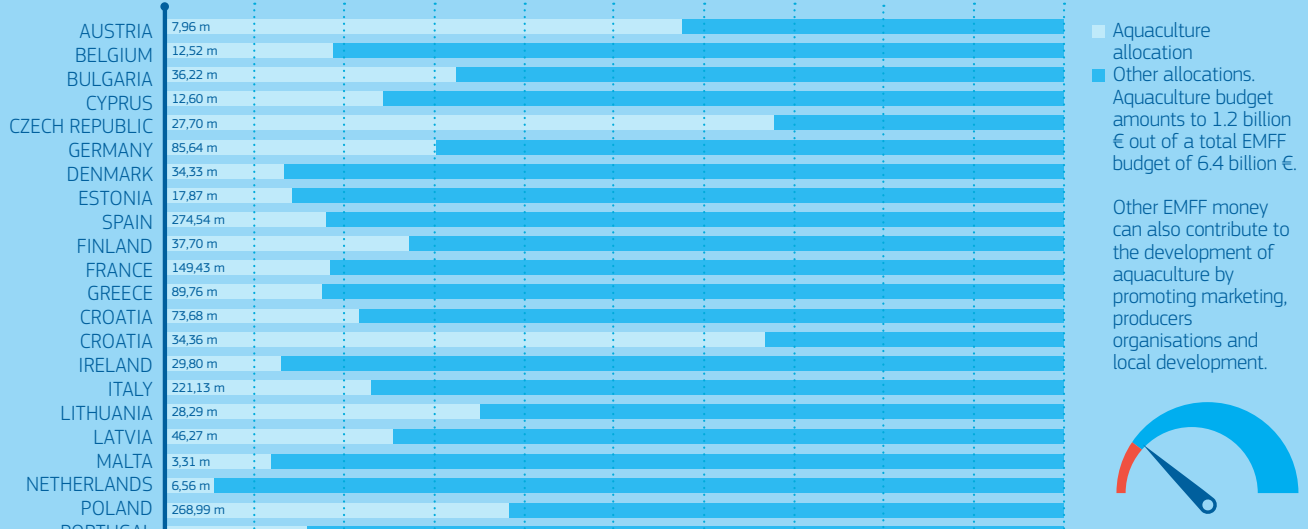
Competitiveness is promoted through targeted actions by Member States and the use of EU funding instruments like the EMFF and Horizon 2020

Planned actions by Member States



European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

EMFF budget allocated to sustainable aquaculture



21% of the budget across the EU

The Farmed in the EU campaign informs consumers about the quality and sustainability of EU aquaculture.