



POSITION PAPER

Proposal for changes in the list of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture (Annex V of Regulation 708/2007)

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Background

Aquaculture is globally a fast-growing sector where innovation and new opportunities are being explored as a result of the continuous rising consumption of seafood and the stable or declining supply from the capture fisheries sector. In order to adapt the production to the increasing demand and market conditions and safeguard the supply of safe, nutritious, high quality and sustainable seafood at European level, it is important for the aquaculture industry to be allowed to further diversify the reared species, as long as not compromising biodiversity or any other environmental value.

Since the late 19th century at least 69 alien species have been introduced, or restocked, into Europe for aquaculture¹. Three of these (rainbow trout, Pacific cupped oyster and Japanese carpet shell), have commonly been used in aquaculture for a long time, are acclimated to the European natural environment and are nowadays some of the top aquaculture species farmed in the EU.

The experience has shown that the introduction for aquaculture of alien species in a controlled manner and after thorough environmental assessments poses a limited environmental risk and can be beneficial for the industry, the society and the consumer.

Within this context, FEAPs proposes to the European Commission to review and update the existing legal framework (last revised in 2008) governing aquaculture practices in relation to alien and locally absent species and assess. In particular, the eligibility of new species that will be officially requested from the Members States concerned and include them to the Annex IV of Regulation 708/2007.

The current legal framework defines as 'alien species':

- a) a species or subspecies of an aquatic organism occurring outside its known natural range and the area of its natural dispersal potential;
- b) polyploid organisms, and fertile artificially hybridised species irrespective of their natural range or dispersal

¹ 2002, E. Leppäkoski et al: Invasive Aquatic Species of Europe. Distribution, Impacts and Management.

FEAP proposals:

1. Revision of the existing list of species (Annex IV)

Currently, Annex IV of Regulation 708/2007 (modified by Regulation 506/2008) includes the following list of species. This list of species is foreseen by Article 2(5) of the Regulation.

PART A — General

Acipenser baeri (*), Siberian sturgeon
gueldenstaeti (*), Russian sturgeon
nudiventris (*), Fringebarbel sturgeon
ruthenus (*), Sterlet sturgeon
stellatus (*), Starry sturgeon
sturio (*), Atlantic sturgeon
Aristichthys nobilis, Big head carp
Carassius auratus, Goldfish
Clarias gariepinus, African catfish
Coregonus peled, Northern Whitefish
Crassostrea gigas, Pacific cupped oyster
Ctenopharyngodon idella, Grass carp
Cyprinus carpio, Common carp
Huso huso (*), Beluga sturgeon
Hypophthalmichthys molitrix, Silver carp
Ictalurus punctatus, Channel catfish
Micropterus salmoides, Large-mouth bass
Oncorhynchus mykiss, Rainbow trout
Ruditapes philippinarum, Japanese or Manila clam
Salvelinus alpinus, Arctic char
Salvelinus fontinalis, Brook trout
Salvelinus namaycush, Great lake trout
Sander lucioperca, Pikeperch
Silurus glanis, European catfish
(*), Hybrids of sturgeon species.

PART B - French overseas departments

Macrobrachium rosenbergii, Giant river prawn
Oreochromis mossambicus, Mozambique tilapia
O. niloticus, Nile tilapia
Sciaenops ocellatus, Red drum

Proposal 1: No species should be deleted from Annex IV of Regulation 708/2007 without an in-depth environmental, economic and social assessment, and consultation with the sector.

2. Immediate assessment of completed requests and consideration of new species

FEAP's approach for the future is to optimise benefits associated with introductions and translocations of those species while at the same time enhancing the protection of ecosystems and avoiding the risks that might occur on the environment or on native populations and habitats.

Proposal 2: Therefore FEAP calls on the European Commission to consider for including the following additional species into Annex IV:

Acipenser transmontanus (White sturgeon)
Morone saxatilis (Stripped bass).
Hybrid between *Salvelinus alpinus* (Arctic char) and *Salvelinus fontinalis* (Brook char).
Heterobranchus longifilis (Vundu)
Pagrus major (Red seabream)
Acipenser naccarii (Adriatic sturgeon)

Proposal 3: FEAP requests the European Commission to assess with no further delay each mature pending case (namely completed files already submitted to European Commission services from the Member States) such as the case of the red seabream which has already been tabled to the European Commission. It is essential to make a clear distinction between mature pending cases, cases under examination in national level and future actions or suggestions to amend Annex IV and include eligible species.

3. Revision of scientific names:

Proposal 4: FEAP brings to the attention of the European Commission the following updates:

- a) *gueldenstaetii* (Russian sturgeon) as written I the annex is missing the second "i".
- b) *Aristichthys nobilis* (Big head carp) is now denominated *Hypophthalmichtys nobilis*.