

## FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS

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## Press Release

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### **Pioneer of Polish aquaculture receives FEAP Award for Excellence 2026**

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) has awarded its prestigious FEAP Award for Excellence in European Aquaculture 2026 to Mr. Jacek Juchniewicz, a visionary leader who modernized Polish fish farming and transformed the European feed supply chain over a 50-year career.

The award ceremony took place during the FEAP 2026 Annual General Meeting in Limassol, Cyprus. Mr. Juchniewicz was recognized for his exceptional, hands-on contributions, from building farms from scratch to introducing the first extruded feed to the Polish market, effectively leapfrogging national aquaculture into the modern era.

Mr. Juchniewicz's journey began in 1974 as a water protection major. During early internships, prominent professors saw in him a great candidate for a scientist, but he preferred practical activities. Immediately after graduation, he took part in training at fish farms. By 1980, he was running a successful fishing farm independently. In 1983, he built his first fish farm almost entirely from scratch.

The turning point came in 1990 with a six-week training course in Denmark, where he established lasting business and friendship ties. In May 1991, he ordered the first truck of Aller Aqua extruded feed to Poland. By the end of the year, he had imported eleven more, not only for his own farm but for colleagues across the sector.

In 1992, he imported over 40 trucks of feed and established the headquarters of Aller Aqua in Pomerania. By 1994, it became a Ltd. company (now Aller Aqua Poland). The growing demand warranted the construction of an Aller Aqua factory in Poland in 2000, followed by company units in Ukraine and Armenia.

Mr. Juchniewicz continued to build and modernize his own farms. In 1996, he began building another fish farm, modernized just last year into one of the most advanced in Poland. Since 2003 he has been co-owner of the "Dąbie" Hatchery, described as a "*globally innovative project*" from which salmonid eggs are shipped worldwide throughout the year. In 2024, a new fish farm in Gostkowo was launched.

For more than three decades, Mr. Juchniewicz integrated his business activities with social leadership. He served several cadences as Vice President and then as President of the Polish Trout Breeders Association (PTBA), working tirelessly to improve legislation, strengthen the sector's image, and represent the industry before state bodies.

In February 2025, just before his 70th birthday, after 33 years of work at Aller Aqua, he retired.

“Jacek Juchniewicz’s contribution allowed Polish aquaculture to take a giant leap forward in farming technology,” the PTBA stated in its nomination. “His professional work and public involvement have always involved efforts to develop the industry with respect for the people associated with it, the environment, and representing the industry before state bodies.”

The FEAP Award represents recognition by the federation of an individual’s exceptional contribution to the development of fish farming in Europe. Nominations are submitted by FEAP Member Associations; the decision is taken by previous recipients of the award.



Photo caption: Jacek Juchniewicz, 2026 FEAP Award Laureate, receiving the award at the FEAP AGM in Limassol, Cyprus on 22 May 2026.

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#### ***About the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers***

*The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers is an organisation that represents the European fish farming profession and is based in Brussels. FEAP is composed of 25 national fish farming associations from 23 countries, both EU and non-EU. The combined yearly production of FEAP members surpasses 2,5 million tonnes of nutritious, safe, delicious, and environmentally sustainable fish.*