

Context: Commission proposal 2011/0195 (COD);

The CFP should support the environmentally, economically and socially sustainable development of the aquaculture industry. Aquaculture contributes to food security and growth and jobs in coastal and rural regions. Serious progress can be achieved when Member States develop on the basis of Union strategic guidelines national strategic plans to facilitate the sustainable development of aquaculture in relation to the business security, access to waters and space, and administrative simplification of licensing. There is a clear Union dimension in aquaculture development: strategic choices made at national level can have a bearing on such development in neighbouring Member States. It is essential that Member States have an opportunity to know what other Member States are planning for future aquaculture development.

The Commission considers that the specific nature of aquaculture requires a focalized stakeholder consultation body, and proposes to this effect the creation of an Advisory Council for Aquaculture. The specific nature of aquaculture requires an Advisory Council for stakeholder consultation on elements of Union policies which could affect aquaculture.

CFP proposal Art.52

- Advisory Councils are established for each of the areas of competence set out in Annex III (Aquaculture) to promote a balanced representation of all stakeholders.
- Each Advisory Council shall establish its rules of procedures.

CFP proposal Art.53

The tasks of the Advisory Councils are to:

- (a) Submit recommendations and suggestions on matters relating to aquaculture to the Commission or the MS concerned;
- (b) Inform the Commission and MS of problems relating to aquaculture in their area of competence;
- (c) Contribute, in close cooperation with scientists, to the collection, supply and analysis of data necessary for the development of conservation measures.

The Commission and, where relevant, the Member State concerned, shall reply within a reasonable time period to any recommendation, suggestion or information received, pursuant to paragraph 1.

CFP proposal Art.54

Composition, functioning and funding of Advisory Councils

1. Advisory Councils shall be composed of organizations representing interest groups affected by the CFP.
2. Each Advisory Council shall consist of a general assembly and an executive committee and shall adopt the measures necessary for its organization and to ensure transparency and the respect of all opinions expressed.
3. Advisory Councils may apply for Union financial assistance as bodies pursuing an aim of general European interest.