



## **INTRODUCTION**

The original Code of Conduct that was developed by the FEAP in 2000 contributed to the development by many National Aquaculture Associations to National Codes of Practice and was incorporated into the European Code of Sustainable and Responsible Fisheries Practices.

Following changes and developments in European aquaculture since that time, the FEAP has reviewed and developed the Code of Conduct to reflect the advancements made in the sector.

The primary goal of this Code of Conduct, prepared by the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, is to promote the responsible development and management of a viable and sustainable European aquaculture sector to assure the highest standard of quality food production while respecting environmental considerations and consumers' demands.

Aquaculture is defined as 'the rearing or culture of aquatic organisms using techniques designed to increase the production of the organisms in question beyond the natural capacity of the environment, the organisms remaining the property of a natural or legal person throughout the rearing or culture stage, up to and including harvesting'.

Modern aquaculture is a knowledge-based activity, requiring a strong scientific foundation for its technical success.

As a Code of Conduct, this document serves to establish and recommend guiding principles for those in Europe who are producing fish species through aquaculture.

The Code does not seek to distinguish between the species nor the types or scale of fish farms that are encountered within the European aquaculture sector.

Its purpose is to establish a common base, through effective self-regulation, for sectoral responsibility within society and demonstrate the considerations of the production sector towards the fish it rears, the environment and the consumer.

The Code is not definitive but addresses those areas that the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers considers to be important and of prime concern. Additionally, the role of the Code is to motivate and assist the development of the principles of best practices.