

POSITION PAPER

On the intermediate report of the MISSION BOARD Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Water

31 August 2020

Background

The European Commission launched in July 2019 five major European research and innovation Missions as part of Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation programme (2021-2027). These Missions aimed to deliver solutions to some of the greatest global challenges, contribute to reaching the European Green Deal objectives and for the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

One of these Missions covers the area of healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters. Its objective is to regenerate European ocean and waters by 2030 by reducing human pressures on marine and freshwater environments, restoring degraded ecosystems, and sustainably exploiting the essential goods and services they provide. The Mission Board¹ responsible for this area published in June 2020 an interim report of its progress under the title of *Regenerating our Ocean and Waters by 2030*². This draft Mission outline will soon be open for consultation, resulting in adjustments and refinements for the Mission Board's final advice.

FEAP feels that at this moment it is imperative to highlight the opinion of European fish farmers on the interim report presented by the Ocean and Waters Mission Board.

General comments

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers shares the opinion that the creation of the Missions by the European Commission is conceptually a smart way to analyse complex challenges and propose objectives and solutions.

FEAP supports the fact that healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters are vital for Europe, for its economy, for the environment and for the future of the world. Oceans and fresh waters hold solutions to food, power and human wellbeing.

It is a reality that the health of European ocean and waters is under pressure. Decades of pollution and damaging uses, including urban sewage, have degraded the condition of European aquatic ecosystems. FEAP highlights that because fish farming is performed

¹ Members of the Mission Board for Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/groups/members_of_the_mission_board_for_healthy_oceans_seas_coastal_and_inland_waters_191016.pdf

² Interim report of the Mission Board Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Water
<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/d0246783-b68a-11ea-bb7a-01aa75ed71a1>