

# AQUACULTURE IN THE NEW EMFAF FRAMEWORK

## AQUAFARM

Pordenone. 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023



# The Common Fisheries Policy

- The CFP calls for a coordinated EU strategic approach to support the growth of the EU aquaculture sector while ensuring its economic, environmental and social sustainability.
- Despite of progress made thanks to the *Open Method of Coordination* laid down by the regulation as well as EU funding, the aquaculture sector is still far from reaching its full potential in terms of growth and meeting the increasing demand for more sustainable aquatic food.

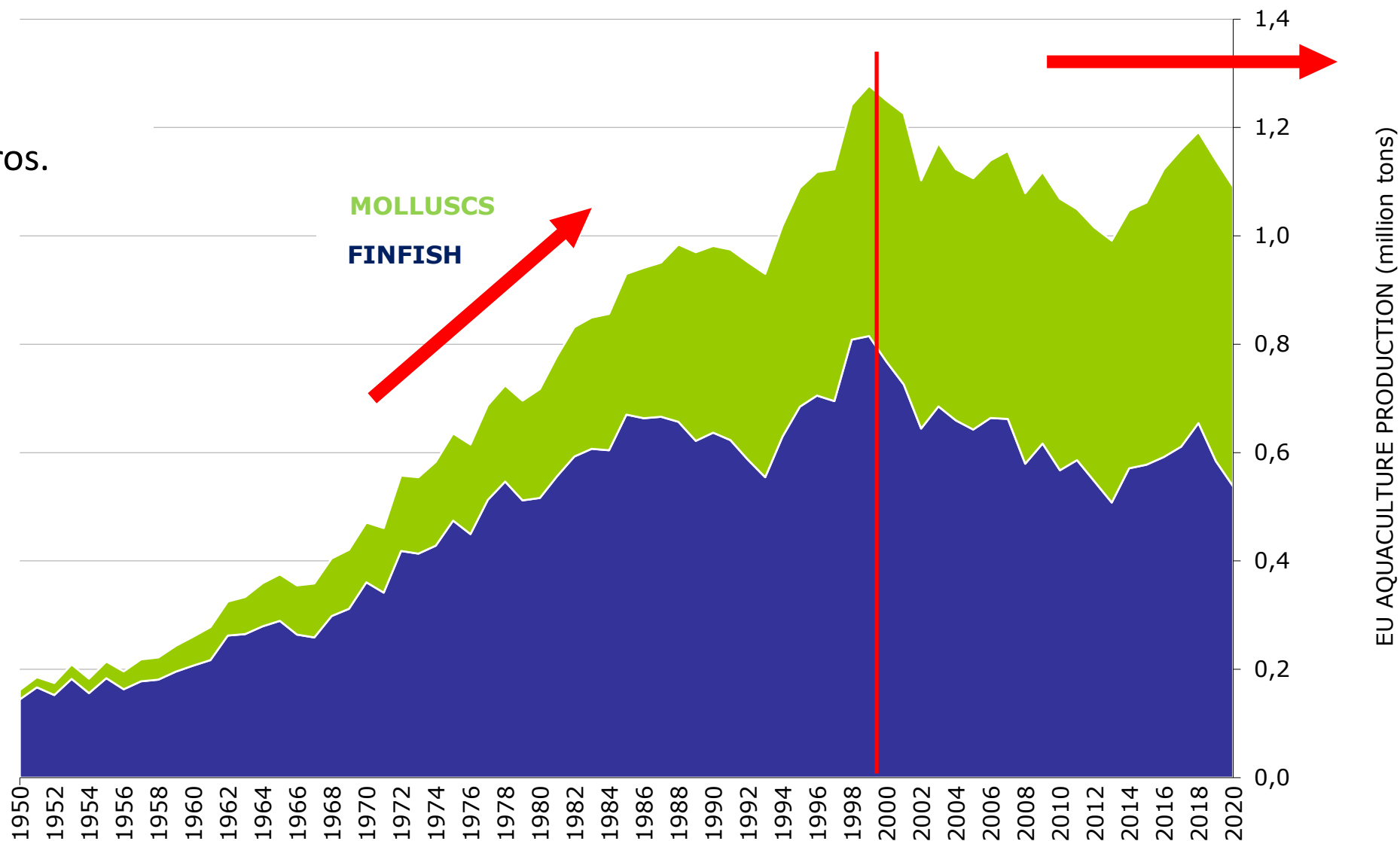


# Aquaculture in the EU

**2021**

1,094,000 t.

3.37 billion Euros.



# EC Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of aquaculture

- The EC's 2013 *Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture* have been the main pillar of the strategic coordination of aquaculture policy in the EU.
- By 2015, on the basis of these guidelines, EU Member States adopted *Multi-annual National Strategic Plans* (MNSPs) for aquaculture.
- The implementation of these MNSPs was supported by the exchange of good practices among EU MS facilitated by the Commission and funding through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and other EU funds.
- The Commission invited EU MS to review their MNSPs taking into consideration consultations on the new guidelines laid down in the 2021 *Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030*.

# European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund



- The EMFAF is supposed to continue providing support to EU Member States to help implement the strategic vision for the sector, as reflected in those MNSPs and their Operational Programmes.  
(Check all MS Operational Programmes: [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf-programmes-2021-2027\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf-programmes-2021-2027_en))
- The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have threatened the viability of the EU's aquaculture sector and caused significant disruption to markets, production, investments and innovation.
- The aquaculture food system was already especially vulnerable due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the new energy crisis has resulted in additional higher operational costs (raw materials, oxygen, packaging material and transportation costs). EU aquaculture is a highly diverse sector, and each element is affected with different degrees of intensity.



# European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

- More than ever, timely support to mitigate the impact of new crises and the rapid implementation of the EMFAF is necessary to strengthen the sector's resilience and achieve the objectives of the strategic guidelines.
- The effective use of structural funds can be negatively affected by bureaucratic and administrative burdens. The EC should encourage MS to exchange good practices for simplifying the administrative procedures, especially for those MS with many regional managing authorities.



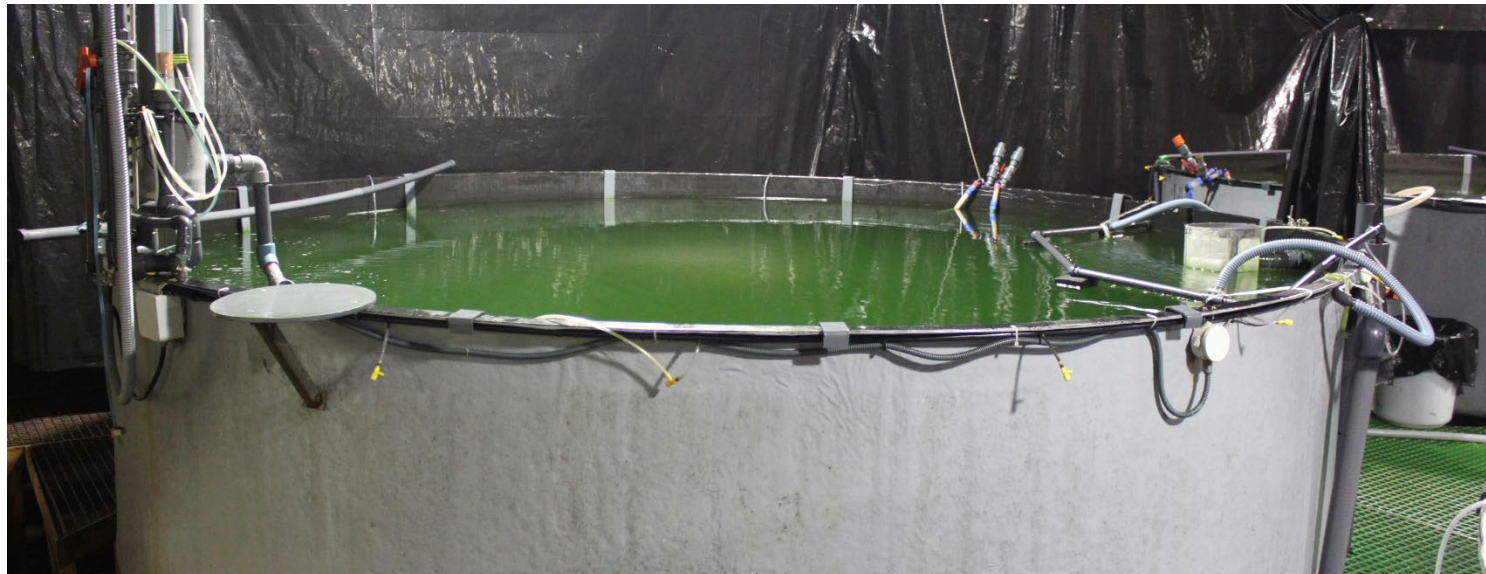
# EMFAF: what funding?

- Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities, especially strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production, while ensuring that the activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term.
- Promoting marketing, quality and added value of aquaculture products, as well as the processing of those products.
- Fostering the development of aquaculture communities
- Taking into account the delayed entry into force of this Regulation and in order to ensure continuity activities supported by EMFAF may be considered eligible as of 1-January-2021, even if the activities were implemented and the costs incurred before the grant application was submitted.

# EU AQUACULTURE SECTOR REQUESTS:

## Ensure the continuity of support and a timely transition

- The EC and the Member States must ensure the timely transition from the EMFF to the EMFAF to provide support to aquaculture operators without delay.
- The current legal framework allows a smooth transition between the EMFF and the EMFAF and gaps in support must be avoided. Under the EMFF, expenditure for eligible operations can be incurred until 31 December 2023. Under the EMFAF, expenditure can be incurred as of 1 January 2021, including retroactively before the adoption of the EMFAF programme of the Member State concerned.





# EU AQUACULTURE SECTOR REQUESTS:

## Adapt funding to face crises

- The EC must explore all possible financial support options, apart from state aid, to overcome the current crises. MS should mobilise funds from the EMFAF and redistribute unused funding initially reserved for certain EMFF measures to mitigate the impact of the new crises and support aquaculture operators in light of their lost incomes and increased operational costs.
- Special focus should be given to the completion of ongoing production investments that have been disrupted or delayed due to increased costs.
- To address the current crisis caused by Russia's unjustified aggression against Ukraine, the Commission made several financial packages available to support the fishery, aquaculture and processing sectors:

# EU AQUACULTURE SECTOR REQUESTS:

## Adapt funding to face crises

Aside from the temporary state aid framework, our sector should count on the following:

- The crisis mechanism of the EMFAF, allowing Member States to use their EMFAF allocation to provide financial compensation for economic losses and additional costs related to the disruption caused by the crisis. This crisis mechanism could be implemented immediately by Member States without legal risks, even before their EMFAF programmes were adopted.
- The legislative amendment to the EMFF that introduced crisis measures in the form of financial compensations to operators for their income forgone and additional costs due to the impact of Russia's unjustified aggression against Ukraine.

→ Need to ensure that national authorities use all available aid instruments, avoiding the creation of an uneven playing field across the EU (and across regions in same MS), including in terms of amounts provided and access conditions.

# EU AQUACULTURE SECTOR REQUESTS:

## Create a platform to provide guidance and examples of MS support measures

- The EC should create a platform under the frame of the new EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM). The EMFAF is based on a simple architecture without predefined measures. This platform would raise awareness of the different measures and simplifications that have been introduced. Special guidance should be given to measures related to the sector's resilience (e.g., climate change mitigation, stock insurance, animal health and welfare). This would also help to avoid confusion concerning eligibility criteria and actions.
- The AAM will create, maintain and support the update of a specific dedicated website for EU aquaculture. The website aims to provide a one-stop shop for knowledge and good practices about sustainable aquaculture in the EU and it aims to efficiently disseminate this knowledge. It will also include any other information relevant for aquaculture, for example information on EU funding opportunities for aquaculture such as the EMFAF.
- The exchange among EU Member States in the context of the Open Method of Coordination on aquaculture also provides an opportunity to learn about concrete measures implemented as well as good practices in supporting concrete measures with EU funding.

# EU AQUACULTURE SECTOR REQUESTS:

## Provide transparency on the funding related to investment on aquaculture activities

- All the Operational Programmes (except Luxembourg) have been submitted and approved by the EC.
- The EC should provide an overview of the total amount of funds allocated to the sector.
- And reduce the administrative burden in the access to aid measures.







WE ARE **THE SOLUTION**   
 WE ARE **THE FUTURE**

Thank you!  
I hope you found this presentation inspiring.

[javier@feap.info](mailto:javier@feap.info)

<https://feap.info>

56 Avenue des Arts, Brussels