

**FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN
AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS**

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Press Release

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Subject: The FEAP delivers its 2023 Award to Gustavo Larrazábal during its AGM in Malta

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) held its 2023 Annual General Meeting in Saint Julian's (Malta) on May 25th and 26th. During the meeting this year's FEAP Award was delivered. The FEAP Award represents the recognition by the federation of the exceptional contribution, by an individual, to the development of fish farming in Europe. The person selected to receive this acknowledgement is decided by the previous recipients of the award following the proposals received from national fish farming associations throughout Europe.

The recipient of the FEAP 2023 Award has been Mr Gustavo Larrazábal. Mr Larrazábal, an engineer by education, initiated his path in aquaculture in 1984 in Spain. He drives today with mastery one of the most successful fish farming companies in Europe: Aquanaria SL. After almost forty years in the very complex seabass and seabream sector Gustavo has been able to build a company that excels in the production of a specialised fish product: extra-large fresh sea bass. Its fish are farmed offshore in the Canary Islands and are placed on high-level markets free from the risks and volatility of the usual fish commodities. A fish of superior quality that has raised the reputation of farmed fish in general to their highest position ever, well above wild fish, in the most reputed European restaurants. To reach this situation Mr Larrazábal has skilfully survived during 39 years the deadly boom and bust cycles of the Mediterranean sea bass and sea bream sector.

His company was previously called Tinamenor SA, based in North Spain. A name already engraved in the history of European aquaculture. This was one of the first hatcheries of seabass and seabream in Europe, besides of other species like turbot, sole and several molluscs. Since the early days of Mediterranean aquaculture, when mass production of juveniles was a dream, Gustavo pioneered the production of juveniles and successfully delivered them throughout Europe. His enthusiasm and hard work boosted Mediterranean aquaculture from its first required stage in the early eighties: hatchery production of quality juveniles. This undertaking expanded its activities to on-growing sea bass in the Canary Islands and there it continues successfully today under the Aquanaria brand.

In Spain, APROMAR, the Spanish aquaculture association, was founded in 1986 when marine fish aquaculture in the Mediterranean was at its inception. Spanish fish farmers quickly understood the importance of collaboration. Gustavo was one of the leaders at that time, alongside Mr Lazaro Rosa (Cupimar SA) that, by the way, received the FEAP Award in 2010 in Malta. Mr Larrazábal became the first president of APROMAR in 1986 and was continuously and unanimously re-elected for the post until 2003. Gustavo continues today to be a key member of the Board of APROMAR.

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) was founded in 1968 as the Federation Européenne de la Salmoniculture (FES). When the federation expanded its scope and embraced Mediterranean aquaculture in the early nineties Gustavo was one of the drivers for bringing the issues of sea bass and sea bream to European level, alongside other Greek and French entrepreneurs. During his tenure in the Management Committee of FEAP the European Commission began to consider aquaculture separately from capture fisheries, for example through the Advisory Council for Fisheries and Aquaculture (ACFA), and numerous research initiatives were launched. Gustavo has been Vice-president of the FEAP from 2003 until 2019. At all times he has provided a clear business sense to the governance of the federation. He still today actively participates in FEAP's activities and meetings.

Historically, FEAP always understood the importance of innovation for a sustainable and profitable fish farming sector. With this perspective, the federation initiated in 2007 the creation of the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATiP). Gustavo became its first President in 2009. He still holds that position today, steering with competence the technology platform as it continues to be well-considered throughout the sector and in the European Commission. EATiP has been showcased by the European Commission as an example of a valuable technology platform. It has expanded its reach through the creation of Mirror Platforms in most European countries and continues bringing young professionals into the sector. In this altruist work, Gustavo has always expressed that he dedicates his time in EATiP with pleasure as his will is to give back to society what he has received during his thirty-nine years in the profession, and passes the 'baton' to the younger generations.

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 24 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.