

NewTechAqua gathers over 90 stakeholders and delivers 14 innovations for a more resilient aquaculture

- The event was organised by Greenvestal Europe, in collaboration with the University of Bologna and FEAP, in Brussels, and streamed online.
- Legislative barriers, circularity, fish feed, organic aquaculture and diversification are some of the topics discussed in high-level policy roundtables.

Brussels, 21 November 2023. NewTechAqua project has organised its final conference on tools and strategies for a sustainable, resilient and innovative European aquaculture on 15th November in Brussels, and online. The event was hosted by Greenvestal Europe, in collaboration with the University of Bologna and the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and gathered over 90 stakeholders (45 attendees onsite and 25 online) to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the future of the European aquaculture.

NewTechAqua presented 14 innovations to improve the resilience of the sector and provided policy recommendations that contribute to enhancing EU regulations. Legislative barriers, circularity, fish feed, organic aquaculture and diversification were some of the topics discussed in high-level policy roundtables, including the participation of the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), and the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP).

Striving for a sustainable EU aquaculture

In the last 4 years, the NewTechAqua partners have identified, tested, and evaluated the effectiveness of new tools that improve the production and, at the same time, the sustainability of the sector. 14 innovations were presented covering several species, such as sea bass, sea bream, greater amberjack, grey mullet, meagre, salmon, mussel, oyster and microalgae.

The use of novel ingredients for aquafeeds, the valorisation of fish co-products into innovative ingredients, and new approaches for enhancing reproduction and maturation, are some examples of the innovations presented. Some of the achievements are already on the market and are being used on a commercial scale. Others are in an early development stage and will serve to further advance in future projects.

NewTechAqua awards PuñOyster, by Seedcor

Bringing new technologies into the aquaculture sector offers a range of benefits that are transforming the industry and driving its growth. NewTechAqua launched an Incent Challenge to look for disruptive solutions that bring economic, environmental, and social advantages. 47 proposals were submitted from all around the world and evaluated by NewTechAqua Committee of Experts, coordinated by the Spanish Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA).

During its final conference, [NewTechAqua announced the highest scoring project, PuñOyster, by Seedcor, \(Fariña et al., 2023\)](#). The PuñOyster is a cutting-edge technology to produce outstanding oysters all year around by reducing biomass loss and optimising production costs.