

IS EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE LOSING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BATTLE?



FEAP calls for simplification, realism, science-based governance, and the launch of a coherent EU food production policy.

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We, as the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), have been alerting stakeholders that while aquaculture production in the European Union has been stagnating since the turn of the century, it has grown exponentially around the world. Difficulties in obtaining licenses for new fish farms and excessive red tape make fish farming in the EU extremely burdensome and challenging. In addition to being dependent on natural factors, fish farming is today practically impossible to overcome bureaucratic ordeal.

FEAP is fully aware that the problem affects not only the aquaculture sector but is weighing down the food production sectors in general. At this time of relocation of strategic industries, with food security high on the agenda, such a restrictive legal framework is counterintuitive and counterproductive, to say the least. The pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the Red Sea crisis, inflation, and climate change are stark reminders that Europe must now act to create the proper conditions for its key sectors to be able to develop in a stable and fair administrative playing field.

The protests of the agriculture farmers should come as no surprise, given that this sector has historically been the most vocal in the face of this common problem. This movement, unfortunately, plagued by unnecessary violence and political opportunism, is nothing but a manifestation of the collective frustration of Europe's primary producers: fishers, fish farmers, livestock or crop producers, on whom everybody else relies.

⚡ Despite being essential to our society, these activities remain under-appreciated and are administratively penalised.