



## Press Release

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### **FEAP presents the first FEAP-Laschinger NextGen Award to Josef Stier at Annual Meeting in Munich**

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Brussels, 2 December 2025 – The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) is proud to announce that Mr. Josef Stier has received the inaugural FEAP-Laschinger NextGen Award, presented during the FEAP Annual Meeting in Munich this November.

The FEAP Laschinger NextGen Award is part of FEAP's NextGen initiative, launched in 2024 to identify and support young aquaculture professionals across Europe. The initiative promotes innovation, career development, and stronger connections between young professionals and national fish farmer associations.

The FEAP-Laschinger NextGen Award recognises exceptional entrepreneurship, business leadership, and innovation among young professionals in European aquaculture. Established jointly with Mr. Rudolf Laschinger, who sadly passed away recently, the award celebrates individuals who demonstrate initiative, resilience, and dedication to advancing aquaculture production.

Mr. Laschinger founded a successful aquaculture and processing company in 1979 in Birkenthal, Bavaria, starting with trout farming and a small smokehouse, later expanding into salmon production and processing operations in Norway, Scotland (Shetland), and Ireland. His support for innovation in aquaculture underpins this award.

#### **2025 Award Recipient: Josef Stier**

On behalf of the Jury, FEAP announced:

*"This award recognises young professionals in European aquaculture who demonstrate outstanding entrepreneurship, business leadership, and innovation, reflecting the pioneering spirit of Rudolf Laschinger. After a thorough review of nominations from across Europe, the Jury unanimously selected Mr. Josef Stier as this year's awardee."*

Despite his young age, Mr. Stier has made a remarkable mark on European aquaculture. He has combined expertise in traditional Bavarian fish farming with cutting-edge technologies, including recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) and insect-based feed integration. In 2024, he successfully acquired and continued