

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS

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Press Release

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

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

operations of the renowned Fischzucht Stephan Hofer facility in Schelklingen, demonstrating entrepreneurial initiative and strategic vision.

Under his leadership, Stier Satzfisch GmbH has maintained high-quality production standards while advancing sustainability through renewable energy generation and collaborative research projects with universities and international partners. His work includes EU-led trials on the use of insect larvae in salmonid production, as well as experimental projects optimising feed and production efficiency.

The President of FEAP, Ms Lara Barazi-Geroulanou stated that *"Mr. Stier embodies the values this award seeks to celebrate: innovation, sustainability, leadership, and dedication to the growth of European aquaculture. He is a true example of the next generation of aquaculture entrepreneurs who will shape the future of our sector. For these achievements and his outstanding contribution to the profession, the Jury is delighted to present the 2025 FEAP-Laschinger NextGen Award to Mr. Josef Stier."*

The award includes a €10,000 prize to support Mr. Stier's work and will continue to be presented every two years, highlighting emerging talent across all subsectors of European aquaculture.

For more information on the FEAP-Laschinger NextGen Award, visit: www.feap.info

More information about the [FEAP NextGen initiative](#)

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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 25 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.



1. Bernhard Feneis, VDBA President – Josef Stier, 2025 NextGen Award



2. Lara Barazi, FEAP President – Josef Stier, 2025 NextGen Award – Lauri Laschinger – Ulrike Müller



3. Josef Stier