



FEDERATION OF
EUROPEAN
AQUACULTURE
PRODUCERS



ANNUAL
REPORT

2025



FEDERATION OF
EUROPEAN
AQUACULTURE
PRODUCERS



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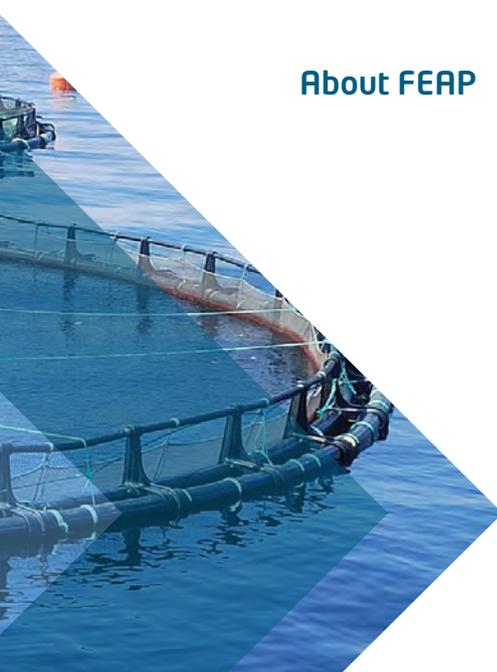
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FEAP
in 2025



Foreword by the FEAP President

Mrs Lara Barazi-Geroulanou

As we close 2025, European aquaculture stands at a pivotal moment. Amid shifting geopolitical dynamics, trade uncertainties, and climate disruptions, our sector continues to demonstrate its strategic importance for Europe's food future. The resilience and commitment of our producers, combined with a renewed focus on innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness at the EU level—are positioning aquaculture not just as a source of high-quality food, but as a cornerstone of a secure, self-reliant, and climate-resilient food system.

In this complex landscape, FEAP remains firmly focused on delivering practical solutions and strong representation for our members.

In this context, FEAP has intensified its work to promote aquaculture as a **strategic asset for Europe**. We welcomed the European Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food 2040, which places competitiveness, sustainability, and innovation at the core of Europe's food agenda. We are now contributing actively to DG MARE's Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2040, where we continue to underline the urgent need for policy reform, particularly in support of responsible growth in finfish production.

This year also saw the adoption of the European Ocean Pact, a political milestone for the sustainable management of oceans and inland waters. FEAP has played a leading role in ensuring that aquaculture is strongly represented within this Pact—not just as a food producer, but as a nature-based solution that supports healthy ecosystems, vibrant coastal and rural economies, and reduced pressure on wild fish stocks. Our vision is clear: aquaculture must be a cornerstone of Europe's food sovereignty and blue economy.

Our 57th Annual General Meeting, held in Stockholm in May, reinforced these priorities. We celebrated innovation and excellence in fish farming, while addressing our shared challenges head-on. We were especially proud to highlight our participation in two major Horizon Europe projects – ACTFAST and OCCAM – which are piloting new approaches to climate adaptation, mitigation and environmental resilience in aquaculture. These initiatives reaffirm FEAP's commitment to aligning our sector with Europe's green transition through science, innovation, and partnership.

FEAP has also renewed its call for a coordinated European response to cormorant predation, a major threat to fish farming, wild populations and biodiversity. Together with the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) and the European Anglers Alliance (EAA), we launched a joint survey to assess the scale of losses, and we continue to advocate for the adoption of a European Management Plan for the Great Cormorant to protect food production, biodiversity, and rural livelihoods.

Globally, 2025 marked a historic turning point: for the first time, the FAO's State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) Report confirmed that farmed aquatic animal production surpassed that of capture fisheries. While Europe's ratio remains different, the trend is unmistakable. Aquaculture is no longer an emerging industry—it is now the backbone of the global aquatic food supply. And yet, EU production remains stagnant, covering only 35% of domestic consumption. If Europe is serious about its food autonomy, aquaculture must grow—and it must be enabled to do so through smart, science-based policy.



Javier Ojeda, Gustavo Larrazabal, Lara Barazi, John Stephanis,
Marco Gilmozzi and Sinan Kiziltan.

We are also proud of our role in the European Strategic Seafood Alliance (EUSeA). At its first anniversary in Barcelona, EUSeA reaffirmed its commitment to promoting seafood as a low-carbon, nutritious food for the future. The call for a “Blue Food Action Plan,” launched in July at the European Parliament, urges policymakers to place blue foods at the centre of both the Ocean Pact and the EU’s sustainable food transition.

In parallel, FEAP has sharpened its advocacy on consumer trust issues, stepping into the spotlight to call for more accurate seafood labelling—recognizing that transparency and origin information are fundamental to building market confidence and protecting Europe’s aquaculture reputation.

We are also investing in the next generation of aquaculture professionals. FEAP’s NextGen initiative has created space for emerging professionals and entrepreneurs in aquaculture, while helping shape EU policies that reflect their needs and ambitions. We’ve also expanded our support for women and young farmers across Europe. As part of this commitment, we are proud to present the first FEAP-Laschinger NextGen Award in Munich, celebrating outstanding leadership and innovation by young professionals in aquaculture. This new award honours the legacy of Rudolf Laschinger and highlights the new generation shaping the sector’s future with vision and dedication.

This outreach is reinforced by FEAP’s Smart Chats series, which has brought together producers, researchers, and policymakers on key themes such as climate adaptation, digital innovation, and animal health. These sessions are building a common knowledge base across Europe’s aquaculture community—ensuring the next generation is equipped with both the vision and the tools to lead.

As always, our work would not be possible without the people who drive this sector forward. In Stockholm, we were honoured to present the 2025 FEAP Award for Excellence in European Aquaculture to John Stephanis, a visionary entrepreneur whose legacy spans decades. As founder of Selonda Aquaculture and a former President of FEAP, John was instrumental in opening the organization to Mediterranean producers and in establishing the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform.

We were equally proud to see our General Secretary, Javier Ojeda, receive Honorary Life Membership from the European Aquaculture Society at Aquaculture Europe 2025. This well-deserved recognition celebrates Javier’s lifelong contributions to the development of aquaculture in Spain, across Europe, and beyond—his steady leadership and tireless advocacy continue to strengthen FEAP and the entire European aquaculture community.

Finally, we were delighted to showcase Swedish aquaculture stakeholders at our AGM, including presentations from national authorities and producers, with a focus on recirculated aquaculture systems (RAS) and youth participation. From technical insights to local tastings and warm hospitality, Sweden offered a clear example of how national leadership can support both sustainability and competitiveness.

As we look to the future, our priorities remain focused:

- Enabling growth and investment in a sustainable aquaculture sector
- Adapting to climate risks through science and collaboration
- Defending Europe’s food sovereignty and rural livelihoods
- Fostering generational renewal, inclusion, and innovation at every level

With unity and determination, European aquaculture will rise to the moment. I am proud of all that FEAP and its members have achieved this year, and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

Lara Barozi
President, FEAP



John Stephanis (2025 FEAP AWARD),
Lara Barozi and
Gustavo Larrazabal

Aquaculture: a premium, sustainable and responsible choice for Europe's future



Former Minister of Health, Education, Agriculture and Environment of the Republic of Cyprus, **Costas Kadis** has devoted his academic and political career to advancing the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of the environment. A Professor of Biodiversity Conservation, he is today the European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans.



INTERVIEW available on :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGcxaz29s2w>

The European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadis, shares his vision for a thriving, competitive and resilient aquaculture sector that supports Europe's sustainable food future.

“Fish farmers and fishers are the lifeblood of Europe's blue economy.”

– Costas Kadis, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans

European aquaculture is a vital and strategic pillar of our food system. It provides high-quality, nutritious aquatic food, supports employment, and sustains innovation in Europe's coastal and rural areas. Above all, it shows how **food production and environmental protection can advance together**.

As we begin a new chapter under this European Commission, our mission is clear: to strengthen sustainability, resilience, competitiveness, and fairness across the entire fisheries and aquaculture value chain. Fish farmers and fishers must be recognised not only for their contribution to Europe's food security, but also for the **stewardship and responsibility** they demonstrate every day.

The Commission is now preparing a **Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2040** - a shared framework to guide long-term policy and investment. This vision will acknowledge aquaculture as a strategic contributor to the Union's food autonomy, innovation, and climate objectives, while ensuring coherence between environmental, social, and economic dimensions.

In parallel, the **European Ocean Pact** will ensure stronger coherence between ocean protection and sustainable use. It will improve maritime spatial planning, enhance data and knowledge, and launch a **Europe-wide campaign promoting sustainable aquatic food**. Aquaculture has a central role in this Pact, showing how food production and ocean health can complement one another.

We are also working to **simplify and modernise** the way the EU supports fisheries and aquaculture. The **proposed financial framework for 2028-2034** introduces a more flexible structure, allowing Member States to target investments towards innovation, digitalisation, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation - all crucial for the competitiveness and resilience of the aquaculture sector.

Finally, building **public awareness and consumer trust** remains essential. The campaign **“EU Aquaculture - We work for you with passion”** celebrates the people, places, and values that make European aquaculture unique. It reminds us that behind every fish farm are dedicated professionals committed to quality, sustainability, and transparency.

“We have a strong foundation, a shared vision and the tools to make a difference,” concludes Commissioner Kadis. “By working together, we can make European aquaculture a symbol of quality, sustainability and pride – a sector that truly feeds the future.”



An aerial photograph of several circular aquaculture ponds arranged in a grid pattern. The ponds are filled with dark water and surrounded by a light blue field. Several orange buoys are scattered across the field. The image is overlaid with a dark blue diagonal band.

FEAP PRIORITIES & ACTIONS in 2025



A Vision for Aquaculture: The Sector's Call to Action

The European Commission is currently preparing a long-term Vision 2040 for Fisheries and Aquaculture, which will set the strategic direction for a competitive, resilient, and sustainable aquatic food sector. According to the latest update from DG MARE (October 2025), the Vision will cover the entire value chain - from production to processing, markets, and workforce-and will align with broader EU priorities such as the Competitiveness Compass, the Nature Restoration Regulation, and the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

The Vision builds on several ongoing processes, including the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Energy Transition Partnership, and the mid-term assessment of the Strategic Guidelines for Aquaculture. Work within the Commission is structured around four key pillars: demand, supply, labour force, and tools.

A public consultation process is expected in early 2026, with the Vision scheduled for publication in mid-2026.

Opportunities for Aquaculture

The Vision 2040 offers a significant opportunity to further integrate aquaculture into Europe's long-term food system and competitiveness agenda. It provides a platform to address long-standing challenges such as:

- administrative complexity and lengthy licensing procedures,
- access to suitable space and water,
- fragmented governance across policy fields,
- investment needs for digitalisation, innovation, and climate adaptation.

FEAP's Role and Next Steps

FEAP will engage proactively throughout the consultation process. In 2026, the Federation will coordinate member contributions, gather evidence from national associations and EU-funded projects, and present clear proposals aimed at improving administrative efficiency, promoting innovation and climate resilience, reinforcing market conditions for EU-produced aquatic food, and strengthening skills and labour availability.

The Vision 2040 is a unique opportunity to build a strategic, future-oriented framework for aquaculture in Europe. FEAP will work to ensure that the final strategy supports the growth, competitiveness, and long-term sustainability of the sector.

EU Seafood Alliance (EUSeA): Call for an EU Action Plan for Blue foods

FEAP has played an active role in building the EUSeafood Alliance, a coordinated platform that brings together the main representative organisations of Europe's blue food value chain: FEAP (aquaculture producers), Seafood Europe (previously AIPCE-CEP / processors and traders), EAPO (fish producers' organisations), and Europêche (fisheries). The Alliance was formed to strengthen cooperation across the sector and to ensure that aquatic food production is better reflected in EU policy.

Over the past year, FEAP worked closely with the partners to develop common messages on sustainability, food security, competitiveness, and the strategic importance of blue foods. A central element of this cooperation has been the joint call for an EU Action Plan on Blue Foods. The proposal underlines the need for clearer political leadership, more coherent and predictable policies, targeted investment, and stronger recognition of blue foods in nutrition, climate, and food-security strategies. It highlights the contribution of aquatic food to healthy diets, low-impact production systems, coastal communities, and Europe's long-term resilience.

In addition to this, the Alliance coordinated input into key EU processes, including funding priorities and regulatory issues such as digital traceability, where FEAP ensured that the specific needs of aquaculture were visible. Through these actions and regular engagement with EU institutions, the EUSeafood Alliance has become a recognised and credible voice for Europe's blue food sectors.

Looking ahead, FEAP will continue to represent aquaculture within the Alliance, with a focus on maintaining momentum for the EU Action Plan on Blue Foods and contributing to the development of the Vision for Aquaculture and Fisheries 2040.

More : <https://feap.info/2025/09/05/10352/>



FEAP's Position on the European Ocean Pact: A Call for Coherence

The European Ocean Pact, published by the European Commission on 5 June 2025, sets out a new strategic framework to improve coherence between EU policies affecting the ocean, the blue economy, and aquatic food production. It brings environmental, social, and economic objectives together to ensure that Europe's ocean-related activities contribute to resilience, competitiveness, and food security.

Aquaculture is an important component of the Pact. It announces the launch of an EU Initiative on Sustainable Aquaculture, which will bring together Member States, producers, research institutions, and investors to develop shared objectives and actions for sustainable growth. The initiative will focus on simplifying licensing, improving access to space and water, fostering innovation, encouraging circular and low-impact practices, and strengthening investment conditions.

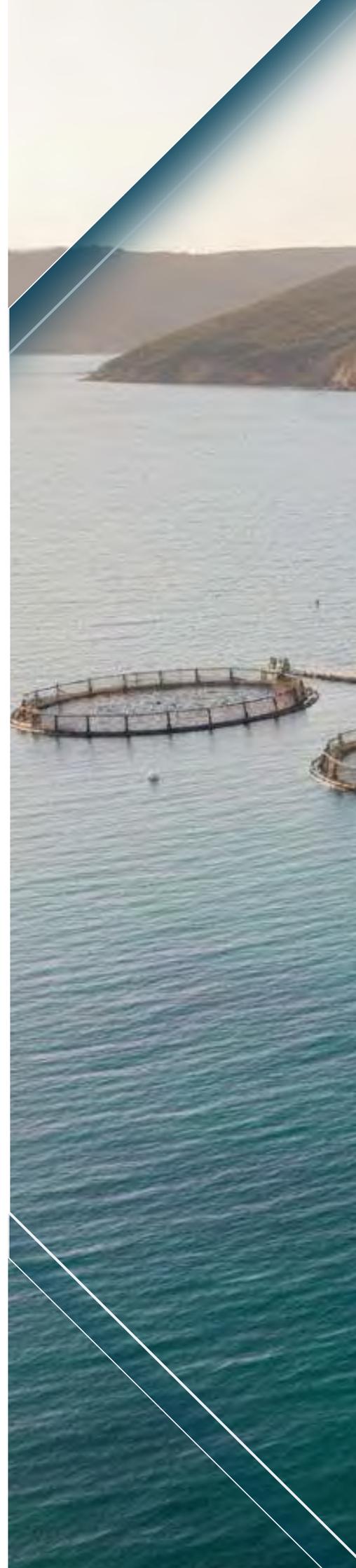
The Pact also announces the preparation of an Ocean Act, which will provide the legal and governance framework for implementing the Pact's objectives. The Act is expected to build on and expand the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, integrating all ocean-related activities—including aquaculture—into a coherent long-term management framework. The Commission has confirmed that it will table the legislative proposal by 2027. Preparatory work is underway, including analytical work and forthcoming opportunities for stakeholder input.

FEAP's Engagement

FEAP has been actively involved throughout the development of the Ocean Pact. Through several formal submissions and a high-level dialogue with Commissioner Kadis, FEAP has emphasised the need for coherent governance, practical administrative simplification, and a supportive investment environment for fish farmers. FEAP also co-signed the EU Seafood Alliance contribution calling for an EU Action Plan for Blue Foods to strengthen sustainable aquatic food production and consumption in Europe.

With the Pact now adopted, FEAP will closely follow the next steps, including the Sustainable Aquaculture Initiative and the Ocean Act, to ensure that producers' needs and evidence from Member Associations and EU projects are reflected in the forthcoming policy framework.

Member Associations and EU projects are reflected in the forthcoming policy framework.



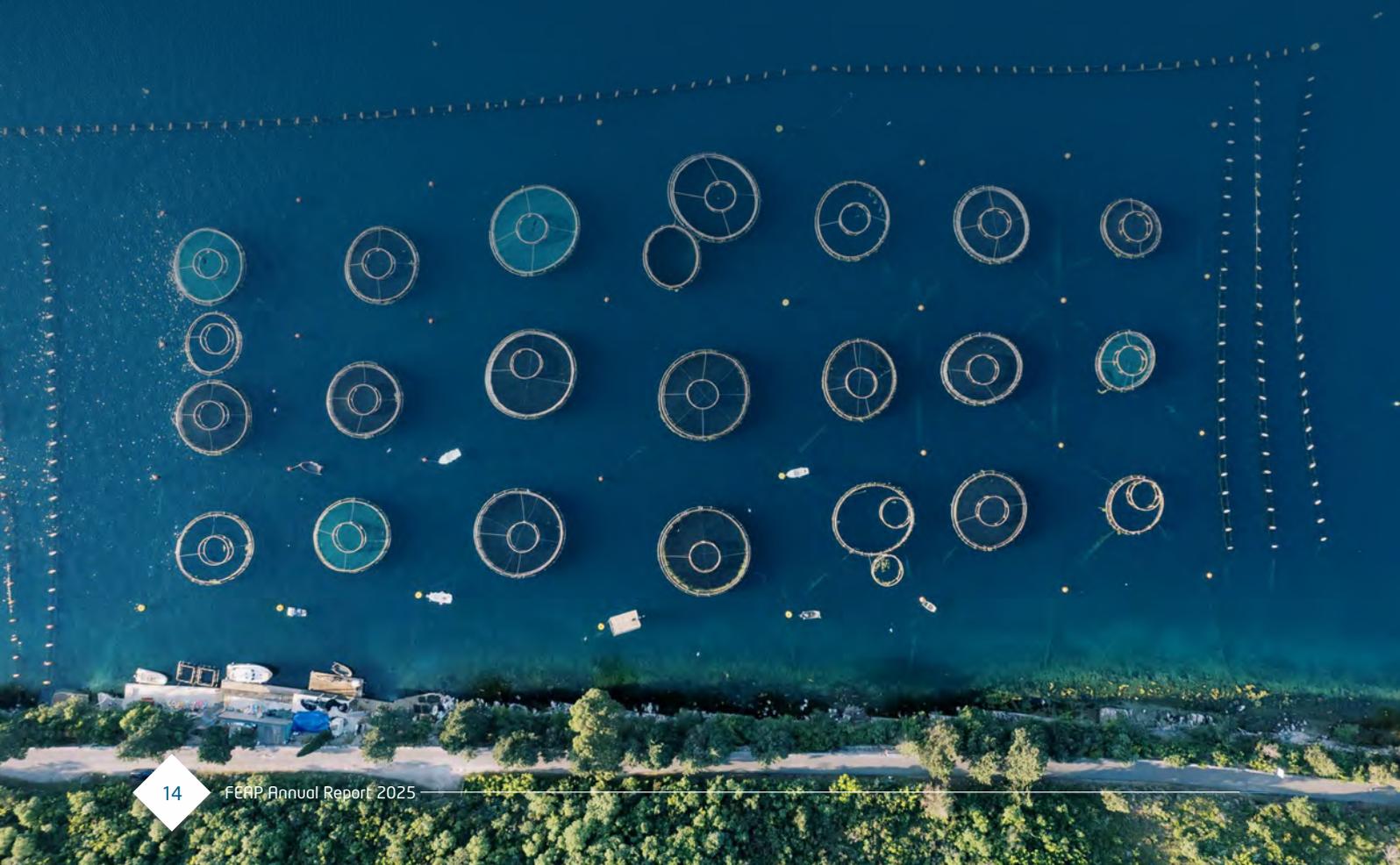


FEAP actions for Climate Change Adaptation



"Climate change is an inevitable event that obstructs the output of aquaculture farms and culture-based fisheries in open waters."

The ACTFAST project
<https://www.actfast-project.eu>



Actions for Climate Transition by developing Future Aquaculture Strategies and Technologies

FEAP is a partner in **ACTFAST**, a Horizon Europe Innovation Action (2025–2029) developing science-based solutions to support European aquaculture in adapting to climate change.

The project held its official kick-off meeting in Bologna, Italy, on 2–3 July 2025, hosted by the coordinator Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna under the leadership of Professor Alessio Bonaldo and his team. With a €5 million budget, **ACTFAST** brings together 28 partners from 13 countries, including EU Member States, Norway, Tunisia and Egypt, working to strengthen the resilience, sustainability and circularity of aquaculture.

ACTFAST develops and demonstrates practical adaptation and mitigation measures to help farmers respond to stressors such as heatwaves, disease outbreaks and water quality deterioration. It combines AI-driven forecasting tools, real-time biosensors, climate-adapted feeds and integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) systems to future-proof marine, transitional and freshwater production across four regions:

- Mediterranean – sea bass, sea bream
- North-East Atlantic – salmon
- Central and Eastern Europe – carp, trout
- Delta and coastal lagoons – shellfish, tilapia, mullet

The project aims to achieve:

- 10% reduction in mortality for sea bass and sea bream through climate-adapted health strategies;
- 10% reduction in antibiotic use through preventive measures and functional feeds;
- 10–15% improvement in feed conversion via low-carbon, climate-smart formulations;
- Validation of biosensors and early warning systems for on-farm monitoring;
- AI-based decision-support tools for adaptive farm management under climate variability.

FEAP's Role

FEAP plays a leading role in stakeholder engagement, dissemination and market uptake. Within Work Package 7, FEAP coordinates the ActFast Stakeholder Panel to ensure producers' needs are reflected in project activities. FEAP also contributes to the ActFast Virtual Lighthouse, a digital platform offering immersive training and demonstration of climate-smart aquaculture solutions.

Through these actions, FEAP supports knowledge exchange and innovation transfer, helping ensure that ActFast delivers tangible and lasting benefits for European aquaculture producers.



FEAP Position Papers

Position paper available here:

https://feap.info/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/256030-feap-position-paper_climate-change.pdf



Position Paper

June 2025

Enabling adaptation: a Climate Agenda for European fish farming

Overview

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our era, and its impacts are being felt across all sectors, including aquaculture. In Europe, fish farming is increasingly affected by rising water temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, more frequent extreme weather events, and changing marine and freshwater conditions. These pressures are intensifying, putting the resilience and sustainability of the sector to the test.

In response, fish farmers are already taking steps to adapt, adjusting farming practices, implementing new technologies, and investing in more resilient systems. However, their ability to respond effectively remains constrained by persistent shortcomings in the legal and regulatory framework. These longstanding issues, which have long hindered innovation and flexibility, are now becoming critical obstacles to climate adaptation.

Unlocking European fish farming's full adaptive potential requires urgent action to modernise and align the legal framework with today's climate realities. Without it, the sector cannot face the challenges ahead with the speed and confidence that are now essential.

Ongoing adaptation measures

European fish farming is a forward-looking and innovative sector that is already taking concrete steps to address the impacts of climate change. Adaptation measures are being implemented across the sector, some tailored to specific sites or species, others with broader applicability. These measures range from simple adjustments to highly complex interventions, reflecting the diversity of environments and production systems in European fish farming.

Adaptation measures currently being adopted by... examples are not

FEAP Smart Chats in 2025

#7

Climate change adaptation is a top topic of high interest



The **#7 Smart Chat** was held online on March 11th, 2025 and explores the implications of Climate Change on research and innovation for fish feeds and nutrition. Featuring experts Luca Parma and Alessio Bonaldo from University Bologna, Eric Gisbert and Silvia Torrecillas from IRTA, presenting the new project ACTFAST.

The previous #6 FEAP smart chat focussed on Climate change and aquatic foods production, in which Rita Lecci (CMMC) and Elisabeth Ytteborg (NOFIMA) presented their work to FEAP members and their guests.

#8

The AI-data revolution

How is it transforming fish farming and how to get onboard?

The last **#8 FEAP Smart Chat** held online on September 8th, 2025, addressed the **AI revolution**.



Artificial intelligence is now present in all aspects of our digital lives, it is evolving constantly towards better integration, customized and tailor-made services, automation and forecast capacities... and aquaculture is already being transformed by this new technological revolution. But how concretely, and for what results and benefits?

Lars Ebbesson, Chief Scientist & Senior Aquaculture Advisor at NORCE Technology Division, presented a state-of-the-art vision of the current trends in AI developments, how this is connected to the increasing amount of data which can be collected in aquaculture operations from farm to fork, but also how, why, and when, fish farmers can choose to jump aboard the AI transformation.

#9

Lastly, the **ninth FEAP Smart Chat** explored a groundbreaking aquaculture communication campaign led by Sjømat Norge, the Norwegian Seafood Federation. This campaign aims to inform in a transparent, fact-checked and authentic way the work, efforts and benefits of salmon farming. Kristin Langeland, Director Of Communications, Public Affairs and Strategy at Sjømat Norge, shared with FEAP members the unique approach of this campaign striking balance between pride and humility, where the message conveyed is a smart combination of promoting the work and efforts of a profession while committing to constant improvement in reducing its impacts.



These webinars are to FEAP members, their members and interested stakeholders which can be invited by FEAP members, these are now also part of the FEAP Next Gen training catalog, where trainees are invited to take part.

You can watch the replays on this page
<https://feap.info/smart-chats>





Deep Dive: our first training in Brussels

On March 25th and 26th, FEAP organized its first ever FEAP NextGen Academy training, bringing a class of young fish farming professionals from across Europe to the heart of Brussels for a “Deep Dive into EU institutions”. This training, sponsored by AquaSoja - Soja de Portugal was a first for FEAP, whose members and team are developing increasing efforts into investing in youth and generational renewal in the European fish farming sector.

Thanks to inspiring exchanges with Young Aquaculture Professional Associations and Networks such as NOWA (the Network of Women in Aquaculture) YAS, (Young Aquaculture Society) and YoungFish Norway, FEAP launched in 2024 its first NextGen initiative called “FEAP NextGen: Deep Dive”, a training opportunity targeting young fish farming professionals to provide them support and opportunities to get a better understanding of the European dimension of fish farming policy making.

So when FEAP launched its first call for applicants late 2024, little did we expect to drive so much interest and so many applicants for this first edition. For this first training, FEAP received over a hundred applications, and choosing 15 participants for this first edition has been a tough process as we had to sort so many good profiles.

Ultimately, the group of NextGen trainees was composed of 15 participants from 14 countries. Hosted for two days in Brussels, the group was a unique blend of backgrounds, languages, professional skills and high motivation. They made the most out of their two days and had the chance to meet with representatives from AAC, MAC, EATIP, FEFAC, DG Research, DG MARE, and MEPs including MEPs Gabriel Mato, Francisco Millán Mon, representatives from European Commission DG MARE and DG Research as well as stakeholders from Market Advisory Council, EATIP, FEFAC and Aquaculture Advisory Council.

After this first training, we were even more so convinced that the future of aquaculture was in good hands, and strengthened by this success and lessons learned from the first edition, FEAP launched its two most recent NextGen initiatives:





The FEAP-Laschinger NextGen Award: launched in 2025 during the FEAP General Assembly in Munich, this award brings recognition of outstanding entrepreneurship and business leadership among young professionals in European aquaculture production. This award is a joint initiative of FEAP and Mr Rudolf Laschinger, founder of the company in 1979 in Birkenthal, Bavaria, starting with a trout farm and a small smokehouse. He later expanded into salmon farming and processing, including Norway, Scotland (Shetland), and Ireland operations.

FEAP NextGen DeepDive 2: FEAP will soon launch the call for the second edition of the FEAP NextGen Deep Dive, a new edition that will provide more in-depth training and extended stay in the capital of Europe.

To learn more, read the FEAP NextGen Deep Dive testimonials below, from our sponsor AquaSoja – Soja de Portugal and two trainees giving their feedback on this first training in this annual report in the interviews below.

Keep following FEAP for our future NextGen actions <https://feap.info/nextgen/>



Three **INTERVIEWS** of FEAP NextGen Deep Dive stakeholders

Antonio Isidoro, 
President of AquaSoja - SOJA DE PORTUGAL Executive
Board, Sponsor of the first FEAP NextGen Deep Dive
training in March 2025



Can you introduce yourself to our readers and share a few words about the current challenges for young fish farmers?

My name is António Isidoro, CEO of AQUASOJA part of the SOJA DE PORTUGAL Group. With over 30 years of experience, we focus on sustainable, high-quality aquafeeds built on circular-economy principles. Our goal is to help farmers grow responsibly – combining performance, animal welfare and environmental care.

We witness how young professionals face growing complexity – from EU policy to fast-changing technology and environmental demands. Many have the knowledge, but not always the exposure or access to networks that connect science, policy and the market. In this matter, FEAP plays a crucial role by creating bridges between generations – connecting young professionals with European institutions, experts and decision-makers. Initiatives like NextGen help translate policy into practice and prepare future leaders of European aquaculture.

What has been AquaSoja's role in the first NextGen Academy?

AQUASOJA joined as a sponsor and active participant, with two team members attending the “Deep Dive into EU Institutions” in Brussels. Supporting this initiative was our way of helping 15 young professionals from 14 countries understand how EU decisions shape our sector.

Our team was very interested to attend this training in Brussels, and it has been an inspiring and hands-on experience. Visiting the European Parliament and interacting with policymakers gave us real insight into how decisions are made – and how innovation, sustainability and regulation can move together.

Why other companies should join as sponsors?

Because it's about shaping the future of aquaculture. Supporting NextGen means investing in people, strengthening the sector's reputation, and connecting with new talent and ideas. For AQUASOJA, it's a natural extension of our mission to drive responsible growth.

Nicolas Picchi, 
Technical Manager of La Coopérative des
Aquaculteurs Bretons - participant to the first FEAP
NextGen Deep Dive training in March 2025



Hi Nicolas, nice to get back in touch! Can you introduce yourself to our readers.

I am Nicolas Picchi, Technical Manager for the Brittany Fish Farmers Cooperative (Les Aquaculteurs Bretons). Our cooperative consists of 40+ fish farms across Brittany and Normandie. We are specialised in rearing Rainbow Trouts, with a production nearing 7,000 tonnes. My job within the Cooperative is varied, it includes providing technical support to our cooperators, negotiate our electricity, oxygen, insurance and feed contracts as well as provide support dealing with the administration or even managing our R&D programs.

What is your perception of the challenges for younger aquaculture professionals in Europe?

The complete absence of development, in terms of volume or new sites, is the main issue in Europe. Today, if you have any ambition to start your own farm, the only possibility is to wait for someone to retire. That lack of development has a knock-on effect on direct and indirect jobs. There are less and less jobs across the value chain, from technicians to management and even for those lucky enough to have secured a position, the potential to progress is limited.

How can FEAP help with these challenges

There is nothing compelling member states to support and push for the development of Aquaculture. A European Aquaculture specific set of policies advocating for an increase of production; compelling member states would be a good start.

The development of fish farming is also facing societal unacceptance, and in some member states, this is the reason local governments are reluctant to grant new or renew licenses. Communication has been used extensively against our industry, yet we haven't really used that tool in our favour.

Why were you interested in participating to the first FEAP Next Gen Deep Dive training?

Being a European citizen at core, I felt it was important to understand, at the very least, how our institutions are affecting our industry. Our national context feels like we are going nowhere to unlock fish farming potential, maybe the solution could come from the EU? I also wanted to see if our European neighbours were facing the same issues we face at a national level and how they were dealing with the different situation.

How was the experience and what opportunities/lesson did you get from the FEAP NextGen Deep Dive?

The workings of the European institutions are not easy to understand. Even less so its impact on our industry and what levers can be actioned to improve the unlock the European fish farming potential. I do feel like the FEAP NextGen gave us the tools to understand it better and get more involved.

It does also open up the idea of greater collaboration between European actors and I do feel like it's a pity we haven't pursued that aspect a bit more. I could easily imagine workshops to share our problems and solutions on specific topics such as health and pathologies management, environmental concerns, genetics, R&D, market trends, adaptation to climate change etc...

Why should other candidates take part to future Deep Dives?

Create even more links between member states' aquaculture actors. We may be competing on some markets but that does not prevent collaboration on common issues. There is a wealth of knowledge out there begging to be shared amongst European producers.

Also, a better understanding of our European institutions and context from the different industry's actors and therefore their involvement will be necessary if we want to shift things to unlock the European potential.

I personally found the NextGen session really well organised and super informative, thank you all very much for that opportunity. Now I want to know more about: where do we go from here ? This is a question which me must tackle to transform the training into a real change making process.

Valeria Macchia, 
Researcher at Skretting - participant to the first FEAP
NextGen Deep Dive training in March 2025



Hi Valeria, we'd like your feedback too - Can you first introduce yourself to our readers?

My name is Valeria Macchia and I am a researcher at Skretting, where I focus on developing in vitro models to study some of the major challenges in aquaculture, such as temperature stress and wound healing. My work aims to better understand how fish respond to these issues so that we can design more effective and sustainable solutions for industry. I enjoy bridging science and practice, and I see my role as contributing to healthier fish, more resilient production systems, and ultimately a stronger aquaculture sector.

What is your perception of the challenges for younger aquaculture professionals in Europe?

Younger professionals face a mix of challenges: access to stable career opportunities, the need for continuous training in new technologies, and the pressure to balance sustainability with profitability. At the same time, younger people bring fresh energy and digital skills, but they often lack networks and mentorship to help them grow.

How can FEAP help with these challenges?

FEAP can play a key role by creating platforms for young professionals to connect, exchange ideas, and be heard. Having the fantastic opportunity to participate in the FEAP Next Generation gave me the chance to meet and collaborate with other young people in aquaculture, which was incredibly valuable. On top of that, FEAP is organising talks about aquaculture that I can attend, giving me access to knowledge, perspectives, and discussions that help me grow both professionally and personally.

Why were you interested in participating in the first FEAP Next Gen Deep Dive training?

I was interested in the Deep Dive because I wanted to explore how sustainable aquaculture can be developed further and to connect with others who share the same passion. The idea of being part of a "next generation" network really appealed to me, because it's not just about training but about building a community. It gave me the opportunity to engage with research and innovation policy, and to see how collaboration across Europe can drive future solutions for the sector.

How was the experience and what opportunities/lesson did you get from the FEAP NextGen Deep Dive?

The Deep Dive was inspiring and practical at the same time. It gave me the chance to step back from daily routines and reflect on the bigger picture of aquaculture in Europe. I learned the importance of collaboration across borders and how different perspectives can spark new solutions. The training also gave me confidence to speak up and share ideas. Most importantly, it created lasting connections with colleagues who I still exchange with today, which is invaluable.

Why should other candidates take part in future Deep Dives?

Future candidates should join because the Deep Dive is more than a training, it's an experience that shapes how you see your role in aquaculture. You gain knowledge, but also a network of motivated peers who share your challenges and ambitions. It's not every day you can go inside the European Parliament in Brussels and that experience alone makes you feel part of something bigger. The Deep Dive gives you both inspiration and practical tools to grow personally and professionally.

The multi-faceted aquaculture in Sweden



Sweden's extensive rivers, lakes and coastline offer significant potential for aquaculture. Trout and Arctic charr are farmed in nutrient-poor northern lakes; salmon and sea trout hatcheries support restocking programmes along the Baltic coast; and on the west coast, shellfish, oysters and seaweed are cultivated. Restocking of trout for angling in lakes and crayfish farming in ponds, RAS farms and aquaponics – all exist in Sweden, either as full-scale operations or as part of diversified businesses, organised in various economic structures and sizes. Several organisations focus on specific parts of this multifaceted industry.

Recirkfisk, founded in 2015, unites producers willing to cooperate in developing modern aquaculture, particularly in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), aquaponics and integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA). Recognised as a Producer Organisation in 2017, Recirkfisk gained representation in the Swedish Monitoring Committee, providing the sector with a voice in national policy. To strengthen influence at the European level, Recirkfisk joined the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) in 2018 and FEAP in 2021 – as the only Swedish representative. In 2025, Recirkfisk proudly hosted the FEAP Annual General Meeting in Stockholm.

The organisation promotes collaboration and innovation by organising projects, study visits and conferences that foster knowledge exchange among farmers. Its policy work focuses on ensuring that small-scale farms can operate profitably and contribute to a resilient and fair food system.

Challenges remain. Sweden's aquaculture sector faces complex licensing processes that result from the over zealousness in precautionary principle application. This creates procedures that are costly and time-consuming to meet, while imported products can enter the market without having to comply with equivalent environmental, social or animal welfare standards. This imbalance undermines a level playing field for producers committed to compliance and responsibility.

At the same time, there is growing awareness of food security. Recent strategic studies emphasise Sweden's responsibility to increase domestic food production – not only for its own population but also to support other countries in need, whether due to climate change or global instability that disrupts food supply chains. With much of Sweden's map covered in blue, and growing public recognition of aquaculture's potential, the opportunities for development are significant.



FEAP members tasting Swedish aquaculture products at FEAP Annual General Meeting, May 2025

 Traditional red "stuga" in rural Sweden

An aerial photograph of a large-scale aquaculture operation, likely a shrimp or fish farm. The facility consists of numerous interconnected rectangular and irregular ponds, separated by narrow earthen or concrete channels. The water in the ponds varies in color, from clear blue to a murky green, suggesting different stages of cultivation or water quality. A dense forest of green trees borders the left side of the pond system. A prominent diagonal green overlay covers the left half of the image, creating a modern, graphic design element.

Facts
and **Figures**



European Fish Aquaculture in 2024: Key Insights and Trends

This section presents the latest insights into fish aquaculture across Europe, based on data provided by FEAP Member Associations and national authorities. The figures include both confirmed and provisional statistics, offering a comprehensive snapshot of the sector's performance in 2024.

Key Aquaculture Sectors

European aquaculture is structured around three primary production sectors:

- Marine Coldwater Species
- Marine Mediterranean Species
- Freshwater Species

Each of these sectors plays a vital role in the food supply and economic activity.

2024 Production Overview

In 2024, the total European aquaculture production is estimated at 2,989,827 tons, marking a 4% increase compared to 2023. The distribution across the three sectors is as follows: Marine Coldwater Species: 69% of total production, Marine Mediterranean Species: 19%, Freshwater Species: 12%.

This growth reflects the sector's resilience and continued innovation in sustainable fish farming practices.

Norway remains the dominant Producer in Europe with 55% of the total supply, mainly salmon but also large trout (>1.2kg) production. The other countries that produce more than 100.000 tons annually are Turkey, United Kingdom and Greece.

Top Species in European Aquaculture

Three main species produced are salmon, trout, seabass, seabream and carp which represent together 92% of the total European production in 2024.

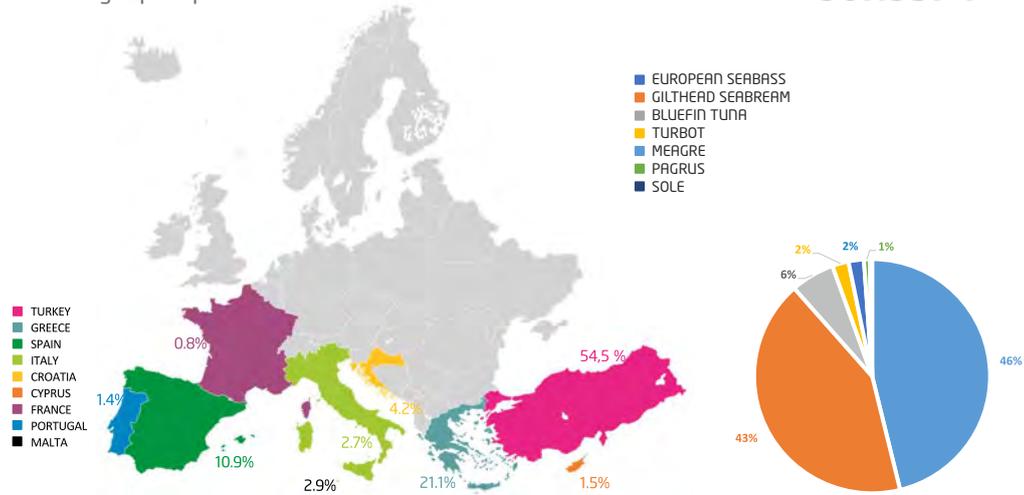
Visual Insights

The following graphics provide a detailed breakdown of production by country and species, highlighting regional strengths and trends across Europe.

The full 2024 Production Report will be available soon on our website : <https://feap.info/data-home/data>

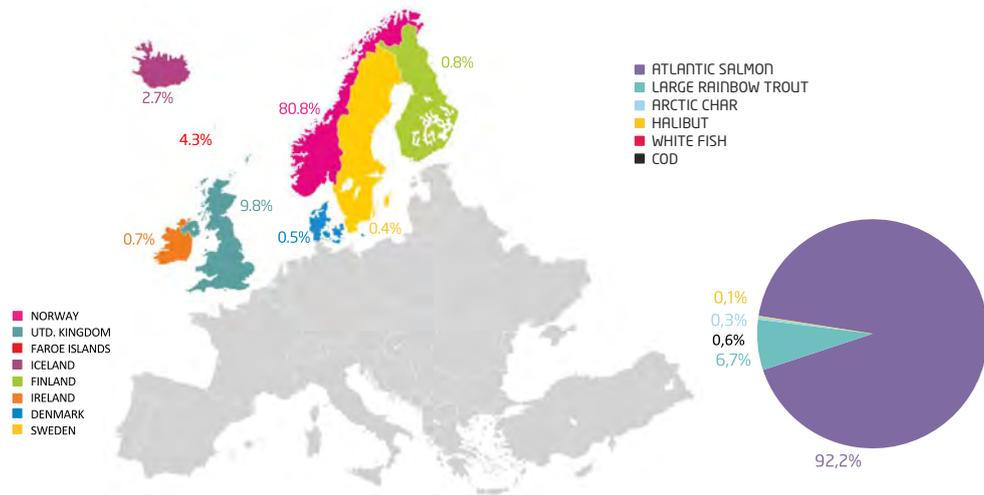
Marine Mediterranean Production
in 2024 per Country & per Species

567.397 T



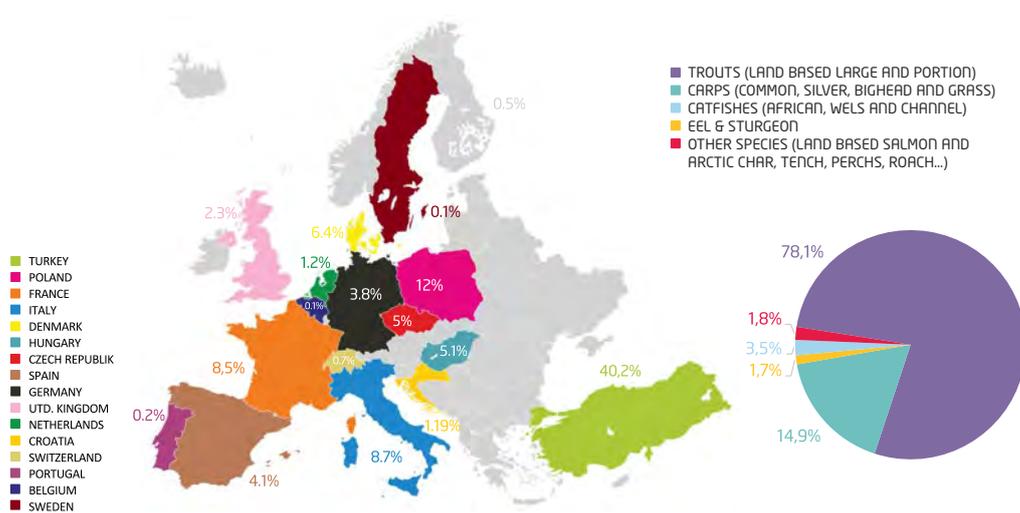
Marine Cold Water Production
in 2024 per Country & per Species

2.049.772 T



Freshwater Production
in 2024 per Country & per Species

372.658 T





About FEAP





About FEAP



FEAP is the united voice of the European aquaculture production industry, being the Federation of National aquaculture associations in Europe that represent professional fish farming.



With 24 members drawn from 23 countries across the European continent, the FEAP represents:



- 2.5 million tons of produce
- Ex-farm value of over € 8 billion
- >100,000 aquaculture-related jobs in coastal & rural areas



FEAP supports and promotes the responsible development of aquaculture and provides the common positions and opinions of the European aquaculture sector.



Focused on fish farming, FEAP represents a range of different farmed species that include:



- Rainbow trout
- Atlantic salmon
- Carp
- European sea bass
- Catfish
- Bluefin tuna
- European eel
- Gilthead seabream
- Turbot
- Cod
- Sturgeon
- Meagre
- Sole
- Arctic char



European aquaculture rears many other species, both in fresh and salt water, and details on the levels of production reported can be found in 'Facts & Figures' at www.feap.info. Additional data on aquaculture is provided by National statistics, the FISHSTAT service of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (www.fao.org) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - DG MARE (ec.europa.eu), notably through its EUMOFA service (www.eumofa.eu).



Founded in 1968, FEAP has responded to the changes and developments in European aquaculture and, in line with society's expectations, provides transparent information on activities and developments in this dynamic sector.

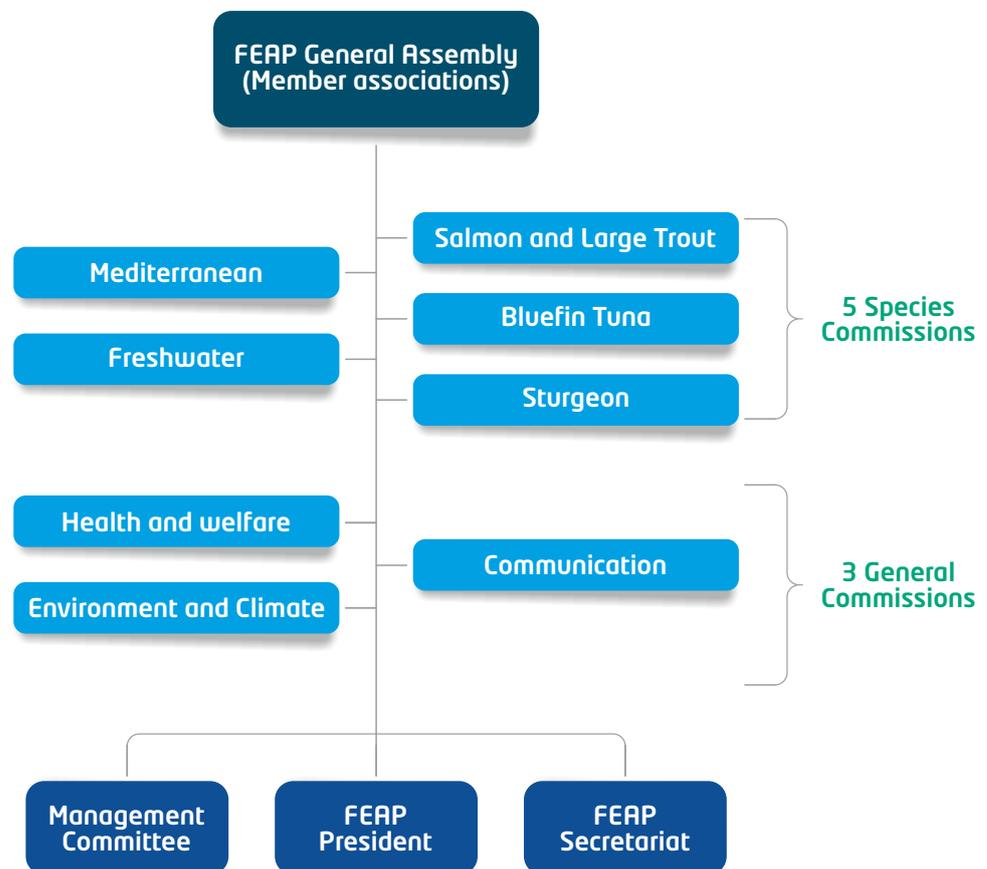


FEAP is run by professionals for professionals, meaning that all of its members are active in European fish farming and are experienced in the issues concerning aquaculture and its sustainable development in Europe.



FEAP's Mission

- Pursue and improve its coordination role of the aims of its National member associations and the aquaculture profession.
- Assure a pro-active position in front of relevant authorities and interests.
- Provide accurate information and sound rationale to policy and decision makers.
- Guarantee the communication of accurate and unbiased information on aquaculture processes and products to the consumer.
- Guarantee valid, consensual and timely responses to key issues.
- Develop the structure and operations required for the representation of a dynamic and visible sector at European and global levels



ADVISORY ROLE



Contact us

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- Maialen Berterreche, Vice-President
- Tor Anders Elvegård, Vice-President
- Anna Púç, Vice-President
- Brian Thomsen, Vice-President
- Jordi Trías, Vice-President
- Marco Gilmozzi, Past President

The FEAP Secretariat:

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National Member Associations

- Aquaculteurs de Wallonie asbl (AW)
- Croatian Chamber of Economy Aquaculture Unit (CCE - Aq. Unit)
- Cyprus Mariculture Association (CMA)
- Czech Fish Farmers Association (CFFA)
- Dansk Akvakultur (DA)
- Finnish Fish Farmers' Association (FFFA)
- Fédération Française d'Aquaculture (FFA)
- Verband der Deutschen Binnenfischerei und Aquakultur (VDBA)
- Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organisation (HAPO)
- Hungarian Aquaculture and Fisheries Inter-branch Organisation (MA-HAL)
- Fisheries Iceland (FIS)
- Irish Salmon Growers Association (ISGA)
- Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (API)
- Federation of Malta Aquaculture Producers (FMAP)
- Nederlandse Vereniging van viswerkers (NeVeVi)
- Norwegian Seafood Federation (FHL)
- Polish Trout Breeders Association (PTBA)
- Associação Portuguesa de Aquacultores (APA)
- Asociación Empresarial de Acuicultura de España (APROMAR)
- RecirkFisk PO
- Association suisse d'aquaculture (ASA)
- Aegean, Istanbul & Mediterranean Exporters Associations
- British Trout Association (BTA) and Salmon Scotland



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