

Multi-annual National Strategic Plans for the development of sustainable Aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030

Summary ROMANIA

“Multiannual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2022-2030”

1. State of the aquaculture sector

In terms of the number of fish farms, there are 544. The total number of employees reported by aquaculture establishments for the year 2021 is 2315. Analysis of the aquaculture unit based on the technology shows that 62% are on growing farms, 36% are combined units and only 2% are hatcheries and nurseries. Romanian aquaculture takes place exclusively in freshwater (inland / inland waters) in recent years. The main productions species in 2021:

- 20% trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, *Salmo trutta*);
- 78% cyprinids (*Cyprinus carpio*, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*, *Carassius auratus gibelio*) polyculture with other species grown in freshwater (prey species);
- 2% other freshwater species, sturgeon and African catfish, European perch (*Acipenser ruthenus*, *Acipenser baeri*, *Huso huso*, *Acipenser gueldenstaedti*, *Acipenser stellatus* or *Bester*, *Clarias gariepinus*).

Technologies applied, resulting in that: 2% are hatcheries and nurseries, on growing farms 62% and 36% are classified as farms were combined. A number of specialised units on species other than cyprinidae or trout have been developed/are under development in freshwater aquaculture, as follows:

- Sturgeon rearing.
- The growth of African catfish.

In 2021, the volume of production was 11,714 tonnes.

2. Objectives for 2021 to 2027

- Strengthening resilience and competitiveness.
- Participating in the green transition.
- Ensuring social acceptance and information to the consumer.
- Increasing knowledge and innovation.

Growth targets

The overall objective of PSNMA 2022-2030 is to increase marketed production by approximately 1.500 tonnes in 2025 (to reach a total of 13500 Tm) and approximately 5.000 tonnes in 2030 (total 17000). It is proposed that the plan be updated every 2 years, with a view to ensuring the best levers for its implementation.

3. Objectives for Measures for 2021 to 2027 responding to the 13 key areas listed in the “*Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030*”¹

1. Access to space and water

- Clarification of the legal regime governing land ownership of land-based farms.
- Land intabulation of fish farming and simplification of access to water and space.
- Identification of Allocated Zone for Aquaculture (AZA).
- Reintroduction of unused land base farms in production.

2. Regulatory and administrative procedures

- Amendment of the regulatory framework for aquaculture.
- Development of a single procedure for land concession from fish farms.
- Reduction of the period for obtaining an aquaculture licence.
- Implement the legislative framework on losses due to environmental restrictions/ihthofagic predators and develop the legislative framework on covering losses due to floods and/or droughts.

3. Animal and public health

¹ COM(2021)236 final

- Development of new products/schemes for treatment and/or prevention.

4. Climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Identification of the effects of climate change on aquaculture.
- Devolvement of hatchery/nurseries.

5. Producer and market organisations

- Strengthening the role of producer organisations.
- Promotion of the short marketing chain.

6. Control

- Strengthening the administrative capacity for inspection and data collection.
- Harmonisation specific legislation for selling aquaculture products.

7. Diversification and added value

- Diversification of culture species.
- Processing and marketing directly from the farm.
- Promotion of activities complementary to aquaculture.

8. Environmental performance

- Promoting integrated multi-trophic aquaculture.
- Identification and quantification of ecosystem services provided by land-based aquaculture.
- Support for aquaculture units that provide ecosystem services.
- Preserving the genetic potential of fish species with market prospects or with ecological potential.
- Promoting sustainable aquaculture, including organic aquaculture.

9. Animal welfare

- The development and implementation of good aquaculture practices.

10. Communicating on EU aquaculture

- Organisation of a national campaign and a market survey on fish consumption from aquaculture.
- Promotion of traditional aquaculture products.

11. Integration in local communities

- Integration of the Strategic Plan for Aquaculture into local/regional development strategies.
- Organisation of campaigns to promote local aquaculture products, including organic ones.

12. Data and monitoring

- Training sessions.
- Data collection and dissemination in real-time.

13. Knowledge and innovation

- Supporting scientific research and technological development for the development of aquaculture and supporting decisions.
- Promoting and stimulating partnerships between research, administration and producers.
- Stimulate training in aquaculture.

4. Funding

The financial resources needed to implement the action plan are mainly based on European funds, with a minimum share of 60 % of the EMFAF allocation for Romania, plus amounts from the national budget and the own contribution of potential beneficiaries. At the same time, an important source that can be accessed by beneficiaries is financial instruments.