

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Reform Dialogue IFA Response to the European Green Paper (COM(2009)163)

IFA welcomes the opportunity presented by the CFP reform to create a more useful and responsive common policy that recognises the role and importance of European aquaculture in providing safe, secure and sustainable seafood while creating vital jobs and economic activity in peripheral coastal and rural regions.

- The CFP must recognise and encourage Aquaculture's important role in providing indigenous seafood security during a time of diminishing wild catches and increasing reliance on 3rd country imports. Aquaculture in Europe must move in line with global trends to provide over half of the available seafood supply by 2020. The CFP can encourage this through policies that set community-wide output targets supported by funding for marketing, organisation and modernisation.
- The CFP must provide the mechanisms to ensure the highest standards of seafood safety and quality are seamlessly provided from farm to fork and protect European consumers from inferior or lower-standard imports. Improved labelling rules which are adequately enforced coupled with campaigns to improve consumer knowledge at national and community level will be required.
- Central to the CFP benefiting both industry and the European consumer should be a focused rolling campaign to increase seafood consumption by emphasising its proven health benefits.
- The CFP must ensure maximum socio-economic benefits of EU policies and legislation in areas impacting upon the aquaculture and seafood sectors such as marine spatial planning, transport and environmental conservation. Built into the CFP and its advisory structures such as ACFA, must be a requirement for socio-economic impact assessment of regulations and policies brought in by the EU institutions.
- The CFP reform process must focus on encouraging efficiencies of scale and reducing regulatory burdens on sectors and businesses that participate in recognised and audited practices such as quality assurance schemes, organic production and environmental management systems.
- The CFP must ensure that the aquaculture industry develops efficiencies through R&D and implements marketing programmes and quality and environmental policies in a collective manner. This requires a more focused, adequately funded and farmer-friendly system of Producer Organisations, with a shift in focus from market intervention to improved marketing to suit non-quota products and provide platforms for collective action at national, regional, local or species level.
- The CFP reform process must take into account (and the Commission and Parliament must ensure delivery) all of the recommendations contained in the Communication on Sustainable Aquaculture (COM(2009)162/3) published in May of this year.
- The reformed CFP must include a funding mechanism to replace the current European Fisheries Fund with additional financial protection for aquaculture producers who are on the frontline in the event of pollution or other environmental hazards.

IFA Aquaculture,
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