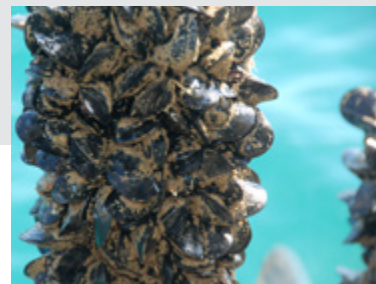


Regional Aquaculture Conference 2014

9-11 December 2014, Bari, Italy

Blue **Growth** in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea:
Developing **Sustainable Aquaculture** for Food Security



Presidenza Italiana
del Consiglio
dell'Unione Europea



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Aquaculture offers great potential to provide sources of healthy and nutritious seafood and meet the rising demand for fishery products. It is called upon to play a major role for food security, employment and economic development at the global level and thus constitutes a strategic sector for the future, in particular under the Blue Growth perspective.

The development of aquaculture inevitably raises concerns in terms of sustainability, governance, economic, environmental and social dimensions. At a time when this promising and fast-growing sector is at a crossroads and priorities are no longer a matter of single countries, there is a need to make substantial progress towards harmonious growth at the regional level.

Multiple challenges such as these call for the implementation of coordinated strategies to ensure sustainable and responsible growth in this sector. They must take into account the regional and local specificities of Mediterranean and Black Sea countries and also bear in mind the Blue Growth strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors.

Simplification, growth and sustainability for food security and Blue Growth

Several initiatives and tools have been recently launched in the region to promote dialogue and consultation, knowledge-sharing and cooperation. However, there is a growing awareness that, in addition to these, there is a need to take concrete action at the policy level in order to obtain a clear commitment to support the sustainable development of the sector, while fully bearing in mind current regional and local priorities.

For many years, aquaculture actors and stakeholders in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea have been calling upon governments to commit to ensuring coordinated and sustainable aquaculture development, and the organisation of a regional event has long been on the agenda of the GFCM. Now is the time to take action and seize the momentum uniting all the efforts in the region in order to give this sector the attention it deserves.

The Regional Aquaculture Conference will offer an important opportunity for experts and stakeholders from different countries to share their experiences, take stock of recent progress made, discuss challenges ahead and explore potential synergies and joint actions. At the same time, there is great will to mobilize political commitment towards a common strategy for aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea based upon a Blue Growth approach and taking into account the main governance, economic, social and environmental pillars of aquaculture sustainability.



Conference organizers

The Regional Aquaculture Conference is organized by: the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, together with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in cooperation with the European Commission and the Italian Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF). Other partners of the Conference are the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB), Eurofish, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Conference coordination committee

The overall supervision of the event (coordination, organization, moderation, programme and final outputs) is placed under the responsibility of a Conference coordination committee composed of the following experts:

- Mr **François René** - President, GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ)
- Mr **Fabio Massa** - Senior Aquaculture Officer, FAO GFCM
- Ms **Giovanna Marino** - Aquaculture Expert, Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali, Italy
- Ms **Anna Zito** - Aquaculture Policy Officer, DG MARE, European Commission
- Mr **Uwe Barg** - Aquaculture Officer, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
- Mr **Alessandro Lovatelli** - Aquaculture Officer, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
- Mr **Blaise Kuemlangan** - Chief, FAO Development Law Service



Venue

The Conference will be held in Bari (Italy) and will be co-hosted by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB).

Official languages

The working languages will be English and French on 9-10 December and English, French and Italian on 11 December. Simultaneous interpretation services will be provided.

Participants

The Conference is open to representatives of fisheries and aquaculture departments and administrations from Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, government agencies dealing with aquaculture planning, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as other partner organizations and stakeholders from national aquaculture platforms and aquaculture farmers' organizations.

Conference overview

The main objective of the Conference is to take stock of the progress made by aquaculture in the region and to address the main governance, economic, social and environmental challenges for its sustainable development. It aims to renew political commitment among all actors concerned towards sustainable aquaculture development in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The Regional Aquaculture Conference comprises a two-day technical event with four panel discussions followed by a one-day High-level Conference.

Expert Panels (9–10 December)

Each panel will be introduced by a keynote speaker. Discussions will be moderated by the Panel chairperson(s) and will include a Q&A session among aquaculture experts from different countries.

Panel 1 - Enabling good governance in aquaculture

To share experiences on aquaculture governance and regulatory frameworks, and identify good practices and elements for guidelines to simplify administrative processes and support sustainable aquaculture development in the region.

Panel 2 - A healthy environment, a stronger aquaculture industry

To share knowledge on how best to manage interactions between aquaculture activities and the environment and support potential mutual benefits between aquaculture development and environmental protection.



Panel 3 - Boosting markets for aquaculture

To address the main aspects related to markets and high-value products based on health standards and traceability as well as to discuss how to further develop domestic and international markets and improve the public image and perception of aquaculture.

Panel 4 - Advancing aquaculture innovations

To address and reflect upon innovative approaches and solutions as well as to consider emerging technologies that could contribute to sustainable aquaculture development.

High-level Conference (11 December)

The High-level Conference will provide a suitable forum to government delegates and authorities to express their views on the main issues at stake, and to learn about the findings and conclusions of the panel discussions. The Conference will conclude with the adoption of a final Declaration identifying the main priorities and commitments to support sustainable aquaculture development in the region.

Side events

Side events will be organized on 9 and 10 December. These will focus on specific experiences and case studies and will be related to the panel discussions.

How to register?

Participants are invited to register online at the Conference website www.aquaculture2014.org no later than **20 November 2014**. Conference registration is free of charge. Participants wishing to submit a contribution for a side event are invited to apply on the Conference website no later than **15 November 2014**. Participants are responsible for their accommodation and travel expenses and for obtaining in their countries the necessary visas and clearance for entering Italy.

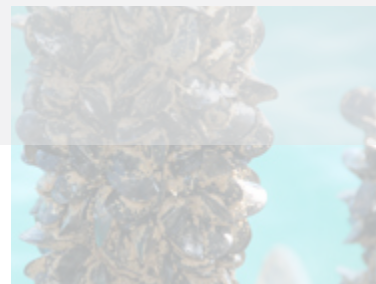
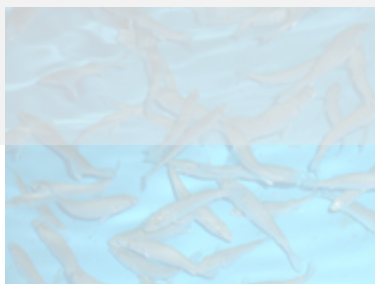
Contacts

For more information, visit the Conference website:
www.aquaculture2014.org

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