



**Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture
16&17 October 2008 – Treviso (Italy)**



Programme & Compilation of Abstracts

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Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture 16&17 October 2008 –Treviso (Italy)

THURSDAY 16 TH OCTOBER 2008		
Time	Issue	Speaker
SESSION 1 : REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ROLE OF RESEARCH		
08:30	Registration in Villa Pace Park Hotel Bolognese	
09:15	Official Opening	
09:30	Welcome by the President of the Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (API)	Dott. Pier-Antonio Salvador
09:40	Opening Remarks on Profet Policy	Mr Courtney Hough, project coordinator, FEAP
09:55	The importance of quality for the consumer	Dott. G. Fregolent, ICQ (Italy)
10:15	The quality of aquaculture products - influencing factors	Prof. B.M Poli
10:40	The producer's approach to quality assurance	Dott. Pier-Antonio Salvador, President of the API (Italy)
11:00	Coffee Break	
SESSION 2 : POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK		
11:30	The Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture	Mr Jean Weissenberger, DG MARE (European Commission)
11:50	Aquaculture Standards - an advantage for the sector?	Mr David Bassett, BTA British Trout Association (UK)
12:10	Health management and regulatory issues	Dott. Ugo Santucci, Ministry of Health (Rome)
12:30	Regulatory factors that help or limit the development of freshwater aquaculture. Case studies from Spain and Italy.	Mr Miguel Saura, ATRUGAL (Spain) & Dott. Antonio Trincanato, API (Italy)
12:50	Questions and Answers with Speakers of Sessions 1 & 2	
	Lunch	
SESSION 3 : RTD NEEDS RELATED TO EUROPEAN POLICY		
14:30	Waste treatment and usage: AQUAETREAT & AQUAGRIS projects	Mr Vincenzo Zonno & Mr Rafaele Acierno, University of Salento (Italy)
15:00	The role of hatcheries in providing quality fish for freshwater aquaculture: FINEFISH	Mrs Stéphanie Fontagné, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (IMR-St-Pée, France)
15:20	Sustainable and healthy freshwater aquaculture: SUSTAINAQUA	Mrs Alexandra Oberdieck, project coordinator, ttz Bremerhaven (Germany)
15:40	Addressing welfare in fish culture - WELLFISH	Prof. M. Saroglia, University of Insubria (Italy)
16:00	Coffee Break	

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SESSION 4 : RTD NEEDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT		
16:30	Changing feeds - changing circumstances - a review of feed developments and their effects on quality & development	Dott. Alberto Allodi, Skretting Italia
16:50	Sustainable feeds for fish farming - a review of progress and the issues: AQUAMAX	Prof. Oyvind Lie, Project coordinator, NIFES (Norway)
17:10	CONSENSUS - an approach to assuring sustainable aquaculture and its position with the consumer	Mr Alistair Lane, European Aquaculture Society
17:30	Questions and Answers with Speakers of Sessions 3 & 4	
	Conclusions of the first day	
20:00	Dinner	

FRIDAY 17 TH OCTOBER 2008		
SESSION 5 : SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT		
09:00	Review of alternatives - percid species LUCIOPERCIMPROVE & PERCATECH	Prof. Patrick Kestemont, FUNDP (Belgium)
09:30	AQUABREEDING - How can genetics help European aquaculture?	Dr. Hervé Chavanne, Project coordinator, Istituto Lazzaro Spallanzani (Italy)
09:55	Developments in freshwater sturgeon aquaculture	Dr. Paolo Bronzi, API - WSCS (Italy)
10:20	Effective Knowledge Management - A Key challenge for the Sector	Me Marieke Reuver, AQUA TT (Ireland)
10:40	Using better the knowledge of the professional associations	Prof. Stefano Cataudella, University Tor Vergata (Italy)
11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
SESSION 6 : FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS		
11:30	A review of the FEUFAR project - a vision for the future of European aquaculture and fisheries	Dr. Luc van Hoof, Project coordinator, IMARES (Netherlands)
11:50	The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform - approach to quality issues	Mr. Courtney Hough, FEAP
12:10	Opportunities for RTD within the 7th Framework Programme	Mr. Courtney Hough, on behalf of Jacques Fuchs, DG MARE (European Commission)
12:30	Questions and Answers with Speakers of Sessions 5 & 6	
	Discussion with workshop participants	Moderated by Prof. Stefano Cataudella
	Conclusions & recommendations of the workshop	Rapporteur

SESSION 1:

DOTT. G. FREGOLENT

The importance of quality for the consumer

Abstract

The importance of quality for consumers

The rapporteur's presentation will focus on monitoring activities carried out by ICQ in relation to national regulated products.

Bibliographic data of some national production in agro-food sector will be presented.

Short CV

Chief at the ICQ uff. Conegliano, MIPAAF. Organization of Management and control system in the implementation of Animal Production.

Two year experienced as auditor in ISO 9000, ISO 14000 and Total Quality Management methodology and in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), agreement by CSQA srl (credited by SINCERT).

Five years chief at the Veneto Region, AVEPA (Regional Paying Agency).

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SESSION 1:

PROF. B.M. POLI

The quality of aquaculture products – influencing factors

Abstract

Fish product credibility is important for purchases/consumer and this is particularly true for cultured seafood, about which there is little, and often negative, knowledge. Quality is related to particular attributes that seafood possesses which are meeting the consumer demands in addition to safety. Some quality attributes - typical of the species and results from the interaction of the endogenous factors and the environmental/nutritional/rearing conditions exerted *infra vitam* on the animal - are fixed at death (commercial size, merchantable traits, body fat deposits quantity and distribution, chemical-nutritional attributes of edible portion) while others, such as physical and organoleptic traits, change after death. All the conditions affecting fish biochemical processes taking place during post mortem period can heavily influence the expression of its quality and the subsequent changes during storage, including freshness loss and shelf life, all of them well indicated by the changes of the sensory/organoleptic attributes such as rigor status, general appearance and colour of skin/muscle/eye/gills, texture and odour of the raw product. Differences in species, age/size, reproductive phase, quality of aquatic environment, feeding availability, water temperature, production method and season of harvest and variability in handling, processing and packaging methods contribute to the variability in safety and quality of the final product. Size and meat qualitative traits, including the high n-3 HUFA, can be modulated towards the preferred ones mostly by changes in feed quantity and quality and feeding strategy. Cultured fish products can be healthy and nutritional food, able to exert beneficial effects on the human body functioning if produced and maintained safe, free from contaminants and fresh to the consumers.

Short CV

Biologist, full professor by the Food Technology Science Course of Florence University, Coordinator of PhD course in Aquatic and terrestrial animal production and quality of products. President of Assoittica Italia (National Association of Processing Fish Industries) and Federpesca (National Federation of Fisheries Enterprises). Italian representative of West European Fish Technologist's Association (WEFTA). Responsible of European projects and coordinator/responsible of National research projects on seafood. The main research activity: seafood quality and quality changes as influenced by intrinsic/extrinsic factors, through the use of sensorial/instrumental methods

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SESSION 1:

PIER-ANTONIO SALVADOR

The producer's approach to quality assurance

Abstract

Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani (Italian Fish Farmers Association) had undertaken, from many years, a lot of activities to promote the principles of food and feed safety and quality and traceability between the Italian fish farmers and to inform the consumers about the high quality and the nutritional and organoleptic characteristics of national aquaculture products.

API maintains and improves a network of political, public and sector related relationships.

The association supplies to the Italian fish farmers, consulting and helping activities; API also organise meetings, workshops and shows and has activated the monitoring actions on national aquaculture productions and their market and on the consumption of fish feed.

To promote responsible aquaculture API had diffused between its members the following initiatives:

- Code of Good Farming Practice in Aquaculture.
- Agreement Protocol for a transparent and guaranteed feeding of Italian aquaculture fish
- Guidelines for Product Certification of Farmed Trout, Seabass and Seabream.

For the future many challenges will concern the aquaculture sector and new strategies with the support of political authorities at all level will need to arrive directly to the consumers and answer their request.

Short CV

Pier Antonio Salvador comes from a family of fish farmers, with a long tradition in the field of fish farming in Friuli Venezia Giulia region. Graduated in Marketing and Finance at the International University in Miami USA. Since June 2000, President of Italian Fish Farmers Association (API), representing it in European Federation of Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) where he is Chairman of FEAP Health Commission.

Chairman of the Working Group "Aquaculture" of Copa/Cogeca, since January 2003 is part of the Advisory Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture of the European Commission.

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SESSION 2:

JEAN WEISSENBERGER

The Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture

Abstract

In 2002, the European Commission presented a Communication on a Strategy for the sustainable development of European aquaculture (COM(2002)511), which gave a ten-year vision of aquaculture aimed at reaching the status of a stable industry guaranteeing long-term secure employment, which was able to cope with the main problems identified, ensuring health and environmental protection. The European Commission initiated as from May 2007 a large consultation to take stock of progress made so far and to launch a debate with all stakeholders on the further development of sustainable aquaculture in the European Community. This consultation process culminated with a major conference on "European Aquaculture and its Opportunities for Development" hosted by the European Commission in Brussels in November 2007. This consultation and this Conference represented the first steps towards a review of the Strategy for sustainable development of aquaculture in Europe which is presently under preparation.

A renewed strategy should aim at addressing a number of challenges that still prevent the EU aquaculture to fully realise its potential. While it is not possible to prejudge the final outcome of this initiative from the European Commission, this strategy would focus on the role of public authorities, at EU and national level, in order to establish the optimal framework in which the aquaculture industry would be able to operate. To this end, some major specific objectives have to be considered, such as establishing conditions for the sustainable development of aquaculture, promoting its competitiveness and improving governance.

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Siting is crucial for aquaculture and addressing the high competition for access to water and space is necessary if aquaculture is to develop. Sustainable development is also about ensuring compatibility between aquaculture and the high European standards for environmental protection and about shaping a performing aquatic animal farming industry, able to provide safe and healthy food to the consumers. Promoting competitiveness implies, among others, giving the highest priority to research, innovation and technological development. The strategy would also address how to make use of opportunities offered at international level and enabling the aquaculture business to cope with market demands. Finally, aquaculture would benefit from improved governance and an improved level playing field when decisions are taken by public authorities. This should be based in particular on a proper stakeholder participation in the process, on a improved image of aquaculture based on factual information and should be accompanied as far as possible by a reduction in the administrative burden.

The Strategy for sustainable development of EU aquaculture is expected to be finalised by the end of the year - or very early in 2009 at the latest.

Short CV

Jean Weissenberger is a Graduate as DVM from French Veterinary High Schools (Maisons-Alfort - Paris 1986) and third Cycle in "Fundamental and applied toxicology (University Paris VII - 1988)

- A few years in veterinary practice and teaching (Assistant lecturer in Pharmacy-Toxicology in Vet High School)
- Six years in the Pharmaceutical Industry (Drug development, mainly "safety" and "efficacy" files)
- Joined the European Commission in Dec 1995. Worked successively in DG ENV (Nature protection), DG ENTR (Pharmaceuticals) and DG FISH (Environment and Health). Beginning of 2007, joined the Aquaculture Unit of DG FISH: in charge in particular with the preparation of the Community Aquaculture Strategy.

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SESSION 2:

DAVID BASSETT

Aquaculture Standards – an advantage for the sector?

Abstract

Quality Assurance (QA) is an issue that continues to be divisive within the aquaculture sector. Production benefits and transparent standards of good practice are given as strong justification for the benefits of operating a standard, whilst critics argue that unnecessary cost and administrative burden render QA standards nothing more than an expensive marketing exercise offering little real benefit in terms of production or profit.

QA standards operate at many different levels, of varying complexity, and have evolved to cover issues as wide ranging as environmental management systems, farm husbandry, fish health, broodstock origin and veterinary residue to humane harvesting and product quality. At the centre of all standards is the issue of improving production practices to benefit the farm and fish through an inherent reduction in risk.

The reduction of risk through QA standards should be considered in terms of clear advantages for industry, especially in light of the recent emphasis placed in legislation concerning risk management. So too should the advantages afforded by QA standards against those industry critics keen to attack aquaculture over operating standards and those who desire greater third party regulation placed upon all aspects of aquaculture

Short CV

David Bassett graduated Master of Arts in History and International Relations from the University of St Andrews (UK). Currently Executive Secretary of the British Trout Association (BTA), the representative trade association for the UK trout industry, David also acts as secretary to Quality Trout UK Ltd, a pioneering UK wide trout quality assurance scheme, serves as a director of both the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum (SARF) and Aqua TT, is Chairman of the Federation of Scottish Aquaculture Producers (FSAP), and sits on the Management Group of the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture

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**Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture
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Directive 2006/88/CE was incorporated into Italian law with legislative decree n.148 – 4th August 2008. This transposition contains new elements to make the transition from old to new legislation more consequential possible; Direzione Generale Sanità Animale e Farmaco Veterinario purpose is to explain the elements that will be effective after the issue of specific ministerial decrees.

Short CV

From 1991 veterinary officer at Ministry of Health, Direzione Generale della sanità veterinaria e degli alimenti. From 1999 she attends to the monitoring of zoonoses (surveillance and control) “from the stable to the table”.

National contact point for zoonoses data collection (annual report “trends and sources of zoonotic agents in the European Union”, application of the Directive 92/117/EEC, then of the Directive 2003/99 and implementation of the regulation 2160/2003)

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SESSION 2:

MIGUEL SAURA

Regulatory factors that help or limit the development of freshwater aquaculture

Abstract

The lack of one authorization system, and the diversity of Local, Regional and State authorizations, make the procedure for getting concessions and licences in order to build and exploit fish farms in Europe, extremely complicated. An important part of the procedure is the Environmental Impact Evaluation, which should be made by administrative specialized departments, avoiding arbitrary decisions and establishing fair conditions in accordance with the peculiarity of freshwater aquaculture.

There are some potentially dangerous activities for the aquaculture like the hydroelectric power plants, chemical industry, infrastructures works and mining that should include preventive measures, legally regulated, to reduce the risk of causing accidents to close fish farms.

Environmental taxes are another inconvenient for our activity. We will see how these taxes do not take into account profitability factors, and how sometimes several taxes are paid for the same fact. The reduction of these costs and the removal of convergent taxes should be considered.

The aquaculture activity extension with the improvement of farms, fish processing, introduction of new species and so on, can find the Environmental Administration opposition with the demand of superlative requirements. So, we apply for simplify and make clearer the administrative procedures for the extension.

Subventions can help to make more competitive industries and to improve the quality of their products. However, there are some aspects to correct: the time limit for requests is short, and the waiting for the subsidies becomes longer.

Short CV

Born on December 28 th, 1.968, in Valladolid, Spain.

Graduate in Law, by Valladolid University, 1.987-1.992.

Lawyer, member of Valladolid Lawyers College, 1.993.

Master in Environmental Politics and Administration, Carlos III University, Madrid, Spain, 1.993-1.995.

Professional speciality: Environmental, Industrial and Energetic Law.

Aquaculture companies that I work for at present: Industrias Piscícolas Españolas Agrupadas, S.A., Viveros de los Pirineos, S.A. (Viviers de France), Truchas del Segre, S.A., Piscifactoría de Campóo, S.A.

Energetic companies that I work for at present: Naturener Hidro, S.L., Teyserc, S.A., Central Eléctrica Uxama, S.L., Minicentrales 2000, S.L., Electra de Cotriles S.L., Hidrener, S.A., Eólica la Lora, S.L., Hidroeléctrica del Pisuerga, S.A., Hidroeléctrica del Carrión, S.L., Salto de Vadocondes, S.A., Otín, S.A.

Other industrial companies that I work for at present: Ganadería Finca la Pedrosa, S.A. (milk production), Intrame, S.A. (asphalt plants), Toyrsa, S.A. (infrastructures construction), Minerales del Brezo, S.L. (mining).

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SESSION 2:

ANTONIO TRINCANATO

Abstract

The report will focus on a legislation overview significantly affecting the aquaculture sector. The rapporteur will illustrate the complex regulatory framework with particular regard to the public concession to water use, water output and environmental impact assessment.

The A.P.I., a non-profit corporation, aims to protect, develop and consolidate all activities related to fish-breeding both in fresh and in salt and brackish waters. Consequently, it promotes any financial, scientific, technical, insurance, professional, union and legal interventions which may prove necessary to reach this target. The assistance in the financial sector intends to meet the fish breeders' requirements regarding any possibilities to optimise their own resources and any opportunities of obtaining public financing.

The interest of A.P.I. in the scientific section is realised through collaboration with various Scientific Institutions in order to widen its knowledge and make it available to the fish-breeding plants, both as far as the technological innovations and the veterinary assistance supplied to the associates.

Qualified and professional consultants are essential for the Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani in order to provide the associates with a suitable assistance. In the union and legal field, A.P.I. aims to establish a close relation with Local institutions and bodies competent in aquaculture harmonising institutional requirements with the breeders' needs.

Short CV

Graduated in law, committed since 1980 in agriculture professional organizations.

Executive of the Italian General Confederation of Agriculture (CONFAGRICOLTURA) since 1988 he is the chief of Italian Fish Farmers Association (API).

Journalist, author of numerous articles on aquaculture, he has worked with magazines and regional networks, he is also involved in fisheries and aquaculture economy.

In the period 2004-2009 he has annual teaching charge in "Aquaculture Legislation" at three years specialization school in Aquaculture at the University of Udine.

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SESSION 3:

VINCENZO ZONNO

Waste treatment and usage: AQUAETREAT project

Abstract

Land-based fish farms produce effluents that may have, if not properly handled, a negative impact on the quality of water courses and rivers.

AQUAETREAT, “Improvement and innovation of aquaculture effluent treatment technology”, is a 3-year SME collective research project, funded under the Sixth Framework Programme (Contract n. COLL-CT-2003-500305), looking at the need for fish farms to improve the management of wastewater and solids, to minimise pollution and optimise the recovery, disposal and re-use of solid waste. The effluent treatment systems developed in this project will enable fish farmers not only to reduce the amount of waste they produce, thereby lowering disposal costs, but also to create commercial products as the waste might be used as soil amender or compost for agriculture, or find uses in other sectors, with benefits to the aquaculture industry and the environment. Within the project, the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) has coordinated an extensive dissemination and training plan, including four regional workshops and four training courses, that allowed the formation of updated and skilled managers and technical staff of aquaculture SMEs. A manual (downloadable at www.aquaetreat.org) on effluent treatment in aquaculture, both in English and Italian, has been also delivered.

Short CV

Vincenzo Zonno, Biologist, with more than 20 years of research experience in the field of fish physiology and aquaculture, is the executive director of the Marine Aquaculture and fisheries Research Centre, University of Salento, at Acquatina (Lecce, Italy).

He is the technical manager of the AQUA.E.TREA.T Consortium (Contract N. COLL-500305) and co-ordinator of the AquAgris project (Contract FOOD-CT-2006-036928), a EU funded Coordination Action involving also INCO Countries.

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SESSION 3:

RAFAELE ACIERNO**Waste treatment and usage: AQUAGRIS project****Abstract**

Food safety is an issue of critical importance to all food businesses, with rising public concern regarding the safety of food supply in general and high-risk perishable products such as fish and meat in particular. Extensive use of pesticides, fertilisers and significant energy inputs to maximize production mean considerable waste release and a variety of related environmental problems. The EU funded AquAgriS project (www.aquagris.org), carried out by a consortium of twenty-six partners from European and Asian research institutions, universities and SME's, aims to stimulate and enhance research and technology development co-operation in the field of environmental aspects of farming, fisheries and aquaculture industries, in order to develop new strategies for sustainable production systems. By increasing the understanding and promoting the awareness of the long-term environmental and health damages caused by unsustainable farming, fisheries and aquaculture, the action will foster an open dialogue among researchers, institutions and producers to encourage the formation of a coherent strategy for the development of sustainable food production systems respecting soil, water, animal and wild stocks welfare and enhancing food safety and consumer health. Project supported by EU Contract n. FOOD-CT-2007-036928.

Short CV

Raffaele Acierno, PhD in "Animal Biology". More than 20 years of experience in the field of fish physiology, with particular interests in cardiovascular and food physiology and water management in aquaculture. More than 30 presentations at international congresses and/or workshops. More than 30 publications on international, peer-reviewed journals and books. At present, senior scientist of the Marine Aquaculture and fisheries Research Centre, University of Salento, Italy.

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SESSION 3:

STEPHANIE FONTAGNÉ

The role of hatcheries in providing quality fish for freshwater aquaculture - FINEFISH

Abstract

The FineFish project was initiated following the PROFET workshop on hatchery technologies held in 2004 in Bordeaux where the control of malformations was identified as one of the major research tasks for the European aquaculture industry. Indeed, malformed individual fish appear in variable and unpredictable numbers in farmed stocks in both warm and cold waters including salmonids, and entail severe losses to the production sector. This collective research project, funded by EU, coordinated by FEAP and joining nine European fish hatcheries with eight groups of scientists specialising in fish development aims to improve sustainability of European fish aquaculture by control of malformations. The project focuses on three main areas of causative factors: rearing temperatures, with emphasis on early life stages, nutrition, with focus on nutritional quality and impact on bone mineralization of both starter and grower diets, and tank environment, including gas supplementation and hydrodynamics. The species to be investigated by the project are Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout, Atlantic cod, European sea bass and gilthead sea bream. The aim of this project is to generate new scientific and practical knowledge to help hatcheries reduce the incidence of malformations in the major fish species used in aquaculture production, thus increasing productivity and quality. www.finefish.info

Short CV

Dr. Stéphanie Fontagné has a MSc and PhD in Food Science and Nutrition from the University of Bordeaux in France. She has worked for 10 years in fish nutrition with special emphasis on larval rearing, lipid metabolism and antioxidant defences. She is currently a research scientist in INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research) and participates in the European project FINEFISH.

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SESSION 3:

ALEXANDRA OBERDIECK

Sustainable and healthy freshwater aquaculture: SUSTAINAQUA

Abstract

The EU-project SustainAqua with its five case studies in Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, and the Netherlands, representing different freshwater aquaculture types in Europe, will provide practical options how to optimise production processes, improve product quality, and diversify the product range. 10 national European aquaculture associations and the foreseen training activities (e.g. handbook, aquaculture-wiki, e-learning) ensure that results will directly reach hundreds of aquaculture farmers, promoting environmentally friendly, tasty and healthy products. During the first 2 years of the project, a variety of achievements was accomplished. In Switzerland, crustaceans species *Asellus aquaticus* as natural and healthy fish feed is successfully integrated into the tilapia production system. In Poland, consumer tests, sensory and chemical analysis show quality and taste preferences of fish from polyculture, compared to monoculture. In Hungary, the use of huge nutrient loads of African catfish farms for cultivating wetland crops (e.g. *Phragmites*, *Typha*) shows a high water treatment efficiency. In the Netherlands, the use of a manure denitrifying reactor in RAS proves promising in respect to reducing water consumption and emission of nutrients. In Denmark, a calculation model adapted to different feed types used on commercial trout farms will predict resulting amounts of waste components transferred to the watercourse. www.sustainaqua.org

Short CV

After graduating as diploma engineer in landscape planning (2003), she worked for 3 years as a project manager in the field of sustainable land management. Currently, she coordinates the EU research project SustainAqua which researches different modules to upgrade existing freshwater aquaculture farms in the direction of optimisation of production processes, quality improvement, and product diversification.

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SESSION 3:

PROF. M. SAROGLIA

Addressing welfare in fish culture - WELLFISH

Abstract

Marco Saroglia, Maciej Pilarczyk, Ana Roque, Børge Damsgård, Neil Duncan, Jimmy Turnbull, Sunil Kadri, Hans van de Vis, Morris Villarroel

WELLFISH is the acronym for the COST 867 Action. COST is an intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology (www.cost.esf.org). It is focussed on the provision of a secure foundation for the development of Operational Welfare Indicators (OWIs), in order to safeguard the welfare of farmed fish. Identifying and measuring welfare requires a better scientific understanding of the fundamental physiological and behavioural capacities of fish. Although there is much less known about the welfare of fishes than that of commonly farmed terrestrial groups, there is an accumulating body of research on the topic. To make effective use of this information there is a need for a focused and objective synthesis of the relevant existing data, carried out not just by researchers, but also by fish farmers and other stakeholders. WELLFISH aims, therefore, to bring these different stakeholder groups together to agree on techniques and protocols for the early prediction of deteriorating welfare in farmed fish and for the active promotion of good welfare in European aquaculture systems.

WELLFISH includes more than 100 researchers in more than 20 European countries, and encompasses associated countries such as Israel and Turkey. It has an open and transparent structure with aims formulated by key researchers in the field. It has already an established network with producer, consumer and policy maker's organisations. WELLFISH has an established work group with the specific aim to assure a relevant information flow between the network and producers, stakeholders and their representatives.

Short CV

Prof. Marco Saroglia, full Professor of Aquaculture at Faculty of Sciences, University of Insubria in Varese, Italy

Prof. Saroglia started his research activity on the field of aquatic food chains contamination, in early '70es. Later he started to study the application of heated effluents on freshwater and marine aquaculture. He developed studies on toxicity of antifouling compounds, heated effluents, gas oversaturation in water. His expertise through last 20 years were mainly developed on the fish farming environmental quality and fish welfare, fish farming management, nutrition and feeding strategies. From 2001 he developed a research line on the application of molecular biology to the study of welfare, diseases prevention, nutrigenomic and flesh quality in farmed fish. Prof. Saroglia is author of more than 200 publications and books chapters, is involved in international research programmes and organizations related the development of Aquaculture in the World. He served 8 years on the EAS Board of Directors and on 2007 has been elected as Director of WAS.

Contact details

Prof. Marco Saroglia

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SESSION 4:

ALBERTO ALLODI**Changing feeds for fish farming – changing circumstances –
a review of feed developments and their effects on quality & development****Abstract**

To allow further development of aquaculture, dependency from limited resources must be reduced, while production efficiency needs to increase. Recent developments clearly show the possibility of increased inclusion of sustainable, alternative raw materials in fish feed formulations, without compromising on growth, feed efficiency and product quality. Based on this ground, aquaculture can target to become net protein producer, thereby increasing the availability of high quality protein for human nutrition. However, there is a need to a more pragmatic approach towards issues such as the use of GM plants and LAPs in fish feeds, to allow sustainable development of aquaculture based on efficient use of available resources

Short CV*Role:*

Skretting Europe East Mediterranean – Managing Director

Country Manager - Nutreco Spokesman in Italy

Hendrix S.p.A. Managing Director (Hendrix S.p.A. is a fully owned subsidiary of Nutreco International B.V. as is Trouw Nutrition Italia S.p.A.)

Trouw Nutrition Italia S.p.A – Chairman of the Board

Skretting Turkey – Chairman of the Board

Experience:

Entirely acquired within multinational companies, for the major part in the agriculture and aquaculture businesses.

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ABSTRACTS

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SESSION 4:

OYVIND LIE

Sustainable feeds for fish farming – a review of progress and the issues: AQUAMAX

Abstract

Prognosis suggests that production of aquaculture in 2030 will be equal to wild catch. It is therefore vital to find sustainable alternatives to marine ingredients in aquaculture feeds. The strategic goal of the EU 6th FRP Integrated Project AquaMax is to replace as much as possible of the fish meal and fish oil currently used in fish feeds with sustainable, alternative feed resources that are as free of undesirable contaminants as possible, consistent with maximising the growth performance, feed conversion efficiency, health and welfare of the farmed fish, in addition to maximise the health - promoting properties of consumers, seafood safety, quality and acceptability of the final product to the consumer. The 4 year project is now halfway, and results so far will be presented. The potential impacts of AquaMax are, as with any Integrated Project, multifarious. AquaMax will expand scientific knowledge used by food authorities, consumers and industry. The project will make safe, health promoting farmed fish more readily available to EU consumers, with substantial health benefits for the EU population. AquaMax started in 2006. www.aquamaxip.eu

Short CV

Director of the National Institute of Nutrition and Seafood Research (NIFES).
Professor of Nutrition at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bergen.
Coordinator of AquaMax

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SESSION 5:

ALISTAIR LANE

**CONSENSUS – an approach to assuring sustainable aquaculture
and its position with the consumer**

Abstract

Europe has a strategy for sustainable development, a position that includes the development and promotion of sustainable European aquaculture. Several definitions of sustainability exist, based on the three pillars of economic, environmental and social factors – often also called the 3 P's - people, profit and planet. But what does this really mean for European aquaculture?

The strategic objective of CONSENSUS is to provide consumers with, and demonstrate the benefits of, high quality, safe and nutritious farmed fish and shellfish products, grown under sustainable conditions.

- Through a process of stakeholder involvement and consultation CONSENSUS is building *sustainable aquaculture protocols* based on a number of desired trends for the sustainable development of the industry and supporting indicators by which those trends can be measured. These were agreed by 120 stakeholders from 16 countries. The Code of Conduct of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers has been updated to include the themes raised by CONSENSUS, and has selected those indicators that are relevant to the finfish sector, and which can be implemented at farm level. Of the 78 original indicators, 25 can contribute to Codes of Best Practice at national or species level and 30 have been identified for benchmarking of the sector, with a potential use in European standards.
- CONSENSUS has also developed *balanced information for consumers*, showing the benefits of sustainable European aquaculture and its products, with the firm message that aquaculture is the only way to fill the gap between supply and demand for seafood. Messages on aquaculture sustainability were tested in 3 countries and used as a basis for an information brochure targeted at the 40 member organisations of the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC) and the Euroconsumers network. Feedback on the brochure from these organisations has been positive. The brochure has formed a framework for a re-looked website, specifically for non expert visitors.

So what about the definition? We have asked producers around Europe to give us their definition – putting the focus on what they believe to be the main issue(s). These have been compiled on a special YouTube channel, called Euraquaculture.

CONSENSUS is at www.euraquaculture.info.

Short CV

Alistair Lane has an MSc. in Marine Biology (University College of North Wales, UK), following his BSc Hons degree obtained in Plymouth. He worked in the aquaculture feeds business for 10 years in UK, France and Spain, with responsibilities in distribution, marketing and general management. He has been the Executive Director of EAS since March 2000. He has a special interest in communication and in networks. He is an expert evaluator for the EU Research Framework Programmes and for the Research Council of Norway.

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ABSTRACTS

Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture 16&17 October 2008 – Treviso (Italy)



SESSION 5:

PATRICK KESTEMONT

Review of alternatives – percid species

Abstract

How to secure the year-round production of high quality eggs and larvae in Eurasian perch and pikeperch

Patrick Kestemont¹, Pascal Fontaine², Neil Wang¹

1. University of Namur (FUNDP), Belgium

2. Nancy University, France

European farming of Eurasian perch *Perca fluviatilis* and pikeperch *Sander lucioperca* is presently limited by the production of fry, both in terms of quality and quantity. Two R&D projects (Percatech and Luciopercimprove), funded within the framework of FP6 COOP-SME programme, investigated the effects of some major environmental and feeding (nutrition) variables in order to secure the year-round production of high quality eggs and larvae.

The environmental control of the Eurasian perch reproductive cycle has been determined for males and females. Consequently, an artificial program, only based on temperature and photoperiod manipulations (with no hormonal injection) has been developed in order to produce out-of-season spawning with a spawning rate closed to 100%. To improve the hatching rate, this photo-thermal program is constituted by slow and progressive environmental variations inducing a long duration for the reproductive cycle (9 months).

Regarding pikeperch, concurrent variations of temperature and photoperiod were shown to be of paramount importance for maturation and spawning, and a reliable photothermal protocol has been identified on-farm, allowing the out-of-season production of larvae at any time of the year.

In Eurasian perch, egg and larval quality is largely affected by the type and composition of feed provided to the breeders. During the Percatech project, it has been demonstrated that high quality eggs and larvae, similar to those obtained from breeders fed natural food (forage fish), can be obtained by feeding perch broodstock with compound diets containing adequate ratio of highly unsaturated fatty acids. In pikeperch, commercial dry food formulated for trout broodstock can not be recommended to obtain acceptable reproductive performances. On the other hand, mixing commercial trout feed and forage fish could be an effective mid-term method to obtain good quality of eggs and larvae.

All in all, collaboration between RTD partners and SME within these two EC-funded projects has largely contributed to the advancement of knowledge and on-farm application regarding the year-round production of high quality eggs and larvae in percid fish culture..

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SESSION 5:

HERVE CHAVANNE

How can genetics help European aquaculture?

Abstract

Genetic improvement represents a crucial area for any industry whose activities depend on the trade of improved “seeds”. When we consider the commitments made by the aquaculture sector in this area, the industry can be divided into two halves. On one side pioneering companies have developed sophisticated selection programs and are now implementing advanced technologies like marker assisted selection or genomics tools in their breeding systems. On the other side are producers that have not invested at all in breeding and are still using unselected broodstock. Through selective breeding one expect to limit the dependence on natural stocks and improve the sanitary status of livestock, while the selected animals will become better adapted to the farming conditions and modelled to the market needs. In addition, the gains obtained will cumulate over generations with almost no limit provided that an accurate level of genetic variability is maintained. The breeding goals, susceptible to adapt to the market requests, can include market-value traits linked to higher productivity (growth, quality, feed efficiency) but also health and welfare traits such as robustness or diseases resistance. Important aquaculture species like salmon, trout, tilapia, or seabass have shown to be highly responsive to genetic improvement, particularly during the first phases of domestication based on wild stocks showing different performance potentials.

www.aquabreeding.eu

Short CV

Hervé Chavanne is in charge of the Aquaculture Unit at the “Lazzaro Spallanzani” Institute, Italy. He has been involved in European projects focusing on fish genetics and reproduction (EUROBASS, HERITABOLUM, FREEZEBASS, FREE GENES) and is currently active in programmes aimed at enhancing breeding (COMPETUS and AQUABREEDING) and support sustainable aquaculture (ALLITTIMA, SALVACARPIO).

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ABSTRACTS

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SESSION 5:

PAOLO BRONZI

The potential for sturgeon aquaculture (current situation and prospects)

Abstract

The presentation reports production data and trends of the market, both for meat and caviar, of the recent past and some forecast for the next future. Data are referred mainly to European countries, but there are also some information on historical countries of sturgeon production, like Russia, Iran and USA and few news on the new emerging actor, China. The future trends and the potential for large scale production of meat and caviar is discussed, both for Europe and at a global scale, taking into account the restrictions, uncertainties (market developments and development in production, stress effects in production) and opportunities (decreasing pressure on natural stocks) of this relatively new branch of aquaculture.

Short CV

Paolo Bronzi, 1948, Italian, Degree in Biological Sciences, Consultant; until 2005 manager at CESI spa, Milan (Italy), formerly Enel Research Department, where since 1972 acquired a long experience in the field of aquaculture, as researcher and manager in research planning and coordination. The field of specialization is aquaculture, in particular thermal aquaculture utilizing warm water discharged by power stations. In the last fifteen years was following in particular scientific and technical aspects related to Adriatic sturgeon (*A. naccarii*) rehabilitation in Italy and sturgeon farming. Member of the SSG (Sturgeon Specialist Group) of IUCN; Co-founder of the WSCS (World Sturgeon Conservation Society); Co-editor of the book 'Acquacoltura responsabile' (Responsible aquaculture) Unimar; author of over 120 publications.

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SESSION 5:

MARIEKE REUVER

Knowledge Management – European support measures

Abstract

At the beginning of the new millennium, the European Union leaders set a new and ambitious goal for the EU: the Lisbon strategy to make Europe possess “the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-driven economy in the world by 2010”. Knowledge and innovation are the beating heart of European growth. However, momentarily, Europe lags behind other regions in technology investment & application, and “a high percentage of the results of intellectual production has stayed on the shelf, unused by the broader society,” The gap between business and science is at the root of Europe’s chronic underperformance in technology.

For European aquaculture to remain competitive and to be able to develop in a sustainable manner it is vital that RTDI efforts must be resolute and concerted, requiring a collaborative approach between the private and public sectors. One of the basic requirements for that is improving knowledge transfer mechanisms so that RTDI results are converted into on-site innovation. AquaTT’s mission is to bridge the knowledge gap between the dynamic R&D environments and the progressive commercial sectors. It does and has been doing so through several initiatives, including AQUA-TNET, the largest European Education and Training Network in the Marine Sector; WAVE, which produced a Master List of European Aquaculture Competences and guidelines for use, and the new VALLA project, which is identifying mechanisms for delivering and validating lifelong learning mechanisms in Aquaculture..

Short CV

Marieke Reuver has a MSc. in Animal Science, with a specialisation in Aquaculture and Fisheries, obtained at Wageningen University (the Netherlands). She is a Project Manager at AquaTT, an international foundation which provides project management and training services to support the sustainable development of Europe’s maritime sector. She works on several EU-funded projects and initiatives, including AQUA-TNET, the largest European education and training network in the Aquaculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources sector, and VALLA -Validation of All Lifelong Learning in Aquaculture.

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ABSTRACTS

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SESSION 5:

PROF. S. CATAUDELLA

Using better the knowledge of the professional associations

Short CV

Stefano Cataudella is 58 years old and he is a full Professor of Applied Ecology, Aquaculture and Fishery biology at University of Rome, Tor Vergata, in which he founded a Laboratory of Sperimental Ecology and Aquaculture that is now a point of reference for the world of Research, for Institutions and Farmers.

Stefano Cataudella was born in the traditional aquaculture context, and since he was a boy he took care of fish breeding and ichthyology, and during these years he worked at different levels, form research to production, giving also a support tot the domestic and international institutions.

Since 1976 he was appointed Secretary of the first Association of European Ichthyologists.

There are numerous involvements in which Stefano Cataudella took part for several initiatives of the European Community like, for example, the first evaluation of structural funds in aquaculture, or his participation in the group who took care about the research of the fourth Framework Programme, caring about the fishery and agriculture fields.

Thanks to his scientific credibility, in the pioneering phase of modern aquaculture Stefano Cataudella contributed to emphasize the role of the farming of aquatic organisms as an indispensable tool of development, sending this kind of message anywhere.

He has been invited for many years to speak at several international congresses, and he concretely discussed about sustainable development that could be generated only by the involvement of producers, and following this line, he contributed to the Italian and European programming, since he has been a technical support for several governments.

From a scientific point of view, Stefano Cataudella's work led to the development of the first fattening plants of sea bream, and to the acquirement of important studies in the genetic, morphologic and physiologic fields of bred fishes. He also took care of different methods for evaluating the quality of the juveniles of marine finfish.

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SESSION 6:

LUC VAN HOOF

**A review of the FEUFAR project – a vision for the future
of European aquaculture and fisheries**

Abstract

This presentation provides an overview of the EC FP 6 funded project FEUFAR – The Future of European Fisheries and Aquaculture research. The goal of the FEUFAR Project was to define the research required in the medium term, to permit exploitation and farming of aquatic resources set against the context of key challenges and risks for meeting sustainability requirements. The main output of the exercise is a document outlining key challenges, strategic options and the research needs of capture fisheries and aquaculture in Europe. The project aims to contribute to the development and subsequent implementation of a European Maritime Policy and to further strengthen the European marine research area through anticipation of research needs in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

www.feufar.eu

Short CV

Luc van Hoof MSc. is Executive Secretary of EFARO and is employed by the Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies (IMARES) in the Netherlands. He holds a Masters Degree in Economics and Fisheries. He has built up experience as a fisheries economist and management consultant during 15 years in various African countries. Since 2000 he has been involved in European and Dutch fisheries research, both as head of the Fisheries Research Group of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute and as head of the Seafood and Aquaculture group of IMARES. He has been involved in several activities concerning Governance in Fisheries Management, both at the level of stakeholder involvement in the policy process as in scientific support to policy development. In addition he has been coordinating several European studies focusing on the possible developments of the European Fisheries Management System. As member of both EFARO and EAFE, STECF and observer of the NSRAC, he is well known among the stakeholders of the fisheries scientific, management and fisheries sector community.

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SESSION 6:

COURTNEY HOUGH

The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform – The approach on Quality Issues

Abstract

Fish and seafood should be important, affordable and integral components of the diet of every European citizen. Unfortunately, supplies to the European consumer are now dominated by imports, due to declining fisheries catches and slow aquaculture growth in the EU, making fish and seafood increasingly expensive. Within a rapidly changing marketplace, the sector has to assure the supply of safe and healthy consumer-friendly products.

The major stakeholders within European aquaculture have agreed that important research and technological development (RTD) and innovation actions have to be taken in order to assure the growth and sustainability of this increasingly important food supply sector, and they are therefore developing the European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform to assist and implement such actions.

The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP) provides a professional hub for its stakeholders to discuss prioritised thematic areas, including one dedicated to product quality, human safety and health. Amongst other key issues, one can highlight:

- Assessing the contribution of fish and shellfish consumption to human nutrition and health.
- Establishing known factors that affect farmed fish and shellfish quality and human safety and health from feed formulation.
- Establish known risks from fish and shellfish handling and consumption in addition to spoilage and quality loss during processing and subsequent shelf life.
- Consider technology advances that are enabling improvements in farmed fish and shellfish traceability, quality and human safety and health.
- Establish known factors that affect consumer preference in terms of eating quality.

A Stakeholders meeting is to be held in early 2009 so as to review progress on these issues.

Short CV

After starting in scientific research and development, mainly on food product development, Courtney Hough has worked on the international development of aquaculture for 20 years, specialising in project development, market research and economic assessment. Since 1993, he has also been General Secretary of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers and has worked on research and network projects in Europe as well as training and educational projects. He coordinated the development and the launch of the 'Aquamedia' communication initiative (www.aquamedia.org) and assures its continuing activities.

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Courtney Hough

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SESSION 6:

JACQUES FUCHS

Opportunities for RTD within the 7th Framework Programme

Abstract

Aquaculture is a self-sustainable industry that demonstrates a high potential for innovation and technology development, and should thus cater for its own R&D needs, aided by national research programmes and general Community incentives such as those supporting SME research. There is also a clear need for scientific support of EU-wide aquaculture aspects within the CFP, including health and environmental issues. This presentation gives an account of the possibilities for aquaculture research under FP7. Under the Seventh Framework Programme, research in aquaculture is covered mostly by the Cooperation Programme, in particular Theme 2 "Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology", and the Capacities programme, in particular the SMEs specific measures. Under Theme 2, a number of topics related to the improvement of health and environmental standards, whilst assuring the quality and safety of aquaculture products, in fully controlled and integrated production systems, will be covered. The SME-specific research actions are designed to solve technical problems of SMEs by means of research and innovation and are therefore very appropriate for aquaculture, in particular for areas such as new species and technologies.

Short CV

Deputy Head of Unit DG MARE/C4 – Research and scientific data management, in charge of the management of FP5/FP6 on-going projects in the field of fisheries, aquaculture and marine environment and in the follow-up of the 7th Research Framework programme (2007-2013) in particular theme 2 (Food) and theme 6 (Environment including climate change) of the specific programme "Cooperation". Participation in the implementation of several actions of the Blue Book on Maritime Policy regarding in particular Marine&Maritime research and innovation.

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ATTENDANCE LIST

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ATTENDANCE LIST

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Dr.	Alberto	Allodi	Skretting Italia	Italy
Mr.	David	Bassett	British Trout Association	United Kingdom
Dr.	Gianfranco	Bellini	Linde Gas	Italy
Prof.	Giovanni	Bernardini	Università Insubria	Italy
Ms.	Paola	Berti	Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani	Italy
Dr.	Fabiana	Bilò	Veneto Agricoltura	Italy
Dr.	Paolo	Bronzatti	Biomar srl	Italy
Dr.	Paolo	Bronzi	Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani	Italy
Prof.	Stefano	Cataudella	Università di Tor Vergata	Italy
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Mr.	Gabriele	Chiodi	Chiodi Consulting	Italy
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Me	Francesca	Michelon	Associazione Piscicoltori Italiani	Italy
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Quality Assurance in Freshwater Aquaculture 16&17 October 2008 –Treviso (Italy)

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