

Insights from the Nordic workshop on environmental licensing in aquaculture

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Blue Platform: Alignment of aquaculture legislation workshop

Helsinki, 6-7 February 2020

Workshop information

- Stockholm, 12 – 13 November 2019;
- Organized by Swedish Board of Agriculture;
- All Nordic countries present;
- Invited participants from ministries, boards, related research projects;
- Report and presentations promised to be published on website.

Focus – how to combine environmental licensing with much wished production growth in aquaculture.

What was discussed (1) -

- State of art in aquaculture production and legislation at all Nordic countries;
- Identification of challenges and obstacles:
 - in countries without unified law on aquaculture separately issued orders can be contradictory and the procedure in licensing less clear (Denmark, Sweden);
 - definitions, regulations and guidelines missing (FI, SE, DK);
 - compensation measures not included in legislative systems (DK, FI, SE);
 - if requirements for licence/permit are changed during lifetime of a farm then regulatory challenge how to balance old and new systems (Iceland);

What was discussed (2) -

- environmental monitoring system of Norway;
- ecological compensation in the mitigation hierarchy - avoidance, minimisation (BAT), remediation measures *in situ* (IMTA), **compensation or offsetting** (outside activity area);
- mussels foreseen as potential compensation measure in most of the countries, except Aland;
- other possible compensation measures include Baltic Fish Feed/Green Deal, fishing and fish products of cyprinids (FI), attraction of polychaetes to fish farms (NO), harvesting of sticklebacks, binding of phosphorous in sediments and removing the top layer (SE).

What was proposed -

- To have harmonized definitions on aquaculture topic throughout the legislative system;
- Legislation of licensing could be improved by including compensatory tools;
- If the country's environmental law does not forbid compensatory measures, then licenses can include permit orders on these measures to secure water quality;
- Compensations in aquatic systems should be considered specifically, apart from terrestrial areas;
- To base the size of a farm on allowed nutrient output calculations.

What was not discussed -

- RAS and legislation;
- Possible alignments;
- BAT in the legislation;
- Aspects of maritime spatial planning.

Draft recommendations are based on discussed and not/less covered topics!



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Thank you for attention!

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