



Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture

Responsible Aquaculture Practices and Certification



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With an aquaculture sector growing worldwide, Mediterranean stakeholders need to find solutions to keep the sector economically viable, guarantee food safety and animal welfare while solving associated environmental challenges and stimulating research.

Aquaculture has indeed started to attract significant attention, particularly concerning its sustainability and food safety issues.

In the Mediterranean, aquaculture activities are responding to global trends with the establishment of guidelines for the sustainable development of aquaculture, including responsible aquaculture practices and certification.

This Guide, the third in a series of Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture, aims at providing basic recommendations to decision makers and other parties interested in responsible aquaculture practices and certification.

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation / Global Marine Programme

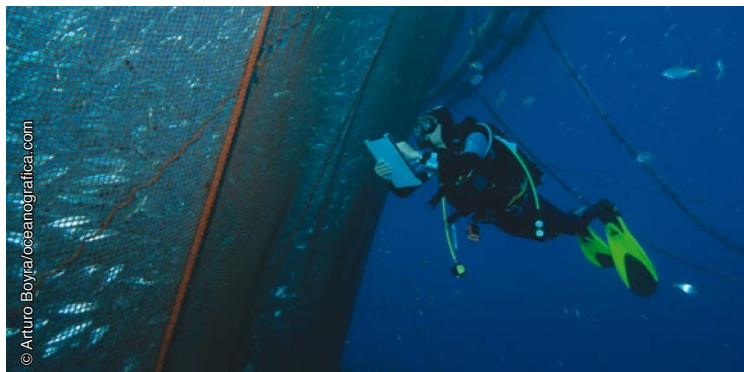
Main Topics

The main topics addressed in this third Guide have been highlighted and discussed by the IUCN / FEAP working group on aquaculture composed of Mediterranean experts from various countries and backgrounds such as scientists, administrators, and producers in cooperation with the Committee on Aquaculture of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

With discussions based on the environmental, social and economical sustainability of aquaculture, the four main topics presented in this Guide refer to:

- Codes of conduct and best practices, their limitations and how significant these are to improve aquaculture practices;
- Basics for certification schemes, including traceability and labelling. This topic includes a discussion on the fundamental objectives of certification which are communication and marketing as well as the improvement of production and business practices;
- Classification of certification schemes: business-to-business, business-to-consumer, third party, origin, quality, fair trade, and organic certifications; and
- Certification for sustainability. Although it seems difficult to certify the three pillars of sustainability - environmental, social and economical-, this Guide provides preliminary considerations and ideas to deal with certification for sustainability.

Each chapter presents the current situation of the topic in the Mediterranean region, followed by the formulation of specific recommendations in order that responsible aquaculture practices and certification could be developed, encouraging a move towards the development of a sustainable aquaculture in the region. Moreover, a series of Mediterranean examples help to provide an overview of present case studies in the region.



For More Information

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A draft is already available. The Guide will be released in December 2008 in English, French and Spanish.

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