

**Draft outline V1.
May 2021**

Role of Producers Organisations for a sustainable development of aquaculture

Draft Outline

- **Part I:** Initially the recommendation will link sustainable aquaculture to the objectives of strategic European policies.
- **Part II:** Then it will analyze the reasons to set up a PO and the objectives that can be achieved through them to collectively manage the activities of their Members and promote sustainability.
- **Part III:** Finally, it will present the current challenges and suggest measures to promote the establishment and facilitate the funding of POs and their PMPs.

Part I

Aquaculture producer organizations ("PO") are a key element to achieving the objectives of:

1. The Common Fisheries Policy:

- To promote the sustainable aquaculture with a view to promoting sustainability, food security, growth and employment through the establishment of strategic guidelines on common priorities and targets for the development of sustainable aquaculture activities.

2. The Common Markets Organisation

- The CMO aims at protecting the producers, focusing primarily on primary producers (fishing and aquaculture companies) and linking market considerations with resource management issues. Thus the CMO enhances the responsibilities of aquaculture producer organisations (POs) as regards achieving the objectives of the CFP and CMO.

3. The Green Deal:

- Aquaculture production is also recognized by the European Green Deal as a source of “low carbon” protein for food and feed.
- POs can contribute to promotion of collective measures and best practices to improve further the carbon footprint of aquaculture operators.

4. The Farm to Fork Strategy

- POs can assist the transition to a sustainable food system that will deliver affordable foods, improve the incomes of primary producers, improve environmental and animal welfare outcomes and reinforce the EU’s competitiveness.

- It is therefore necessary to enhance their responsibilities and to provide the necessary financial support to allow them to play a more meaningful role in the day-to-day management of aquaculture, whilst respecting the framework defined by objectives of the CFP, Green Deal and F2F

Part II

The main reasons for setting up POs is the need to address market failure and product quality aspects. Specifically, the motivation for setting up a PO relate to:

**Draft outline V1.
May 2021**

1. strengthening the market position of farmers through increased market access (production planning, joint selling and supply, price stabilization, level playing field)
2. product quality aspects, such as technical assistance for product quality and production standards (promoting environmentally friendly practices, sustainable use of natural resources, animal health and welfare etc).

Within this context POs are expected to perform functions to promote and ensure sustainable aquaculture activities:

Improve the **governance** of aquaculture:

- *Better implementation of EU legislation (reduce administrative burden) through participation to the policy making.*
- *Promoting spatial planning for aquaculture and guarantee food supply and security*
- *Ensuring adequate monitoring and data collection of the aquaculture sector.*

Establish conditions for **sustainable growth** of aquaculture through improved **environmental performance** in terms of:

- *The assessment and monitoring of the environmental impact of aquaculture activities*
- *To promote the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources.*
- *Management of diseases, use of medicines and other substances with low environmental impact.*
- *Measures to reduce the carbon footprint.*
- *Promote best practices to improve animal welfare.*
- *sustainable aquaculture helps in maintaining the ecological services and is a low carbon footprint activity.*

Promote the **competitiveness of EU** aquaculture production through:

- *Engagement in R&D activities to shape a high-performance aquaculture industry.*
- *Market intelligence, linking the aquaculture business with market demands.*
- *Direct funding resources to address common challenges.*
- *Improve market intelligence.*

Promote a **level playing field**

- *When trading aquaculture products in the EU, the conditions for fair competition should be ensured, in particular with imports from third countries, through the application of sustainability, production and social standards equivalent to those which apply to Union products.*
- A healthy competition environment leads to **better economic performance**.

Improving the sector's **image and governance** through:

- *Raise public awareness about the aquaculture products*
- *Improve consumer information by means of notification and labelling.*

**Draft outline V1.
May 2021**

Part III

Encourage the creation of POs for the sustainable aquaculture.

Aquaculture POs are the key to achieving the objectives of the CFP and of the CMO and of the Green Deal and F2F. It is necessary to enhance their responsibilities and to provide the necessary financial support to allow them to play a more meaningful role in the day-to-day management of aquaculture, whilst respecting the framework defined by objectives of the CFP, Green Deal and F2F. It is necessary to ensure that their members carry out aquaculture activities in a sustainable manner, improve the placing on the market of products, collect information on aquaculture and improve their incomes.

Challenges:

1. Lack of concrete legal framework (at national level) to set up POs.
2. Lack of a concrete legal framework (at European level) for multinational cooperation (transnational PO).
3. Confusion about eligible actions for funding from the EMFF/EMFAF.

Actions needed:

In order to strengthen the competitiveness and viability of producer organisations:

1. criteria for their establishment at national and transnational level should be defined.
2. Measures to encourage the participation of SME producers should be taken.
3. An inventory of measures deployed form the POs should made available from the EC.
4. EMFAF should provide maximum assistance to recognize POs.