Social acceptability and governance of aquaculture. Stakes, challenges and recent experiences

INDUSTRY FORUM: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS SEA BASS AND SEA BREAM FARMING CHALLENGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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Mediterranean marine fish farming. Main issues and general context

- European Mediterranean finfish aquaculture, represented mainly by seabass and seabream, shows stagnation
- Limited competitiveness of the sector linked to several factors (STECF, 2014)
- Factors in the production cycle and value chain are the base of inefficiencies

Source: FAO
Aquaculture development far from the objectives

No new projects in France since 1996

National plans of aquaculture development (2014-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Current Situation</th>
<th>Objectif</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Marine Fish Farming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>267000</td>
<td>320000</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>218000</td>
<td>265000</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>233%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>140879 (2012)</td>
<td>206854</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>114000 (2012)</td>
<td>170000</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/aquaculture/multiannual-national-plans_en
• Economic, environmental and social
• Social stakes: intensification of uses + Increase of social opposition to public decisions ⇒ Social Acceptability of Aqua. Develop. ⇒ governance

How he improve the SA (necessary work with stakeholders)

- The SA addresses the complexity of governance of the social-ecological systems
- SA ≠ binary question (for or against) ⇒ Scenarios of development to build with stakeholders
  ✓ To understand the social bottlenecks and factors of social opposition
  ✓ To accompany the social dialogue ⇒ exploring consensus social
Many examples of social reject of aquaculture

B.C. fish farms will require Indigenous consent


Alerta ambiental en La Vila ante una nueva piscifactoría

http://www.elmundo.es/comunidad-valenciana/alicante/2017/08/02/598172b2ca4741cd4a8b459f.html

L'aquaculture française toujours à la peine malgré une demande qui explode


Fishing groups oppose carp farm

Conservation Minister Maggie Barry has given the go-ahead for a carp farm, despite strong opposition from fishing groups who say a carp escape could devastate Taupo within a generation.

Blue Growth and MSP are asking the questions:

Where? (site selection)
How many (carrying capacity)
How far? (ecological intensification)

✓ Today, Aquaculture development is technical and technological focused

✓ Addressing the type of development is also to ask **which aquaculture** and **for whom**? In what context and what territorial realities that can be achieved?

✓ This address the issue of the Social Acceptability of aquaculture

✓ Social considerations are often neglected or not sufficiently addressed
Challenges associated to the Social Acceptability
Robustness of policy actions is higher when they are supported and legitimized by social groups that have a certain critical mass and relays in other social groups

Example: For example, in the case of onshore wind energy in France, the opponents (after an initial positive growth) have been able to aggregate around their struggle a multitude of other social groups to finally change complement the vision of wind power by rural territories

The implementation of programs, plans and projects always fit into a local context that can not be neglected

It is currently a fundamental expectation of European citizens to be involved in the decision-making processes that concern projects that concern them.

For example: Water Directive, MSP, etc.
In general, there is a well-developed legislation addressing the environmental impacts of the sector, including ecological and chemical aspects,

Few legislation specifically address the impact of aquaculture in the society, especially in the local communities,

Coordination (supra local scale) vs implementation (local scale)

Poor or inexistent indications on how institutions and producers should address social aspects related to the transparency, guidelines for stakeholders and society consultation, thus it releases in the hand of local administration or promoter.
Recent experiences from field work

3 local case studies

✓ Spain – Andalusia
✓ Tunisia - Monastir
✓ Greece – several regions
Diversity of case studies

- Tunisian case study (Bay of Monastir)
  - Academic exercise with the collaboration of local institutions and research
  - Understand factors of SA
  - Explore scenarios of Aq. develop.

- Spanish Case study: Andalusia plan of aquaculture development (focus in Malaga)
  - Accompany an institutional process: regional plan of aquaculture development

- Greek case study
  - Analyse the social dimensions of aquaculture development in Greece
  - Evaluate the main factors of the social acceptability in this country
  - Report good social practices from corporates (social responsibility) as the base of a successful aquaculture development
Interviews and workshops with stakeholders

Workshop with fishermen
Participative assessment of Social Acceptability of aquaculture development in the Bay of Monastir, Tunisia.

The approach

26 interviews + 3 participative workshops

Diagnostic of aquaculture development context in the Bay of Monastir (Context, issues and difficulties)

Focus on difficulties and identification on potential action levers.

Building aquaculture development scenario in the Bay of Monastir

Assessment of scenarios in the frame of social acceptability

Results

Different obstacles (export constraints, difficulties to settle on Marine Public Domain, etc.) + Conflicts overs environmental issues and cohabitation with fishing activity.

Emerging issues are:

Impacts and mostly the way aquaculture development is thought.

Acceptability criteria pushed forward during workshops are:

- A better distribution of benefits
- More transparency and participation
- A more important regulation role from the State

Importance of governance schemes in support to projects implementation.
Cooperation with local-regional institutions in Andalusia

✓ A training course “Engineering of concertation for people involved in the development and planning of aquaculture in Andalusia” has been organized in Sevilla (24-26 October 2018).
✓ This activity aimed the transfer of concepts and methods of participatory processes to the staff of local and regional administrations in order to taste later real experiences of stakeholder’s involvement to enhance the SA of aquaculture.
Proceso talleres sociales

OBJETIVO: Determinar zona/s acuícolas en Málaga para su declaración como Zonas de Interés

Etapas
- Análisis contexto
- Diagnóstico participativo + Prospección
- Talleres Multiactores
- Taller/Jornada presentación

Acciones
- Entrevistas
- Bibliografía
- Estudios del medio
- Actores y Equipo

Agentes
- Niveles de Información: Informar, Consultar, Conocer, Convenir, Decidir

Objetivos
- Obtener información previa a talleres y como base documental y preparación dinámica
- Presentar objetivo del proceso
- Conocer limitaciones / necesidades acuícola
- Medir interés de los participantes
- Implicar a los actores en las fases siguientes del proceso.

Equipo/Recursos
- Equipo: AGAPA, Desarrollo proceso, Desarrollo talleres.
- DGPA, Validador proceso, Decision zona/s a presentar.
- IFREMER, Apoyo desarrollo procesos y talleres.

Recursos: Salas para realizar talleres, silllas, mesas, paredes para trabajar paneles.
Realización talleres en lugares neutrales a cada sector (sedes cofradias, DOTT, AHP, sedes sociales aytos, etc.). Lugares de fácil acceso y parking.
Zona cafés/ break.
Sesiones de mañana o tarde en función del sector.

Recursos: Salas para realizar talleres, silllas, mesas, paredes para trabajar paneles.
Taller en lugar neutral (sedes sociales o similar). Lugares de fácil acceso y parking.
Zona cafés/ break.
Sesiones de mañana o tarde.

1. Taller concertación:
Sector pesquero, acuícola, Aytos, Puertos, Costas, MAmb, DGPA, DDTT Málaga, AGAPA, otras Admon, Sociedad (ONG), horeca, turismo, etc.


Todos: Informar
Some insights from the Spanish case study

- The work is ongoing (but on standby)
- After being approved, a participatory programme has been modified (simplified)
- The implementation is more directive
- The process is driven by the main political objectives (Plan to build)
- Strong opposition from fishermen
- No trust between the administration and fishermen
- Timing of concertation in local territories is long vs short deadlines of administrative plans (if no trust, no SA, … “1 step up and 2 steps back”)
- The process is on standby
62.5% of respondents agree with the establishment and operation of aquaculture units near the place of residence or vacation.
The reasons why the remaining 37.5% disagree are mainly environmental damage (70.4%), beach access exclusion (60.9%) and garbage (40.9%). Other reasons are the bright lights, the noise, the smell, the blocking of water sports, the traffic of heavy vehicles and the fact that they do not contribute to the local community (the lowest rate of 6.1%)
licensing process: not important to participate in decision-making for the majority of respondents.
The majority of respondents believe that must be respect of laws, openness and transparency of decision-making, process of preventing conflicts.
The majority considers that they are not able to participate in decision-making and have no influence over decisions.
Proposals of respondents for the development of aquaculture,

- **Strict legislation** and controls
- Preference off-shore installation and promote new production systems cropping systems (recirculated systems, etc.)
- Promote **organic** fish farming
- Strengthen the cooperation of scientists and industry
- Develop **certification** systems
✓ Aquaculture has been developed in a less constraining period…
✓ … but under a strong social opposition (less now)
✓ Corporate – social responsibility is a key issue for the SA in many areas (socio-cultural components but also socioeconomic context)
✓ Local institutions and social processes play a key role (Mayors)
✓ Today : new national law for aquaculture in Greece under construction. Modernisation that may have impacts at local organisation : National objectives vs local realities
✓ The Greek case study shows how the success of aquaculture development cannot be achieved without properly addressing social issues
✓ Social Acceptability relies on the complexity of social-economic systems
✓ SA ≠ convincing ≠ communicating
✓ Communication is necessary but is not sufficient
✓ The objectives of aquaculture development should be confronted to the social needs of coastal territories
✓ Key role of engagement and responsibility by companies to enhance the SA
✓ Necessity to promote institutional innovation (real stakeholder involvement)
  ▪ Tools and frameworks to solve social issues
  ▪ The need to better integrate social dimensions in sciences and policy frameworks)