

European Aquaculture Stakeholder Conference 2007

Working Towards Sustainability

The Atlantis Hotel, Heraklion, Crete. 18 and 19 September, 2007

European Aquaculture Stakeholder Conference

The Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture involves Society, Economics and the Environment. The Aquaculture–Environment interaction takes place within the wider context of societal costs and benefits, and the use of the marine resource by other sectors.

The ECASA project considers Indicators, Tools and Models for Environmental Impact Assessment and for aquaculture in a pan-European context considering both fin-fish and shellfish and a range of culture techniques. Cases studies have been used from across Europe to trial and test the tools under investigation. The final products of this project will be available on a public website in the form of a 'Tool-box' containing model and indicator assessments, case studies and user guidelines. Our objective is to provide a practical range of tested tools for Farmers and Regulators for the purposes of Site Selection, EIA and monitoring. However this is not a "one size fits all" approach and different tools are assessed for different culture techniques and environments.

The main beneficiary audience will include regulators, planners, farmers and academics. The provisional program is given overleaf – this will be updated over the next weeks. The timetable will be spread over two days allowing plenty of time for stakeholder interaction and informal discussions.

The Atlantis Hotel, Heraklion, Crete.



The Aquaculture Stakeholder Conference will act as a spring-board to launch the ECASA 'Tool-Box'. The objective of the conference will be to encourage active participation from delegates on environmental management systems in aquaculture and provide a forum linking research, regulation and industry

Conference Registration.

Venue: The Atlantis Hotel, Heraklion, Crete,

<http://www.theatlantishotel.gr>

Date: 18—19 September 2007

Registration. The registration fee, (€70), covers full participation on both days, administration costs, refreshments, and the conference dinner.

For further details on the Conference contact

ecasa@sams.ac.uk



Ecosystem Approach to Sustainable Aquaculture

ECASA

In 2002 the EU published a strategy for the sustainable development of European aquaculture. One of the main objectives of this strategy is to ensure an environmentally sound industry. European aquaculture is highly diverse and consists of a broad range of species, systems and practices. The industry has been expanding rapidly, and has helped stabilise coastal rural populations by providing year round employment.

To maintain current production levels and enable further development of the industry, a holistic ecosystem based approach to the application of farming technologies and governance, the consideration of socio-economics and natural resource use, should be adopted. The ECASA project has considered these factors and integrated them into the ECASA 'Tool-Box', a suite of indicators, models and procedures targeted at achieving sustainable aquaculture by applying an ecosystem approach to aquaculture management. This approach is not about managing or manipulating ecosystems but is concerned with ensuring aquaculture management decisions do not adversely affect ecosystem function and productivity, leading to sustainable marine resource use.

DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Tuesday 18th September, 2007

Introduction to ECASA. Dr Kenny Black, (SAMS, Scotland, UK)

Introduction, definitions of sustainability and environment. WFD: impacts on fish farmers – Professor Paul Tett, (Napier University, Scotland, UK)

Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture. Professor Doris Soto, (FAO, Rome)

Social acceptability of aquaculture: the use of survey-based methods for eliciting public and stakeholder preferences. Dr David Whitmarsh, (University of Portsmouth, England, UK)

Toolbox overview – handbook, guidelines. Dr Kenny Black, (SAMS, Scotland, UK)

Introduction to modeling as applied by fish farmers and regulators – e.g. DEPOMOD, MOM, CSTT. Professor Paul Tett, (Napier University, Scotland, UK) and Dr Chris Cromey, (SAMS, Scotland, UK)

Indicators—Dr Alain Bodoy, (IFREMER, France) and Dr Yannis Karakassis, (University of Crete, Greece)

Wednesday 19th September, 2007

EIA Case studies Fish, Shellfish – indicators and models in action – Speakers to be confirmed

Regulator needs/responses – (tbc)

Fish farmer needs/responses – (tbc)

EU Priorities – Responses to and life after ECASA. M. Jacques Fuchs, (EU, Brussels)

Other EU projects: Thresholds, Consensus, Seacase, SPICOSA, Aquagris – invited speakers and/or posters

Launching the ECASA 'Tool-Box'.

The ECASA 'Tool-Box' will be a website based resource with a decision support framework guiding industry and regulators through the suite of indicators and predictive environmental models and procedures. This will direct stakeholders to the most useful tools appropriate for evaluating site suitability across varying environmental conditions. The focus of the 'Tool-Box' will be to aid the assessment of sites for aquaculture activities and provide a consistent framework for the application of Environmental Impact Assessments, resulting in coherent and relevant Environmental Statements.

The focus of the 'Tool-Box' will be to assess marine sites in relation to the aquaculture practices applied by matching farm size and biomass to the carrying capacity of the receiving environment. The 'Tool-Box' will inform on the merits of indicator sets, best methodologies for collection, analysis and interpretation and on the recommended set of models, tailored to the varying marine based aquaculture practices found throughout Europe.

The 'Tool-Box' will also contain a series of procedures advising on suitable combinations of these components and their particular applicability in the marine environment. Guidance will be given on the use of models to estimate site and water body assimilative capacity, sustainable production levels and on the reliability of model predictions.



SCOTTISH
ASSOCIATION
for MARINE
SCIENCE

The ECASA Project Coordination Team are based at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Oban, Scotland, UK, one of the oldest marine research institutions in the world and a centre of excellence for the study, education and promotion of marine science



ECASA- An Ecosystem Approach for Sustainable Aquaculture – is an EU funded Framework 6 RTD project, with 16 research partners from 13 member states.

It is the successor to several 4th and 5th Framework Programme projects which have helped to push forward our understanding of the effects of aquaculture on the environment especially in the Mediterranean.

ECASA Project Partners

Partner	Institution	Contact details
Kenny Black	SAMS	kenny.black@sams.ac.uk
David Whitmarsh	University of Portsmouth, UK	david.whitmarsh@port.ac.uk
Paul Tett	Napier University, UK	p.tett@napier.ac.uk
Alenka Malej	National Institute of Biology, Slovenia.	malej@mbss.org
Helmut Thetmeyer	Kiel University, Germany	hthetmeyer@ifm-geomar.de
Reinhold Fieler	Akvaplan, Norway.	rf@akvaplan.niva.no
Dror Angel	Haifa University, Israel.	adr@research.haifa.ac.il
Yannis Karakassis	University of Crete.	karakassis@biology.uoc.gr
Tony Hawkins	Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK.	ajsh@pml.ac.uk
Joao Ferreira	Instituto do Mar, Portugal	joao@hoomi.com
Salvatore Porello	Central Institute for Marine Research, Italy	s.porello@icram.org
Alain Bodoy	IFREMER, France	Alain.Bodoy@ifremer.fr
Angel Borja	AZTI, Spain.	aborja@pas.azti.es
Roberto Pastres	University of Venice, Italy	pastres@unive.it
Tarzan Legovic	Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Croatia.	legovic@irb.hr
Anders Stigebrandt	University of Göteborg, Sweden.	anst@oce.qu.se

The ECASA project partners wish to thank the Municipality of Heraklion for their sponsorship of this event.

