

Aquaculture: Myths and Facts

Workshop Report



Jun 28, 2022

@UN Ocean
Conference One
Sustainable Ocean
Side Event



**BLUE
BIOECONOMY**
CoLAB

Aquaculture: Myths and Facts

Workshop Report



Participants Origin

North America

Europe - Portugal

United Kingdom
Spain /Colombia

Portugal

Taiwan
Porto

United States of America

Europe

Asia

Do you eat fish?

YES



NO



Do you eat fish from aquaculture?

YES



NO



I DON'T KNOW



Can you distinguish wild fish from aquaculture fish?

YES



NO



Myths and Facts: Q&A Why Aquaculture

What is the ultimate goal of
Aquaculture?

Myths and Facts: Why Aquaculture

The ultimate goal is to **produce the most nutritional animal protein in the most sustainable way**, and so it can reach most of the people in the world

Myths and Facts: Q&A Sustainability

Until what point the
development/growth of
aquaculture is sustainable?

What are the criteria to be
observed?

Myths and Facts: Q&A Sustainability

Aquaculture is the most sustainable way of producing animal protein

There are some sustainability issues regarding feeds

Research is helping to overcome this issues, namely by turning to sustainable ingredients

Myths and Facts: Q&A Sustainability

The industry, together with science, is putting major efforts into finding new sources of ingredients, such as:

- insect-based feeds
- single cell proteins
- algae meal
- co-products from the fish industry

Myths and Facts: Q&A Sustainability

So, the ingredients used come primarily from **circular economy** and **do not compete with human nutrition**

Myths and Facts: Q&A Economy

What can be done to double or triple Portuguese aquaculture production?

Myths and Facts: Top Q&A

In Portugal, increasing production would greatly improve our economy since right now **we import more than 60% of the fish we eat**

Myths and Facts: Top Q&A

Portugal needs investment from both private and government to increase aquaculture production

Politicians need to be aware and to look at aquaculture as a real solution and a source of wealth and economic benefits for the country

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



1. When shopping, choose local seafood, from your country

If not available, go for European origin

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



Why? Because this way, you are ensuring:

- **Freshness**
- **Environmental sustainability**
- **Local economy support**
- **Food safety**

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



2. Antibiotics are not used preventively in the EU

The preventive use of antibiotics was banned in EU in 2006

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



When it is necessary, for clinical reasons, to give antibiotics to fish, this process is done by a certified veterinarian, using as little as possible and as allowed by law

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



After the antibiotic treatment, fish go through a “mandatory quarantine” process, being retained until all traces of antibiotics disappear

Only after this period fish may be harvested for human consumption

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



All hormones have been banned since 1981 in EU

In other words, they have not been used in the EU, in any type of animal production, for 40 years

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



3. Choose certified products if local/national or EU origin are not available

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



There are four schemes responsible for most of the certified aquaculture production:

- **Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)**
- **Global Aquaculture Alliance Best Aquaculture Practice (GAA BAP)**
- **Global G.A.P. (GG) and**
- **Friend of the Sea (FoS)**

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



Each certification standard has a list of indicators and corresponding requirements that are meant to ensure responsible practices of sustainability (e.g. environmental, social)

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



Note that for small family businesses it's unaffordable to incorporate certification schemes into their business, however, if located in the EU they can be considered trustworthy

Myths and Facts: 3 Bonus Tips



Although certification schemes are targeted for corruption in some countries, we believe that they are key facilitators for behavioral change in the industry

Final Poll

Who believes aquaculture can be the solution to allow every community to feed itself?

Who is ready to fall in love?

YES



NO



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