



**BLACK SEA ADVISORY COUNCIL/BISAC/
CONSILIUL CONSULTATIV PENTRU MAREA
NEAGRA**

Association registered in The Register of
Non-Profit Legal Entities (RNPLE)
of R.Bulgaria UIC 176964109
Headquarters and address of management:
Varna, 24-26 Ohrid Str., fl.1
office@blsaceu.eu

Asociatie, inregistrata in Registrul
persoanelor juridice fara scop patrimonial
al R Bulgaria, CUI 176964109
Sediu si adresa de conducere:
Mun. Varna, str. "Ohrid" N 24-26, etaj 1
office@blsaceu.eu

MINUTES

From a meeting of BSAC Working Group 3

September 27, 2021

Topic: "Marine aquaculture in Romania and Bulgaria - real situation and prospects".

On September 27, 2021 in Constanta, Romania, at the Continental Forum Hotel and via video link through ZOOM, a meeting of BISAC Working Group 4 was held on the topic - Marine aquaculture in Romania and Bulgaria - real situation and prospects.

The meeting was attended online by Mr. Galin Nikolov - Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture /EAFA/ Burgas, Ms. Aneta Encheva from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry /MAFF/, and in the hall guests of the meeting were: Mr. Dobrin Dinu from National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture /NAFA/ Constanta, Mr. Victot Nita from the Grigor Antipa Institute, Constanta, Mrs. Magda Neman from the Grigor Antipa Institute, Mr. Bogdan Bola from the Chamber of the Senators in Romania, Mr Paul Cononov Romanian Waters Directorate.

The meeting was attended by members of BISAC online and present in the hall, as well as the secretariat of the Association.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Mihaela Candea-Mirea, Head of Working Group 3. Following are greetings to the participants and guests by the President of BISAC - Mr. Yordan Gospodinov.

The emphasis was on the fact that the Black Sea provides good opportunities for the development of aquaculture, as well as the cultivation of mussels under certain conditions. There has even been an oyster farm in Bulgaria for two years now, as have experiments with several brown algae farms. There is also a conceptual design for a white mussel farm, but it has not been registered yet. Mr. Gospodinov explained that in Bulgaria there are about 60 permits for mussel farms, but there are very few active ones. The procedure for issuing a permit for a mussel farm is lengthy and requires the submission of a number of documents:

1. Opinion on the geographical boundaries of the extraction area (farm) and the transfer area issued by the Basin Directorate;

2. Map and coordinates of the farm for bivalves issued by the relevant competent institution;
3. Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture /EAFA/ permit for commercial fishing / Registration of an aquaculture farm /;
4. Permit for use of a water body - issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water;
5. Opinion of the General Staff of the Navy;
6. Opinion of the Maritime Administration at the Ministry of Transport and Communications, for permanent marking of the boundaries of the farm;
7. If necessary, an opinion of the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water /RIEW/ is required to perform an environmental impact assessment.

Mr. Gospodinov clarified that this is a rather voluminous documentation, which takes time to receive.

As for Romania, it was said that there is currently no separate legislation on the Aquaculture, and no permits have been issued for mussel farms in the Black Sea.

Ms. Michaela Mirea said that according to European requirements, the development of aquaculture should be done in appropriate areas and not be integrated with other activities in the Black Sea. It is necessary to study the Romanian coast for suitable areas for growing aquaculture .

Ms. Lyubov Georgieva explained that when a permit is issued for a mussel farm in Bulgaria, it is for a period of 5 years, and if it does not start operating during that time, after the expiration of the term the site is closed.

Following is a presentation of a short film and a presentation by Mr. Victor Nice about the activities of the demonstration center for aquaculture in Romania in the area of Ajija. There is such a demonstration center in Turkey, and in the one in Constanta there is a representative of General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM). This center is a kind of exercise on how to grow mussels, but no research has been done on what the optimal amount of mussels can produce. The activity of the Institute is rather scientific, and such a calculation can be made only in practice.

Mr. Florin Luchian: There is no legislation in Romania with a framework for the development of aquaculture in the Black Sea. Very soon, the fishing industry in Romania will want to diversify its activities by growing mussel aquaculture. In this case, it is normal to have facilities and an advantage for fishermen in their transition to aquaculture, but for now there is no such development by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr Bogdan Bola explained that a law on aquaculture had been proposed in Romania but rejected. At the request of the EC, fishing and aquaculture activities in the law must be separated. According to him, there are no official data on the number of fishermen in the Black Sea.

Mr. Dobrin Dinu replied that such data exist and can be taken from the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture - NAFA. The problem is that at this stage in Romania can not start

growing aquaculture in the Black Sea, because there is no legislative framework. Another problem is that the Romanian coast is more open, without bays and not so suitable for aquaculture farms, but this does not prevent us from exploring different areas along the Romanian Black Sea coast. Mr. Dinu sees that in Bulgaria the fields for mussel farms are not given on concession, but permits are issued for the use of a certain area, maybe the Romanian authorities should think in this direction as well.

Mr. Victor Nice said that the Grigor Antipa Institute has a contract with a private investor to establish a trout farm in a marine environment, with the ultimate goal of achieving 400 t / year. At the same time, the project is blocked because it cannot be done legally. In the Black Sea, Turkey is a major exporter of trout aquaculture to Japan.

Mr. Galin Nikolov: In Bulgaria the construction of a third demonstration center is forthcoming - for fish farming in cages. The country's administration is trying to improve and ease licensing procedures because they are very slow at the moment. It turns out that EAFA only registers operators, but does not issue real permits. In Bulgaria, the administration is trying to ensure that permits are issued at one counter.

Mrs. Lyubov Georgieva asked Mr. Nikolov why in Bulgaria there are many permits issued for mussel farms, and the actual number of working mussel farms is very small?

Mr. Nikolov expressed his personal opinion that one of the reasons is poor management of the farm, another is the lack of experience and lack of knowledge of the sea.

Ms. Georgieva explained that the permit is issued for a period of 10 years and thus preserves a certain place in the sea and if the farm does not develop, no one else for this period can not use these coordinates and they remain blocked.

Mr. Florin Luchian asks what is the amount of production from mussel farms per year.

Mr. Gospodinov answered that the amount of black mussels obtained from farms is about 3500 - 4000 t / year.

Following the discussions, some ideas for a recommendation from BISAC to the official authorities of the two Member States were formed:

- to simplify the procedure for obtaining permits for the construction of a farm for Black Sea aquaculture, as well as to introduce the system for servicing those who wish and obtaining permits from one counter;
- for Romania to establish the legal framework for marine aquaculture, as well as to conduct a study by the Romanian authorities together with the scientific institutes which are the most suitable areas on the Romanian Black Sea coast for aquaculture;
- harmonization of the legislation between Bulgaria and Romania on aquaculture in the Black Sea so that there is fair competition;
- BISAC to consult scientific institutes in both countries which are the most suitable for sustainable production aquaculture species in the Black Sea.

Next: closing the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting were kept by: Mrs. Elena Peneva

Chairman of BISAC: Mr. Yordan Gospodinov