

Wrocław 2013



RESOLUTION

2nd International Carp Conference
12-13. September 2013. Wrocław, Poland

There have been previous efforts to get European freshwater pond fish farming accepted as an important and equal-right sub-sector of EU aquaculture. These included the activities of the Freshwater Commission of FEAP, and various meetings such as the EATIP Aquainnova project meeting in Warsaw, the CFP conference in Salzburg, and workshops of the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD).

The Workshop of EU Pond Fish Farmers that was held in Rétimajor, Hungary on the 3rd of September accepted a draft resolution that was discussed during the plenary session of the 2nd International Carp Conference in Wrocław, Poland.

The participants of the 2. International Carp Conference unanimously accept the following, as the most important issues regarding freshwater pond aquaculture:

- The predation of wild animals is significant problem in freshwater aquaculture. These include the damages caused by beavers, otters, herons and mostly cormorants. The cormorant predation has become one of the biggest problems of freshwater fisheries and aquaculture; Cormorant populations are now destroying a big proportion of the pond farming production, wild populations and reducing biodiversity. This is the result of the inadequate European legislation. If the European Union wants to develop freshwater pond aquaculture – as stated in the CFP - it cannot disregard the cormorant problem and must primarily organize a coordinated effort with the member states to substantially reduce the impact.
- Pond fish farming is a major contributor to water management, both in terms of quality and quantity. Fish ponds serve as water reservoirs, with an important role in case of extreme weather conditions (e.g. flood, draught). At the same time well managed ponds act as biofilters, where the effluent water is always better quality than the inflow. This unique role should be recognized and supported by regulation.
- One of the major constraints of freshwater pond aquaculture development is often the lack of coherency and consequences between EU policies (e.g. WFD and Sustainable Development) and the unreasonably restrictive legislation on national and regional level.
- Freshwater pond aquaculture has been recognized as an unexplored opportunity to provide growth and employment in inland areas, however pond fish farmers feel that beside recognition pond fish farming needs appropriate supportive regulation.



- Freshwater pond aquaculture has been contributing to the conservation and maintenance of valuable aquatic habitats and thus providing ecological services through sustainable fish farming. Without aquaculture production on these areas, biodiversity would be reduced substantially. However, this non-production function of fish ponds has not been supported. Pond fish farming should be equal to other agricultural sectors that receive support for environmental services even if the value is lower than that of fish ponds.
- Pond fish farming has good opportunities to contribute to “blue economy” and growth by innovation and application of the principle of “sustainable intensification”. Innovative efforts to combine traditional values with modern concepts should be supported. The strategic guideline of the EC encourages pond farmers to exchange experience and best practices that could contribute to the overall development of the EU pond fish farming sector, therefore such exchange programs should be supported by the Member State.
- One of the major constraints to the development of pond aquaculture is the often unreasonable restrictive regulation on national and local level, although the specific values of pond fish farming are recognized at EU level.
- Due to the unique values and specific importance of the pond farming sector pond farmers request to have adequate representation in the new established Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC).
- Pond aquaculture should be recognized as a major contributor to the livelihood of rural communities in many inland regions and the preservation and enhancement of social and cultural values of Europe.
- It is both scientifically and financially justified to remove KHV from the list of notifiable diseases under the Directive 88/2006.
- Pond fish farming has an unexploited market potential which needs innovation and investment. Development of pond fish farming creates growth and employment, therefore it should be addressed and supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.