

## Commission consultation

# Update of the strategic guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture

## What are the strategic guidelines (SAGs)?

- The current Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture, adopted in 2013 (COM 2013 /229), have set common priorities and targets for the development of aquaculture activities in the EU until the end of 2020.
- Now the European Commission is reviewing and updating the guidelines with a focus on sustainability and competitiveness.
  - According to the Commission, the SAGs will be closely linked to the objectives of the European Green Deal (i.e. CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction) and the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#).
- The new guidelines will cover the period of 2021-2030 and will be potentially reviewed every 3 years.

## What's at stake for fish welfare in the SAGs?

- The Commission makes clear that the sustainability and competitiveness of the sector are their main goal for the revision of the SAGs.
- The economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 crisis is also being brought into the picture for their considerations.
- There is a separate section in the questionnaire where fish health and welfare can be highlighted as a needed priority (see section 5)



We have to make sure that it becomes clear to the EU policy-makers that fish welfare should **not be seen as trade-offs** for lower CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets and increased competition of EU producers, but rather **as enablers for a more competitive and green/sustainable** aquaculture sector.

## How does the consultation process work?

- This consultation from the European Commission seeks input from citizens and organisations in order to **soundcheck** their ideas for the updated version of the SAGs before they are being published.
- The Commission is already working on updating the SAGs. This means that the consultation is meant to help confirm the **content, purpose and scope** of the new SAGs.

## What is the timing?

The consultation is open until **27 October 2020** (midnight Brussels time).

## How can you give feedback?

Click the link to find the consultation website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12261-EU-fish-farms-aquaculture-updated-guidelines>

You can respond either as:

### 1. an organisation.

- Your organisation needs to be registered with the European Commission's Transparency Register
- if your organisation is not already registered on this system, please respond as an individual citizen.

### 2. an individual/ non-EU registered organisation.

- Simply click on the link and fill in the form as an individual.
- No transparency registration is needed, you will, however, still have to set up an account with your contact details for verification.

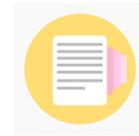
## Tips and Tricks to fill in the questionnaire



If you stay on the feedback page for **more than 20 minutes**, you will be timed out, so it is better to have your response already drafted.



You can contribute to the questionnaire in any of the 24 official EU languages.



You can upload one document (max 1 MB) in the end **detailing your responses**.