Aquaculture in Flanders

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Overview

• The Belgian aquaculture landscape
• Aquaculture policy and the Flemish Aquaculture Platform
• Aquaculture support under the EMFF in Flanders
• Innovative research projects (EMFF/FIVA) in Flanders
The Belgian aquaculture landscape

- **Only freshwater production**
  - Wallonia: mainly trout farming
  - Flanders: a few niche products
    - Omegabaars (jade perch)
    - Caviar
    - Shrimps
    - Pike perch
The Belgian aquaculture landscape (2)

- **Challenges**
  - Limited coastline, no bays and rough sea
  - Densely populated area
  - Need for technical knowledge
  - High investment costs

- **Opportunities**
  - A lot of scientific knowledge
  - Integration with other activities/industries
  - Strong network
  - Financial support (grants) available
Aquaculture policy and the Flemish Aquaculture Platform (VAP)

- **Main vision:**
  - to develop an integrated aquaculture sector, both on land and at sea (incl. crustaceans and algae)

- **Flemish Aquaculture Platform (VAP)**
  - 2012
  - Stimulate and facilitate aquaculture development in Flanders
  - Structure: next slide
Flemish Aquaculture Platform (VAP): structure (1)

- Flemish Aquaculture platform
  - Strategic Steering Group on Aquaculture (SSAQ)
  - Information office
  - Network

4 Working Groups (until 2014):
- Information and consultation centre
- Vision
- Legislation
- Research and education

Representation by:
- Knowledge institutions
- Educational institutions
- Business and entrepreneurs
- Government
Flemish Aquaculture Platform (VAP): structure (2)

- **SSAQ:**
  - exchange of knowledge, policy advice, etc.

- **Network**
  - Variety of actors
  - Yearly symposium

- **Information office**
  - Central information and consultation point
  - Part-time consultant
  - Consultation free of charge
  - Own website: [www.aquacultuurlandbouwvlaanderen.be](http://www.aquacultuurlandbouwvlaanderen.be)
Aquaculture support under the EMFF in Flanders

- 10 mio EUR for program period (2014 – 2020)

- **Innovative research (art. 47)**
  - Calls open to business and research
  - 50 – 100% support
  - Between 250.000 – 500.000 EUR per project

- **Productive investments (art. 48)**
  - Max. 40% support
  - Up to 1 mio EUR per entity

- **Advice (art. 49) and networking (art. 50)**
  - The aquaconsultant and the Flemish Aquaculture Platform

- **Animal welfare (art. 56)**
  - 50 – 100% support
  - Max. 50.000 EUR per project
Innovative research projects (EMFF/FIVA) in Flanders

- **EDULIS**
  - Mussel production in wind-mill farms on sea
  - University of Gent

- **VALUE@SEA**
  - Oysters and seaweed production offshore (Nieuwpoort)
  - ILVO

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Innovative research projects (EMFF/FIVA) in Flanders (2)

- **HALAVLA**
  - Identification of 12 most optimal aquaculture locations on land
  - INAGRO and KULeuven

- **IMTAC-VL**
  - Feasibility studies for aquaculture production at Sibelco-site
  - Coho salmon & Rainbow trout
  - KULeuven
Innovative research projects (EMFF/FIVA) in Flanders (3)

- **CheRAS**
  - Production of Australian red claw (cherax quadricarinatus) in recirculation systems: optimisation and profitability-study
  - Odisee Hogeschool
  - Starts in 2019

- **FLAVOREDCUC**
  - Reduction of off-flavour in recirculating aquaculture systems
  - University of Gent
  - Starts in 2019
Thank you for your attention!

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