



VALUABLE PRACTICE: Development of Marines cultures (shellfish and algae)

Description

A common legal frame regulates the access to the public maritime domain for all marine cultures/farming: shellfish, algae and fish farming (only few fish units exist in France). In order to develop new aquaculture farms, it is necessary to follow the procedures defined by the Rural and Fisheries Act (2010).

Despite the available legal frame only few new aquaculture offshore projects (mussels and algae) were successful. This case study will present the legal process (including spatial planning) as well as the reasons that have prevented the development of new aquaculture farms since 2010. This factsheet will also develop how the current situation can be improved through MSP plans.

Practice typology

(iii) Process-related practice + (iv) zoning

Topics addressed

Main	C. Sustainable sea-food production [C.2. Sustainable aquaculture and shellfish production (C.2.1. Development of marine aquaculture installations) and C.3. Sustainable algae production (C.3.1. Development of marine algae production)]
Secondary	G. Fair and just transition [G.1. Stakeholder participation and G.2. Representativeness of diversity of stakeholders at different levels]

Sectors/Activity involved

Aquaculture (finfish, shellfish and algae).

Stakeholders involved

National level State authorities:

- General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- National Committee of Shellfish farming.
- National Committee for Fisheries and Marines Cultures.

Purposes: regulation (formulation of rules and conditions to the development of marine cultures farms).

Regional level and district level:

Decentralise State authorities

- Interregional Division of the Sea (DIRM).
- Departmental Division of the Territories and the Sea (DDTM).
- Maritime Prefecture (seafront level).

Industry Organisations

- Regional Committee of Shellfish Farming (CRC).
- Regional Committee of Fisheries and Marine Cultures (CRPMEM).
- Departmental Committee of Fisheries and Marines Cultures (CDPMEM).

Purposes: Implementation; management; monitoring (compliance). Regional/district level State authorities determine the creation of marine cultures farms.

- Environmental NGO's.

Purposes: consultation; advice formulations.

Scientific advisers

- IFREMER for shellfish farming.
- CNRS for algae.

All new projects have to receive a positive advice before to be examined by the "Marines Culture Commission" of DDTM at district level.

Geographical scope

Although the same frame and processes are applicable in other regions, this factsheet will focus on the region of Bretagne as it is the place where an important number of new marines' cultures projects have failed.



Brittany map: [source](#)

Governance context

The Rural and Fisheries Act (2010) regulates and defines the process to develop new marine cultures farms. According to this law, new applications for concession leases are submitted to fisheries district administrations called Departmental Divisions of the Territories and the Sea (DDTM). Marine Cultures Commission (MCC) is responsible for examining concession leases applications under the DDTM responsibility. MCC gives an advice and the final decision is under the authority of the Maritime Prefect (representative of the State) at regional level. The MCC is composed by different district administrations (fisheries, environment, animal and human health); territorial authorities and shellfish farming industry representatives (CRC and individual farmers). Scientific institutes, users of the sea, NGOs and MPA managers (e.g. N2000 network) are participating in MCC with an advisory role. The MCC is chaired by the Maritime Prefect.

The Departmental Structure Scheme (DSS) provides guidelines and maps for appropriate aquaculture areas, including those within marine protected areas (MPAs). It is realised in common with all stakeholders under the DDTM authorities. The Regional Committee of Shellfish Farming realised a collective environmental impact assessment carried out by consultants for all species (including algae) that can be farmed in these areas. The environmental impact assessments are submitted and validated by State authorities at district level.

Aquaculture current and suitable areas at regional level are mapped by the regional authorities representing the state (DIRM) in a document called Regional Development of Marine Aquaculture Scheme (SRDAM) and includes also those within Natura 2000 sites. This document is realised through a consultation process that includes firstly all State services and then territorial authorities and others users. This document considers all others planning documents (Sea Enhancement Scheme (SMVM); Territorial Coherence Scheme (SCOTT); Local Land-use (urbanism) plan (PLU)).

The research and planning institutes are consulted for their opinion before SRDAM validation by the regional Maritime Prefecture. Both documents are submitted for a public online consultation. In theory, the SRDAM should be integrated in French MSP documents



VALUABLE PRACTICE: Development of Marines cultures (shellfish and algae)

(Documents Stratégiques de Façade (DSF)). However, it is only briefly referenced in the description of existing public policies.

How this MSP practice can support the EU Green Deal

The aspect in which this practice mainly supports EGD is in C.2.1. Development of marine aquaculture installations and C.3.1. Development of marine algae production. It also supports EGD in G.1. Stakeholder participation and G.2. Representativeness of diversity of stakeholders at different levels through the consultation processes for the development of marine cultures farms.

In some French regions like Bretagne, the disposals of the Rural and Fisheries Act of 2010 couldn't facilitate the development of this industry. Despite the introduction of a more participatory and inclusive system to designate aquaculture suitable areas, new farm developers failed to convince local communities of the importance of their projects. Usually, such projects are already predefined and pre-established when they are submitted for consultation. Planning of such important projects in economic and spatial terms needs to be discussed and build commonly between local communities, authorities and developers. According to the results of different research projects, realised in Bretagne, the economic development of communities to be acceptable it should be based on choices made from the communities and other local stakeholders and not only from public authorities and private sector. Projects that are not socially acceptable to local residents and citizens lead to inequitable governance systems that prioritize the most powerful interests. Local urbanism plans (municipality's) that are based on participatory choices should be generalized and integrated directly into the DSF.

Challenges/gaps/inconsistencies still to be addressed

The main challenge lies in the harmonization of different policies in order to strengthen marine cultures development by creating a single mapping of suitable areas. This mapping should be created commonly between all stakeholders at the beginning of the projects proposals. Regarding the current planning tools. MSP should help to facilitate the discussions and inclusion of all stakeholders, including local citizens, in order to help the acceptability of new project requests by the creation of local areas.

Replicability /Elements which can be capitalised

A single MSP document in order to avoid confusions and inconsistencies between the different orientations and schemes. In areas where big new projects will take place, regular deliberative areas should be created with the aim to share visions between all interested stakeholders and citizens about the future development strategy and spatial planning of the area. Such areas will allow all stakeholders to express their opinions and contribute to build new projects together instead of only being consulted/informed once the project is already pre-established and decided by local authorities. Sharing the power between economic sectors, territorial and State authorities, recreational activities and citizens, will prevent hegemonic power from influencing decision making and probably facilitate the acceptance of new big projects locally.