

Challenge

Newsletter

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Marine aquaculture approach

The General Authority for Fishes Resources Development intends to increase the marine aquaculture production, to provide high quality products to a population that is growing at an annual rate of 2%.

The lack of coastal space formally devoted to marine aquaculture is one of the main sector constraints in Mediterranean and Red Sea contexts.

The key to face this gap is linked to the effort to draw legal frameworks, administrative procedures and to collect environmental information, as bathymetry, currents, coastal morphology, water quality which are essential for a correct implementation of productive units.

According to FAO, The Allocation Zones for Aquaculture approach (AZA) can be considered an instrument for decision makers, administration and private investors. This approach aims to a zoning process in which specific areas could be assigned to aquaculture with an integration into the coastal management. The identification of aquaculture zones would facilitate the promotion of the sector within the coastal community, reducing the negative interaction and competition among the different coastal users.



Aquaculture Ecosystem approach

This approach requests the study of several parameters for site selection and management, which, according to an Ecosystem Approach perspective, must promote sustainable development, interlinking social and ecological needs and objectives.

Technical studies can support the Allocation Zone for Aquaculture, taking into account administrative, social, economic and environmental information, to facilitate the coordination between the authorities responsible for geographical planning and involved in the licensing procedures and monitoring. Criteria can be described in terms approval and exclusion, selecting suitable areas, unsuitable areas, areas with particular regulation and/or restriction. This information should be collected and treated under an administrative supervision and supported by technology (for instance GIS and data banks). The reliability of this background can also facilitate the dialogue between the stakeholders directly linked to aquaculture and the other users of the Maritime Public Domain, for increasing competitiveness, sharing costs and services and assure investments.



MICROSCOPE

In view of the current developmental stage of fish farming in the Mediterranean and Red Sea the establishment of commercial demonstration units would greatly enhance the process to gain and share experiences in the operation of the farm, providing an opportunity to the Egyptian Institutions/Authorities to evaluate the suitability of their regulations and procedures. The demonstration farms would allow the testing of environmental impact, productive performance and follow-up of monitoring programs, adapting the management to several cultured species. The farms could serve as training units for farmers, consultants and GAFRD staff, which deal with the processing of licences, environmental impact assessment and monitoring procedures and their enforcement. It is also a good option to encourage information exchange between the Egyptian research facilities, planning joint research cooperation programs. Italian and Egyptian development projects are following this not easy approach: not only construction and equipment supply but also start up, management and on job training for the benefits of both public and private sector



NEWS IN EVIDENCE

MADE PHASE 2 : Strategy for the sector. Marine aquaculture development must be properly planned, to find a synthesis between the whole interests and groups involved in the use of sea and coastal area. According to the Egyptian Institution, the MADE 2 Project foresees the Master Plan Study. This Task will be implemented to draw the sector strategy and to identify area by area technologies, rearing systems, target species and, finally, the human resources competences and training needs. GAFRD has already proposed to the other competent Institutions several areas where good conditions for aquaculture development exist, as the coast of North Sinai, the Damietta/Port Fouad coastline, some zones of the Red Sea coast and also the Mediterranean North coast from Matrouh to Sallum.

The MADE 2 Project Document is now ready; its preparation requested the technical contributions of several sector experts and it tries to take into account the opinions of the Italian and Egyptian Institutions involved in the Debt Swap procedures, both from technical and financial issue. According to the plan it will be now presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and finally to the Ministry of International Cooperation and Debt Swap Unit for final



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