

ECO-FISH 2nd e-newsletter

The Project '**Ecological footprint in cross-border marine fish farming in Sagiada (Greece) and southern Albania**' (ECO-FISH) aims, through specific pilot actions, to reduce the environmental footprint of aquaculture in Greece and Albania, with a view to sustainable management of natural resources and control of microclimatic conditions during production.

ECO-FISH is implemented under the "Interreg IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Greece-Albania 2014-2020" and is co-funded by the European Union and by National Funds of Greece and Albania.

During the previous months:

Deliverable 3.1.2 "Environmental quality data review and monitoring in Greek area" was finalized by the University of Ioannina – Lead beneficiary of the Project.

This Study provides a useful baseline review of the quality and overall status of aquatic environment in the coastline of the Sagiada strip. Data mining was based on both literature review and field visits to the strip and the participant fish farm, discussions and answers to a tailor-made structured questionnaire.

These data confirm and suggest that the critical parameters of the coastal marine environment in the Sagiada strip were and still are appropriate for the development of cage fish farming. On the other hand, certain sediment quality aspects should be tackled such as the presence of pollutants and selected heavy metals such as Cu, Cd, Pb, Zn. Moreover, there is an urgent need to effectively combat

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certain pathologies, which is imperative for improving production performance and profitability of the fish farms. Finally, the fish farming sector in Sagiada strip should elaborate the collection/ disposal/ recycling of all by-products such as plastics of all kind, dead fish, washing machines' outflows, antifouling dipping remains and motor oils, within a framework of inclusive waste management programme. As a concluding remark, it was evident that the sector at its current production level is more or less operating in balance with the natural environment. However, future expansion plans after the ratification of local AODA in Sagiada strip, should take into consideration this balance and ensure that it will be not compromised.

Deliverable 4.1.1 "Application of a Life Cycle Assessment in fish farms" was finalized by the University of Ioannina – Lead beneficiary of the Project. The application of LCA in the two participant fish cage farms in Sagiada (Greece) and Vlore (Albania), revealed that feed, fry, the use of air compressor to refill diving cylinders and for motor vehicles tyres, were in both cases the most important factors dictating the ecological performance.

However, minor differences between Greece and Albania were evident in the environmental impact indicators affected. For example, the Greek farm had a higher impact in a global warming, ozone formation (human health and terrestrial ecosystems), fine particulate matter formation, human non-carcinogenic toxicity and fossil resource scarcity). The Albanian farm, on the other hand, presented a comparatively increased footprint on stratospheric ozone depletion, ionizing radiation, freshwater and marine eutrophication, freshwater and marine ecotoxicity, human carcinogenic toxicity, land use and water consumption. These results provide data required for the identification of the underlying problems of the different impacts in each country and are a crucial step for finding solutions leading to sustainable aquaculture operation and developments in the Region.

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Deliverable 4.1.2 “Production of final technical report on LCA Application” was finalized by the University of Ioannina – Lead beneficiary of the Project.

The application of LCA in the two participant fish cage farms in Sagiada (Greece) and Vlore (Albania), revealed that both farms performed similarly concerning the main environmental impact categories (i.e. marine and freshwater ecotoxicity). Additionally, fish feed is the main contributor to environmental impact at, almost, all impact categories for both fish farms, followed by sea bass fry.

Accordingly there is a great scope for footprint reduction of the sector, through the adoption of more environmentally-friendly procedures and good practices, as well as through improvements in know-how and technology in marine fish farms, not only in the production of sea bass (and sea bream), but also in other candidate species. This path is necessary in order to preserve the environmental and water quality of the surrounding aquatic environment and to further improve consumer and general public acceptance of the final product.

The following ECO-FISH event took place during the previous months:



The **2nd meeting of the ECO-FISH Project** was successfully held in Vlore on Wednesday, 17/07/2019 and Thursday, 18/07/2019

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vlores Region organized the 2nd management meeting. Representatives of all project

beneficiaries participated (University of Ioannina, Chamber of Thesprotia, SEEP Albania and RAF Foundation).



The event was held at the premises of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vlores Region and was coordinated by the Chairman of the Chamber, Mr. Arben Breshani.

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda and focused on the actions that have been implemented, the progress and the future steps of the ECO-FISH project, and the difficulties that the partnership faced during the implementation.

Please find more info at the following link: <https://cb-ecofish.eu/2019/07/24/the-2nd-meeting-of-the-eco-fish-project-was-implemented/>



Project Beneficiaries:



University of Ioannina,
Special Account for
Research Funds

LB



Chamber of Thesprotia

PB2



Chamber of Commerce and
Industry of Vlora Region

PB3



Social Education &
Environment Protection

PB4



Royal Albania Foundation

PB5

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