



# Flexible approaches to aquaculture licensing: Consultation Document

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# TAPAS stakeholder consultation

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## Objectives / goals

- Evaluate existing regulatory and licensing frameworks across the EU
- Design new, flexible approaches to licensing working to common standards
- Develop timely and cost efficient tools that incentivise sustainable aquaculture
- ***Ensure the acceptability and utility of the approaches, by:***
  - ***Close engagement and collaboration with industry, regulators and certifiers***
  - ***Take account of the range of production environments in consultation***



# Consultation process

TAPAS Questionnaire (version 2.2 08.02.2016)

The project has received funding from the EU H2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 678396



## TOOLS FOR ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING OF AQUACULTURE SUSTAINABILITY

### WHAT IS TAPAS?

TAPAS is a four year study designed to investigate the current limits to fish farming, the social interactions, environmental impacts and future risks in an aim to create cost efficient management tools and practices for the aquaculture sector across Europe by supporting management and efficient licensing, enhancing environment sustainability and aquatic food security while tapping into the potential for food production and employment.



### HOW WILL TAPAS WORK?

We hope to identify bottlenecks, obstacles and the cost drivers that have an effect on the progress and expansion of the industry in your country and in the EU in general. The data we collect will be used to critically review the legislative process on a national and EU level. The goal of this questionnaire is to feed into the creation of the "TAPAS toolbox", a guideline for an effective licensing process to be adopted within EU states.

### WHAT WILL YOUR INPUT DO?

The research team will collaborate with industry, regulators, codifiers and other stakeholders to ensure the toolbox they create is accessible, using training and outreach activities to improve the image of European aquaculture and promote an integrated sustainability strategy.

*There are no right or wrong answers! Please do not be discouraged by the wide-range of questions, they have been designed to cover a broad range of the industry so it is very likely that one or more sections may not apply to you. Each section will contain a brief description of the questions and an option for you to skip the section and progress to the next.*



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Impact your operation? YES  NO  Don't know

or negative? Positive  Negative

statements in relation to public perception to the aquaculture industry

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
due to your					
due to your					
ed provider of					
ed provider of					
due to your product,					
due to your product,					

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Are in place for your

International Users

Public

provide of

provide of

due to your product,

due to your product,

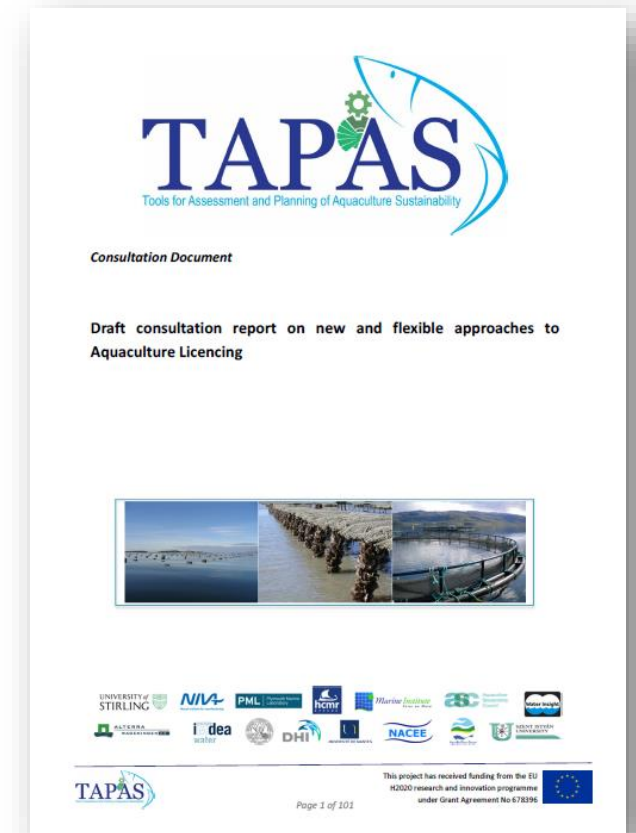
of disagree strongly disagree

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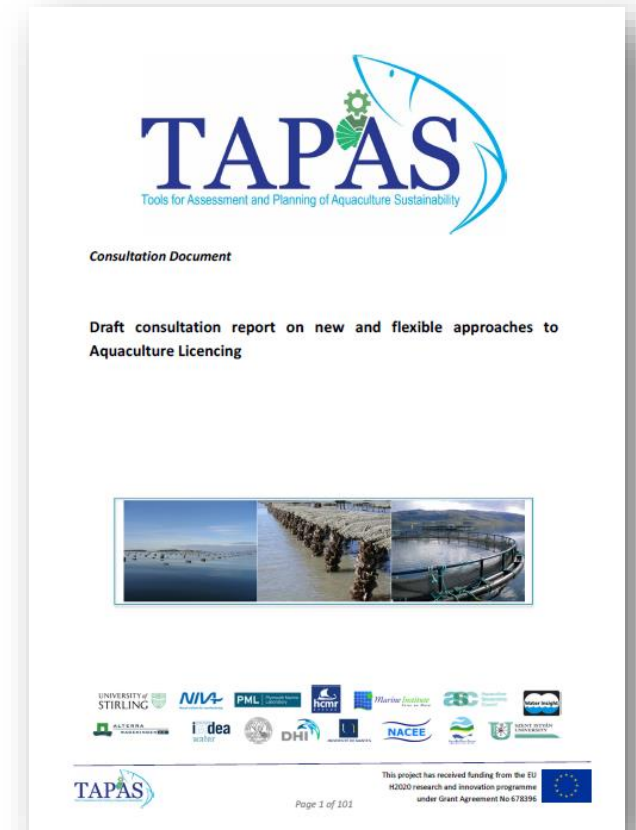
# Draft consultation report on new and flexible approaches

- The issues and bottlenecks outline from consultation – what are they?
- Highlighted areas where a tools are needed.
- Tools asked for directly by consultees.
- Tools suggested from workshops.
- Collated and formed report.



# Draft consultation report - layout

1. Overview of issues, bottlenecks to regulation of aquaculture in the EU
2. Recommendations to improve these issues and highlighting the potential positive impact of each
3. Appendix - exploring case studies and potential new approaches – regulation and tool requirements
4. Basis for consultation and discussion.
5. **Summary recommendations to tackle issues and bottlenecks**



# Recommendations

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1. Develop a modern **electronic licensing system** focused on the provision of:
  - Formal **timelines** with real-time tracking.
  - Accessible **guidance** and procedural information for all users.
  - Enhanced **communication**.
  - **Flexibility** to support new and emerging technologies.
2. Provide clear guidance for **quantifying impact and balancing risk**, with accessible and understandable tools to assist in quantification and risk assessment.
3. Develop and improve tools and environmental models, making them accessible to industry and planners, to assist with **site identification, site optimisation and carrying capacity** assessment.
4. Carry out **real time, inexpensive, risk focused monitoring** to assess the environmental impacts and monitor for potential impacts.



# Recommendations

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5. **Level the playing field for costs** of applying for, and fees applied to, aquaculture licences, particularly in regard to environmental impact statement preparation.
6. **Streamline aquaculture legislation** by condensing the number of licences required to operate (and synchronising validity periods); incorporating operational flexibility into the legal framework and appropriate licence terms to support industry investment and planning, facilitating research using trial licence models.
7. Harmonise the implementation of EU regulations by **reducing the variation in implementation** including harmonising of procedure and requirements for EIS and EIA incorporating reference to the benefits and costs of aquaculture within regulation.
8. Encourage the implementation of the National Plans and the amended EIA Directive across jurisdictions to help **simplify processes and administration**.



# Recommendations

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9. Designate **strategic national aquaculture zones** as part of spatial plans where risk assessments, capacity and impact studies are carried out on an 'area' approach in advance of issuing licences, balancing considerations of economic growth and environmental protection with cumulative impacts of development.
10. Develop local scale, **producer lead, communication platforms** to facilitate dispute resolution between resource users, enhancing cooperation and developing a forum to represent local producers on a broader regional scale to input into local planning.
11. Develop **public communication platforms** to make monitoring information publically available, providing context, and to provide explanatory factual information about aquaculture to the media and general public.

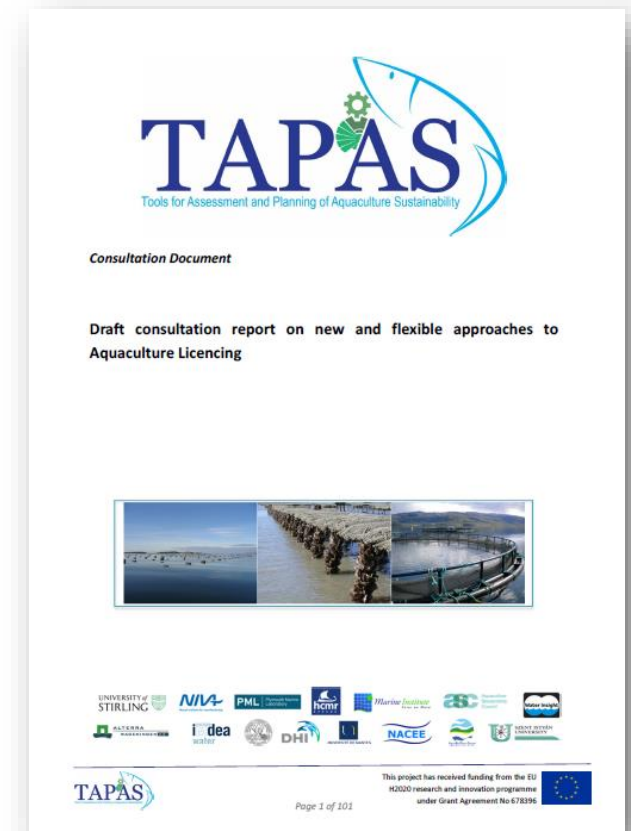




# New Approaches

## Draft consultation report on new and flexible approaches

- Recommendations on 24 themes
- 18 Appendices
- Recommendations on new tools for regulation, licensing and decision making
- Examples of best practise



# Licence Application Process & the Licence

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## E-Licensing System

- Adoption of an E-licensing system for processing applications. Each member state could provide a portal, using best practise from across jurisdictions
  - E-licensing guidance

## One-stop-shop

- Create inter-institutional agencies that centralise, coordinate and process all the permits, licences and reports from the various agencies and authorities that have responsibilities for aquaculture
  - Example: Norway - Greece

# Licence Application Process & the Licence

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## Aquaculture Legislation

- Recommend that countries complete an internal review of their licensing process.
- Examples
  - Independent Review of Scottish Aquaculture Consenting - Scotland
  - Review of the Aquaculture licensing process- Ireland



# Licence Application Process & the Licence

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## Licence – Term

- Licence should be sufficiently long to allow business planning and stability
  - Perpetual licence
  - Transfer / Lease and have an asset value
- Transparent and uncomplicated procedures for renewal



# Licence Application Process & the Licence

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## Licence – Flexibility

- Regulating in a constantly changing environment, the legislative control on production needs to also be dynamic to allow responses to change.
- Need flexibility within the licence to adapt quickly.



# Licence Application Process & the Licence

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## Pre- application process

- Appropriate guidance in the early stage of application and preparation to check completeness and ensure the application progresses through the system as efficiently as possible
- Provide advice and guidance to the applicant in the preparation of the business proposal and the aquaculture licence application



# Communication

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## Communication Platforms

- provision of a forum for communication between producers allows for
  - problem solving
  - enhanced development and utilisation of space resulting in better management between users
  - collectively represent the sector in broad scale planning
  - communication for stakeholders



# Communication

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## Database of environmental monitoring and results

- Centralised publicly available data in relation to environmental monitoring
  - Transparency
  - Environmental protection
  - Better public understanding and industry accountability
  - Improved education and outreach on the industry
  - A tool for regulation





# Decision Support & TAPAS tools

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## Decision Making

- Tools to assess environmental and societal impacts of aquaculture, quantifying ecosystem services
- Monitoring to provide real-time, environmental data to inform regulation and decision making to support risk assessment





# Decision Support & TAPAS tools

## Spatial planning

- Strategic, integrated approach that supports policy and planning decisions to coordinate and manage activities in the spatial environment with cooperation from all stakeholders.



# Decision Support & TAPAS tools

## Policy

- Alleviate administrative burdens, which remain a key barrier to development of the sector
- Provide sustainable aquaculture growth to fill the gap between EU consumption and production
- To further improve public support, public acceptance and the idea of social licence for aquaculture



# Aquaculture Sustainability Toolbox

