



# Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture

Interactions between Aquaculture and the Environment



During the last decade efforts have been increasing to address the sustainable development of human activities, understanding this as the balance between economical and social progress and the preservation of the environment for future generations.

In this framework, IUCN is cooperating with the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) with the financial support of the Spanish Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs to provide Guide for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture. These are essential tools for policy makers, administrators, aquaculture producers and other stakeholders to manage and minimise the potential environmental impacts of aquaculture by understanding current practices and proposing the best solutions and measures.

The first Guide is devoted to the Interactions between Aquaculture and the Environment. It addresses finfish and shellfish culture, focussing mainly on finfish aquaculture, and specifically cage culture, these being predominant activities in the Mediterranean Basin.

IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation / Global Marine Programme

# Introduction

This Guide, the first in a series, is to help the development of good practices for the sustainable development of aquaculture, which depends completely on the health of the marine ecosystem.

## Main Topics

The main topics addressed in this first Guide have been highlighted and discussed by a working group of Mediterranean experts from various countries and backgrounds such as scientists, administrators, and producers. The nine main aquaculture aspects included in this Guide are:

- ❑ Domestication
- ❑ Introduced Marine Species
- ❑ Capture of Wild Stocks for Aquaculture Needs
- ❑ Feed Ingredients
- ❑ Organic matters in the effluents
- ❑ Pathogen Transfer
- ❑ Therapeutic and other Products
- ❑ Antifouling Products
- ❑ Effects on Local Fauna and Flora

For each aspect, the working group identified the threats and potential impacts based on the best available scientific knowledge and discussed the measures to be adopted by the sector as best practices.

To mention some, in the case of Domestication, the unintentional release of farmed species into the environment that may cause changes in the genetic pattern of wild population is a major threat; this can be avoided by reducing their capacity to survive or reproduce in the wild.

Regarding organic matters in the effluents as well as other products such as therapeutics and antifouling, the interaction produced by the discharge of water effluents from aquaculture facilities can lead to impacts that could seriously damage the environment. These effects can be avoided or minimized by the use of harmless products and proper management of the farms.

The purpose of this first Guide is to formulate for each topic a series of specific recommendations to allow stakeholders to implement environmentally sustainable aquaculture.



## For More Information

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### Interactions between Aquaculture and the Environment

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