

Aquaculture Europe 2010 to address the future of marine aquaculture in Europe

Following on from the highly successful Aquaculture Europe 2002 conference “Seafarming Today and Tomorrow”, Aquaculture Europe 2010 will bring back the focus on the future of marine aquaculture in Europe. As in 2002, the conference comes at a time when the European Commission has published its Communication on the strategy for the development of European aquaculture.



Although global aquaculture production shows annual increases of 5-10%, production growth in Europe is considerably lower. The challenge is to demonstrate sustainable development, while producing products that are competitive with those originating from other regions in the global market. Novel technology, but also new areas for production will need to be realized -making use of the great potentials of Europe as an advanced aquaculture production environment and as a leading consumer market.

As its theme suggests, the AE2010 conference will address many topics related to inland, coastal and ocean aquaculture, but it will also cover the production of freshwater species. Parallel conference sessions include land-based systems, estuarine, coastal lagoon, coastal and offshore aquaculture and encompass many species from shellfish to fish to marine plants. AE2010 will also consider the specific issues related to production on Mediterranean islands and in Europe's Outermost Regions. A trade exhibition, farmers' day, the EAS General Assembly and other events will complete the AE2010 event.

The event will take place in Porto from October 3-5, 2010 and will attract more than 500 delegates from 40 countries, as well as 120 exhibitors at the trade event.

Organised by EAS, AE2010 is hosted by the Aquaculture Association of Portugal, AQUA.PT, whose main objective is the development of the Portuguese aquaculture sector and by CIMAR - the foremost Portuguese Marine Sciences Associate Laboratory with researchers working primarily at CIIMAR (Porto) and CCMAR (Faro), but also at other installations of the University of Porto, University of Algarve and INETI/LNEG (Lisbon).

As the AE2010 Steering Committee chair, Yves Harache says “the decision to hold AE2010 in Porto was not finally a difficult one. Although aquaculture production in Portugal is modest, it encompasses the challenges that the sector faces in Europe for its continued expansion, with a good mix of finfish, shellfish and other species opportunities. We are pleased to come to the beautiful city of Porto and are grateful for the support provided to the event by the Porto Metropolitan Area”.

Marine aquaculture in Portugal is mainly centred on the Algarve coast, but more recently, land-based production of turbot and other marine species has developed on the Atlantic coast. Currently, there is renewed interest in developing aquaculture in Portugal's outermost regions, notably in the Azores. The Portuguese remain Europe's highest consumers of fish and shellfish, with annual per capita consumption of close to 60Kg. Porto has excellent connections with Galicia and especially with Vigo, just 90 minutes away.

AE2010 further information:

Aquaculture Europe is the annual meeting of the European Aquaculture Society (EAS). The event comprises a conference, trade exhibition, industry days and other forums to maximise interaction between the scientific community and the sector.

For more information on the conference, contact ae2010@aquaculture.cc or Alistair Lane at EAS a.lane@aquaculture.cc or tel: 0032 59 323859

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