

**FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN
AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS**

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ICCAT
GENERAL COMMISSION

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Statement by the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers

The Federation of European Aquaculture Producers firmly believes that the proposed amendment to Recommendation 22-08 by the European Commission is not only necessary but also justified. As experienced practitioners in the field of aquaculture, representing the bluefin tuna farms in the EU and beyond, we want to assure everyone that the removal of the term 'farming capacity' will not lead to an increase in farming activity in the Mediterranean and Atlantic. The current provisions related to the register and keep track of farming facilities will remain unchanged, meaning that there will be no rise in the number of farming facilities.

Moreover, it is important to note that the current limit of Bluefin Tuna (BFT) that can be farmed in the approved facilities is already prescribed by Recommendation 22-08 as the input capacity. Therefore, there is no direct correlation between the input capacity and the term 'farming capacity' within the Recommendation, rendering the term redundant.

We fully support the EU CPC's stance that the term is legally redundant, lacking a clear legal definition. To ensure consistency and clarity, we stand behind the EU's decision to remove this terminology from Recommendation 22-08.

Furthermore, it is crucial to understand that Recommendation 22-08 consolidates the provisions concerning BFT growth rates. This means that the amount of BFT that can be harvested from a farm is determined by applying the relevant growth rate based on the level of input capacity. This mechanism guarantees that a farm cannot exceed the biomass levels allowed by the accepted growth rate table.

We would also like to emphasize that the control system currently in place will not be affected by the removal of the term 'farming capacity'. National environmental considerations, which are strictly addressed by national requirements and not by the ICCAT recommendation, will also remain unaffected.

In conclusion we firmly believe that the removal of the term 'farming capacity' is merely a realignment of Recommendation 22-08 with the latest needs and status of the aquaculture sector. Therefore, the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers strongly supports the proposed amendment put forth by the European Union.

Javier Ojeda
General Secretary