

Workshop on Producer Organisations under the Common Market Organisation in Fishery and Aquaculture Products

Speakers

I – Keynote speech

**Sven Langedijk, Head of Unit, MARE A4 (Economic Analysis, Markets and Impact Assessment),
European Commission**

Since joining the European Commission in 2001, Sven Langedijk has held various economist, research and management positions. As of January 2024, he is Head of Unit responsible for Economic Analysis, Markets, and Better Regulation at the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). In 2024, he also was a core member of the team that supported Mario Draghi's work on the Report on the Future of European Competitiveness. His previous roles include Adviser in Economic and Financial Affairs (2019-2023), Head of Modelling, Indicators and Impact Evaluation at the Joint Research Centre (2015-2018), and Head of Unit for Economies of Ireland, Poland, and Lithuania (2010-2013). He led the European Commission team for the EU-IMF adjustment programme for Ireland from 2010 to 2012. In 2020, he coordinated the work on the economic underpinnings of the Next Generation EU and Recovery and Resilience Facility as a recovery plan for Europe.

II - Panel & Presentations on Functioning of Professional Organisations across the EU

Fabijan Hrvatin Peronja, Project Manager, Producer Organisation Friška Riba

Fabijan Hrvatin Peronja has been working with small scale fishers more than five years. In that period, he developed experienced advocate and organiser dedicated to supporting small-scale fishers (SSF) across Croatia. He led various transformative initiatives that have strengthened the SSF sector, notably the creation of two SSF cooperatives and successfully leading the establishment of, soon to be, Croatia's first organisation of producers exclusively membered by small-scale fishers. These efforts have provided fishers with better access to resources, improved collective bargaining power, and enhanced market presence.



Through the EMFAF, Mr Peronja led on the development of sustainable practices by supporting SSF in the decarbonisation of their vessels and enhancing the selectivity of their fishing operations. Additionally, in this process, together with partners, he initiated the development of the pre-financing facility that supports SSF in obtaining micro-credits. This work has helped align the sector with modern environmental and regulatory standards. Lastly, he established a collaboration, including Croatia's largest chain of hotels with the SSF market, creating a direct link between sustainable local fisheries and the hospitality industry.

Yannis Pelekanakis, EU Affairs Manager, Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organisation (HAPO)

Yannis Pelekanakis has been working in/with various European Institutions and industry stakeholders for almost two decades. He has practical knowledge of the EU policies affecting directly and indirectly aquaculture and the complex issues related to the implementation of those policies in different Members states. He led the initiative and completed the establishment, recognition and financing of the Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organisation (HAPO) in Greece. Since then, he has been working to strengthen the role of HAPO and implement collaborative actions to improve aquaculture governance, promote sustainable aquaculture practices and enhance economic resilience for aquaculture in Greece. Yannis Pelekanakis has also provided technical guidance to several countries helping them to set up aquaculture POs and implement the Production and Marketing Plans in line with CMO requirements.

Juana Parada, Managing Director, OR.PA.GU

Juana Parada has a degree in Management and Human Resources from the University of Vigo. Since then, she has dedicated herself to labour and financial management of various companies. In 2003, she became part of OPP 49, becoming manager in 2008. She combines this position with her participation in various advisory bodies at national and EU-level.

Marine Levadoux, Director, Comité Interprofessionnel des Produits de l'Aquaculture (CIPA)

Marine Levadoux, after overseeing aquatic products in a Producers Organisation dealing with official markings identifying quality and origin, integrated the interbranch organisation for fish farming in



France. She took part in various projects, including on elaboration of quality standards and follow-up, collection and analysis of production data, implementation of sustainability programs, prioritisation and setting-up of research projects, development for animal health strategies, clarification of environmental regulatory framework, among others. In close collaboration with the professionals, she manages the organisation, as a tool to support the development of the fish farming sector in France.

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, President, European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen is CEO of the Danish Pelagic Producers Organization (DPPO), President of the European Association of Fish Producers Organization (EAPO), and Chair of Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC). Previously, he was Head of Section at the Danish Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Research Assistant at the Mekong River Commission. He holds a Master of Science in Public Administration and Geography, besides having expertise in the fields of fisheries and natural resources management.

III - Member States and Implementation of Production and Marketing Plans

Cristina Borges, Director for Planning, Information and Structural Services, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Authority of Portugal (DGRM)

Cristina Borges is Director of Planning, Information and Structures Services, at the General Directorate of Natural Resources, Security and Maritime Services (DGRM), since 2022, being responsible for managing the fleet, the processing industry and the fishery products market. She was the Head of the Aquaculture Division at DGRM for 12 years and performed various functions in other organizations, associated with production, safety and food quality.

Within the scope of DGRM's competencies, she ensures the connection with the Mar 2030 Operational Program, within the scope of the EMFAF, and is also responsible for implementing measure C-10-Fisheries of the Recovery and Resilience Plan. At the national level, she is a representative on the Maritime Public Domain Commission, in the area of fisheries; monitoring and



participation in FVO Country Profile missions; monitoring audits within the scope of DG SANTE/DG SANCO, and a representative on the Agriculture and Food Emergency Planning Commission (CPEAA).

IV - Panel & Presentations on use of Production and Marketing Plans by Producer Organisations

Kenn Skau Fischer, CEO, Danish Fishers Producers Organisation (DFPO)

Kenn Skau Fischer holds a master's degree in Economics. He is, since 2019, the CEO of the Danish Fishers POs, which is one of the largest producer organisations in the EU. DFPO represents around 550 vessels, of which 440 are below 17 m, 270 are below 12 m. They contribute all together around 250 million euro a year to the Danish economy. Besides helping on implementing the CFP and Danish fisheries management DFPO is very committed to sustainable fisheries and works on behalf of members on subjects like data collection, scientific advice, improving selectivity and sustainable certification of the fisheries. For the past five years, Kenn has also served as Chair of the North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC).

Jacinta Ramírez Ramírez, Projects Director, Organización de Productores Pesqueros Artesanales Lonja de Conil (OPP72)

Jacinta Ramírez Ramírez hold a degree in Administration and Finance and a master's degree in Management and Business Administration from the University of Cádiz. From 2002 to 2010, she was an administrative technician at the Guild of Fishers of Conil. From 2011 to 2017, she was an administrative technician at the OPP72 Conil. Since 2018, she is the Projects Director of the organisation. Additionally, she is the secretary of the Association of Women of the Sea Torre Castilnovo, the EMFAF project coordinator of OPP72, and is an advisor to studies and projects of the Ibero-American Artisanal Fishing Network (RIPAPE). She holds training in the topics of gender equality and fighting illegal fishing.

Garazi Rodríguez Valle, Production and Marketing Plans Officer, APROMAR

Garazi Rodríguez Valle holds a degree in Biology and specialises in aquaculture. For the past seven years, she has worked at APROMAR. Currently, she holds the position of the Head of Production and Marketing Plans, and since 2024, has also been the coordinator of their Innovation Department,



REMA. Her work focuses on managing grants and projects to carry out collective actions to improve the competitiveness of companies and the sustainability of the Spanish aquaculture sector, including the entire value chain. Special emphasis is placed on fostering relationships among researchers, producers, service providers, NGOs, and public administration entities.

In addition, Garazi actively participates in and organises sectoral events, meetings, and conferences. She represents APROMAR in the MAC, AAC, and FEAP at the EU level, as well as in other national organisations. Her responsibilities also include preparing reports, the most notable being an annual statistical report on aquaculture worldwide, in Europe, and in Spain, titled "Aquaculture in Spain."

Laurent Chiron, President, Groupement Qualité Huîtres Marennes Oléron (GQHMO)

After studying aquaculture in 1980, Laurent Chiron began his professional oyster farming career in his father Michel's company. In 1989, he joined forces with the latter to hold 50% of the shares of the family GAEC for four generations. He developed the company's activity through supermarket marketing. In 1996, he bought out his father's shares to become the sole shareholder of his oyster company. In 2001, Laurent took on collective responsibilities within the regional shellfish farming structure while developing new breeding techniques and new marketing sectors in his company.

In 2006, he was elected vice-president of the OP Groupement Qualité Huitres Marennes Oléron and remained so for three terms of four years (12 years). During this mission, Laurent is very active within the PO with an openness to export and a global vision of his mission. In 2018, he was elected President of the PO for the first time. Currently in office for his second term, the actions undertaken are very wide-ranging, including domiciliation, recruitment of a team, preservation of the territory, export development, representation in national and European bodies, among others.

