



## EFSA invites comment on draft guidance on the risk assessment of food and feed from genetically modified animals

The European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) has launched a public consultation on draft guidance for the risk assessment of food and feed derived from genetically modified (GM) animals and related animal health and welfare aspects.

In its guidance document, the EFSA outlines specific data requirements and the methodology to be followed for risk assessment should applications for food and feed derived from GM animals be submitted for market authorisation in the European Union (EU). The risk assessment approach compares GM animals and derived food and feed with their respective conventional counterparts integrating both food and feed safety as well as animal health and welfare aspects. All stakeholders and interested parties are invited to provide their comments through an online public consultation that runs until 30 September 2011.

At present, no applications for market approval of food and feed derived from GM animals have been submitted in the EU. The technology has advanced rapidly in recent years and in some countries outside the EU regulators are already evaluating the safety of GM animal products developed for food and feed purposes. In this context and as a proactive measure in anticipation of potential future applications, the European Commission requested EFSA in 2007 to develop comprehensive guidance for the risk assessment of food and feed derived from GM animals and in 2010 requested the inclusion of related aspects of animal health and welfare.

Important components of the risk assessment include molecular characterisation, compositional analysis and



assessment of toxicity, nutritional aspects and potential allergenicity. For example, experts can assess whether food and feed from GM animals are as nutritious to humans and animals as those from conventionally-bred animals. The draft guidance document also outlines the methodology required

for the comparative assessment of health and welfare aspects of GM animals. It also highlights the need for extensive comparative analysis of the characteristics and traits of GM animals, including physiological parameters, with those of their conventional counterparts. It also proposes that health and welfare should be assessed at all stages of development of the GM animal, up to the point at which it would receive authorisation, should this be granted. The recommended three-stage assessment strategy covers the laboratory setting where the GM animal is initially developed, experimental field trials outside the laboratory involving a higher number of animals and trials with large numbers of animals carried out in a commercial setting (prior to authorisation).

EFSA invites stakeholders and all interested parties to comment on its draft guidance through a public consultation available on the EFSA web site until 30 September 2011. Following the public consultation, EFSA will assess all comments made and, where relevant, these will be incorporated in a revised guidance document to be adopted by EFSA's GMO and AHAW Panels at the end of 2011.

For more information, and to download the current draft guidance on which to comment, go to <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/110810.htm>

## Fish Farmer magazine Containment Special

A free 100-page containment best practice special edition is available from Fish Farmer magazine. <http://content.yudu.com/Library/A1rtzp/FishFarmerContainmen/resources/index.htm?referrerUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.yudu.com%2Fitem%2Fdetails%2F318903%2FFish-Farmer---Containment-Special>



EAS is an International Non-Profit Association that promotes contacts among all involved in aquaculture. EAS was founded in 1976. EASinfo is the members' e-newsletter of EAS.

<http://www.easonline.org>

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## First assessment report on the European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture products (EUMOFA)



Access to good quality market information is important for the EU fisheries and aquaculture industry – a highly fragmented and diverse sector which operates on a globalised market. To

respond to the increasing need for market intelligence, the Commission is preparing to set up a European Market Observatory for fisheries and aquaculture products. The Observatory was one of the measures proposed by the Commission in 2008 to help the EU fishing industry regain economic stability in the context of soaring fuel prices.

The aim of the Observatory is to give stakeholders, administrations and researchers a better understanding of the international and local European fisheries markets. It will look at how prices are set along the supply chain, from the first sale after landing to retail prices. Much of this information is already available through existing information systems or current regulations such as sales notes. This information will be harmonised, analysed and presented through charts, tables and ad hoc market analyses. It will then be disseminated to stakeholders and, as appropriate, the interested public.

Following an open call for tender, the European Commission has commissioned a consultant, COGEA, to

pave the way for the Observatory. The consultant will map the availability of data in all Member States as a first step, and subsequently design and set up a fully functioning Observatory. The result of this pilot project is foreseen for the end of 2012.

To date, it has achieved the following milestones:

- Identification of numerous and reliable data sources allowing for a good coverage of the EU market, all along the supply chain from first sale to retail, and of the international context.
- Methodology combining weekly price indicators, monthly market trends and yearly structural data in order to provide continuous up-to-date information and real understanding of the market situation.
- Support of all EU countries with a relevant fishery and aquaculture sector, with a commitment to contribute to the Observatory.
- Strong interest from stakeholders, especially fishery producers, aquaculture producers, traders, consumer's associations and NGO's.

More information, as well as a copy of the executive summary of the achievements of Phase 1 of the initiative, is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/market/market\\_observatory/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/market/market_observatory/index_en.htm)

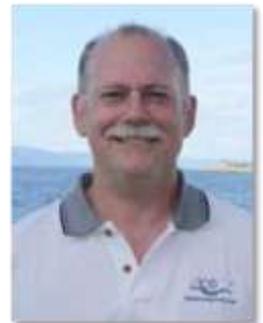
## Aquaculture Without Frontiers appoints Dave Conley as its Executive Director

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Dave Conley as executive director of Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF). Mr. Conley joined the Board as a director in February 2010 and has been very active over the past 17 months volunteering his time to completely redesign the AwF website, reaching out to other NGOs working in aquaculture/agriculture development, and managing our communications program. He has also undertaken to update our volunteer database with the goal of better utilizing this resource to expand the reach and effectiveness of our organization.

**"We are extremely pleased with all the work that Dave has done since joining us," said AwF Founder and Patron, Michael New, OBE. "He has made numerous suggestions to help us become more efficient and has impressed me with his energy and dedication to achieving the mission of AwF."**

At the same time, the Board of Directors has undertaken to re-organize the structure of the organization. There will now be an Executive Committee composed of the chair, Dr M.C. Nandeesh, chair-elect, Dr Barry Costa-Pierce, executive director, Dave Conley, secretary, John Cooksey, treasurer, Roy Palmer, and executive committee member, David Little. The Board has also been enlarged by 6 new directors: Dr Charles Bai, Pierre Erwes, Dr Jose Manuel Fernandez-Polanco, Kenny McCaffrey, Dr Patricia Moraes-Valenti, and Dr Shakuntala Thilsted. This new structure

reflects the desire for greater diversity in expertise and geographic location – 11 countries are now represented on the AwF Board. Michael New has resigned from the Board in order to allow AwF to grow under younger leadership but will continue to provide his input as Founder and Patron.



With the new management team in place, AwF is embarking upon a major fundraising campaign to raise \$1 million over the next 18-24 months. **"Due to our increased profile over the past 12 months, we are receiving many more project proposals," said Dr M.C. Nandeesh, AwF chairman. "This is placing a strain on our current financial resources so we are going to reach out to the aquaculture industry, funding agencies, foundations, and individuals to help us meet this challenge."**

**"The scope of our work is expanding, as is the geographic range of the projects we are now considering," said Dr Barry Costa-Pierce, chair-elect. "Project proposals have recently been received from Haiti, Kenya, Zambia, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives, with more arriving every month. The need for our help is obvious, and we have a lot of work to do."**

Source: [www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org](http://www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org)



## EUROcean bring conference outputs together in one site

EuroOCEAN conferences are major European marine science policy conferences. They provide a forum for the marine and maritime research community and wider stakeholders to interface with European and Member State policymakers and strategic planners, to consider, discuss and respond to new marine science and technology developments, challenges and opportunities.

EuroOCEAN conferences started in the 90s as EuroOCEAN/MAST Days Conferences. Previous conferences were held

in Brussels (1993), Sorrento (1995), Lisbon (1998), Hamburg (2000), Galway (2004), Aberdeen (2007) and, most recently, Ostend (2010). Since 2000, EuroOCEAN conferences are co-organized, in partnership, by the European Commission, the Marine Board, who is catalyzing the research community and coordinating the programme, and local organizing committees.

Full information and all outputs of EUROcean conferences are now available at <http://www.euroceanconferences.eu/>

## NOFIMA review of genetic influences from escaped farmed Atlantic salmon on wild Atlantic salmon populations

This report entails a critical review of current knowledge concerning the interactions between farmed and wild Atlantic salmon populations with specific relevance to Norway, and also discusses current knowledge regarding the effective management of wild populations of this species. The report details information on the aquaculture production, life history, distribution and population structure, genetic interactions and conservation of Atlantic salmon. Furthermore, a separate chapter discusses future research areas which need attention.

Reference: Jacq, C., Ødegård, J., Bentsen, H.B., Gjerde, B. (2011) A review of genetic influences from escaped farmed Atlantic salmon on wild Atlantic salmon populations. Rapport/Report 16/2011.

Available at <http://www.nofima.no/en/publication/682CB63B95E523FCC1257874002D9870>

## FAO reports

### Use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture

The FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has just published new Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries on aquaculture development. The document focuses on the use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture with an aim to contributing towards the development of aquaculture and the sustainable utilization of feed-fish stocks. The guidelines cover a number of issues relevant to the use of wild fish in feeds in aquaculture, including ecosystem and environmental impacts, ethical considerations on the responsible use of fish as feed, aquaculture technology and development, and statistics and information needs for managing the development of aquaculture. Specific matters relating to the management of fishery resources that may be used as feeds are also briefly considered.

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i1917e/i1917e00.pdf>

Risk assessment of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in seafood. Interpretative summary and technical report Microbiological Risk Assessment Series No. 16

Rome, 2011, 202 pp., B5, PB. ISBN 978-92-5-106874-8. ISSN 1726-5274. I2225/E. FAO111314. USD 48.00

*Vibrio parahaemolyticus* are common causes of diarrhoeal disease worldwide. These marine micro-organisms, native in estuarine waters globally, concentrate in the gut of filter-feeding molluscan shellfish, such as oysters, clams

and mussels. This volume considers the applicability of an assessment of the public health impact of raw oysters consumption, developed in one country, to assess the public health risk associated with the consumption of raw oysters harvested in other countries where different growing and harvesting scenarios might exist. This publication and others in this series contain information that is useful to both risk assessors and risk managers, including international scientific committees, governments and food regulatory agencies, food producers and industries and other people or institutions with an interest in the area of microbiological hazards in food and their impact on human health.

Safeguarding food security in volatile global markets

Rome, 2011, 616 pp., B5, PB. ISBN 978-92-5-106803-8. I2107/E. FAO111324. USD 85.00.

A timely publication as world leaders deliberate the causes of the latest bouts of food price volatility and search for solutions that address the recent velocity of financial, economic, political, demographic, and climatic change. As a collection compiled from a diverse group of economists, analysts, traders, institutions and policy formulators - comprising multiple methodologies and viewpoints - the book exposes the impact of volatility on global food security, with particular focus on the world's most vulnerable.

*The EASinfo newsletter will be sent to EAS members in between each issue of their Aquaculture Europe magazine. "Please make it yours and send us any information or announcements that you would like to convey to other EAS members". Mail your short contributions to [eas@aquaculture.cc](mailto:eas@aquaculture.cc).*



## Positive feedback for the Aqua Nor Forum 2011



This year's Aqua Nor Forum, organized by EAS, the Nor-Fishing Foundation, SINTEF Fisheries and Aquaculture and CREATE with financial support from the Nor-Fishing Foundation, the Research Council of Norway and Innovation Norway proved to be very popular, with 144 participants discussing issues related to the upscaling of production systems on land, at sea and within the 'ecological approach' based on integrated systems.



Discussion and exchange – the two guiding principles of the Aqua Nor Forum. Photo courtesy of Kaia Kjølbo Rød.

Onsite feedback during the Aqua Nor event was very positive, with participants appreciating not only the quality of the short presentations that opened each of the three Forum sessions, but especially the level of the discussions that followed that allowed exchange of comments and of experiences.

A full report of the Aqua Nor Forum will be posted on the EAS website with copies of the presentations.



## High interest shown by registrations for Aquaculture Europe 2011

Registrations for the AE2011 event in Rhodes from October 18-21 are coming in thick and fast – and the event is proving to be highly popular. More than 650 abstracts have been received for presentation in the 22 parallel sessions and as posters.

Click on the AE2011 logo at [www.easonline.org](http://www.easonline.org) and then to "Register Online".