

COEXIST

Interaction in European coastal waters: A roadmap to sustainable integration of aquaculture and fisheries

The Challenge

Europe's coastal zones are of great socio-economic value. Population densities are high and coastal zones constitute prime space for development of a range of different activities. They provide a vast supply of food, energy resources, and natural products, and they represent a fertile space for recreation and tourism. The dynamic processes that occur within the coastal zones produce diverse and productive ecosystems which have historically been of great importance for human populations.

However, many of Europe's coastal zones are under pressure to balance competing activities and face potential conflict for space allocation. Stakeholder groups are diverse and represent diverse sectors, particularly fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, wind farm operation, and nature conservation in marine protected areas. Above all this is the requirement to preserve a valuable natural resource and meet environmental protection rules and regulations.

Project Objective

COEXIST is a broad, multidisciplinary project which will evaluate competing activities and interactions in European coastal areas. **The ultimate goal of the COEXIST project is to provide a roadmap to better integration, sustainability and synergies across the diverse activities taking place in the European coastal zone.**

Key Points

- The characterisation of relevant European coastal marine ecosystems, their current utilisation and spatial management.
- The evaluation of spatial management tools for combining coastal fisheries, aquaculture and other uses, both now and in the future.
- Best practice guide for integration of aquaculture and fisheries with other activities in the coastal zone.

EATiP Thematic Area of Relevance

TA1: Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health

TA2: Technology and Systems

TA3: Managing the Biological Lifecycle

TA4: Sustainable Feed Production

TA5: Integration with the Environment

TA6: Knowledge Management

TA7: Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare

TA8: Socio-Economics and Management

Key Words

Aquaculture, fisheries, coastal zone management, coexistence of activities in coastal areas

Project Information

Contract number:
245178

Contract type:
Collaborative project, small or medium scale focused research project

Research area:
KBBE - Sustainable use of seas and oceans: integration of aquaculture and fisheries in the coastal zone

Duration:
36 months (01/04/2010 – 31/03/2013)

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Key New Knowledge Expected

- Development of the methodology to evaluate the interactions between fisheries and aquaculture and between these two and the other activities developed in the coastal zones, both now and in the future.
- Assessment of the degree to which the aquaculture and fisheries specific objectives (e.g. socio-economic, biophysical and governance) are currently being achieved.
- Development of the methodology to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness (with respect to the goals identified in the Blue Book for a European Maritime Policy) of the individual spatial management tools currently used.
- Review of the current governance regimes applicable to management of fisheries and aquaculture and propose new policies when needed.
- Evaluation of benefits and possible bottlenecks for concomitant development of fisheries, aquaculture and other major activities in the coastal zone.
- Adaptation of scenario-based dynamic models to maritime areas with specific characteristics. These models will allow to analysing the situation in the present and to create scenarios for fisheries, aquaculture and other activities (giving different management options) to evaluate the situation in the future (scenarios will be run for the following 10 years). The different options of spatial management will be discussed with the stakeholders in order to be adapted to their needs.
- Extrapolation of generic conclusions that will be valid beyond the maritime regions of the case studies.
- Evaluation of spatial management tools for combining coastal fisheries, aquaculture and other uses, both now and in the future.
- Elaboration of the best practice guide for integration of aquaculture and fisheries with other activities in the coastal zone.

Potential Impacts

Project outcomes will support decision makers to better manage their coastal areas. It will provide spatial management and scenario-based models to evaluate the current interactions existing between aquaculture and fisheries in the coastal zones and between this two and the others activities carried out in these areas. They can be also used to predict how different activities will interact in the same area (evaluation of possible synergies and conflicts).



Policy

- Contribute to the formulation, implementation and assessment of current EU policies and legislation.
- Support the new European Maritime Policy and spatial planning of coastal areas by its implementation in several areas, providing examples of best practices in the European coastal zone.



Society

- The project will strengthen the links between scientist, policy makers and people employed in fisheries and aquaculture, as well as general public through the final workshop that will be carried out at the end of the project.



RTD

- From a governance perspective, the COEXIST project will provide a framework to assist with the resolution of existing and future conflicts related to interactions between aquaculture, fisheries and other sectors.
- This project will contribute to the maintenance and development coastal fisheries and aquaculture through the development and testing of a range of different spatial management tools that seek to encourage positive interactions and mutual benefits.
- Best practice guide for integration of aquaculture and fisheries with other activities in the coastal zone.

Related Publications/Projects

For relevant publication, please visit the project website www.coexistproject.eu.