

Wednesday, September 30 10:30 to 17:30. Room: Gallery 1

Aquaculture Europe 2026 calls us to consider how food systems, including aquaculture, are being challenged by changes resulting from global warming. Innovation, research and knowledge transfer will play a deciding factor in how the aquaculture industry responds to production challenges in a time of global change.

Co-organised by the European Aquaculture Society (EAS), European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform (EATiP) and the European Commission (CINEA Sustainable Blue Economy Unit), the 2026 Innovation Forum addresses the theme of global change in three parts:

1. A stand-alone morning session, where we consider the development of an **Open and Responsible Research and Innovation (ORRI) Tool** tailored for aquaculture stakeholders. Supported through the Reinforcing Project, the ORRI concept seeks to move research and innovation to a new paradigm, where responsibility and openness drive actions to ensure a genuine co-creation process, engaging actors across the quintuple helix to improve inclusion in addressing transition and change.
2. After lunch, keynote addresses focus on **thematic areas of scale, alongside considering case studies and pilots and application at the local scale**. This introductory afternoon session addresses themes of AI & digitalisation in aquaculture, the application of satellite technologies and opportunities for matchmaking industry with Earth observation technology providers and ongoing research work in the field of climate change.
3. A second afternoon workshop addresses **Circular Economy in EU Aquaculture**, organised by the CINEA Sustainable Blue Economy Unit, addressing the question, “how can aquaculture turn waste into value?” The transition towards a circular economy is a key priority for ensuring the sustainability, resilience, and competitiveness of the EU aquaculture sector. Building on the Strategic Guidelines for EU aquaculture and emerging policy frameworks, circular approaches—such as the valorisation of side-streams, resource efficiency, and closed-loop production systems—offer significant environmental, economic, and social benefits. The EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM) has recently (2026) developed a background paper that consolidates state-of-the-art knowledge, good practices, and policy recommendations on circular economy in aquaculture which will be presented to the Forum. In addition, numerous EU-funded projects under LIFE, Horizon, and EMFAF are piloting innovative circular solutions across the value chain.

10.30 to 10.35 Welcome by David Bassett, General Secretary, EATiP.

10.35 to 12:00 Theme 1: Open and Responsible Research and Innovation (ORRI) Special Session Developing a tool to promote ORRI within the aquaculture sector.

12.00 to 14.00 Lunch (on your own) and trade show visit) Break

14:00 - 15:00 Theme 2: Aspects of global change and aquaculture.

- Innovation in Artificial Intelligence & Digitalisation - Dr. Lars Ebbesson, Chief Scientist, Senior Aquaculture Advisor, NORCE
- Innovation in Food Security Case Study: Application of AI in European Oyster Production: Biology, Pathology, Conditioning and Optimisation of Growth - Dana Levy, CEO & Co-founder: Oceano Platónico LDA.
- Innovation in Earth Observation: EUSPA Initiatives to support the use of Earth Observation in Aquaculture - Professor. Dr. Manuel Lopez Martinez, Senior Technology Officer, Market Downstream and Innovation Department, European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)
- Innovation for climate mitigation and adaptation in aquaculture: EU funded Horizon projects addressing climate change for aquaculture: ACTFAST and OCCAM research and innovation actions, pilots and case studies for mitigation & adaptation - Professor Alessio Bonaldo, Department of Veterinary Medical Sciences, University of Bologna, Board Member, European Aquaculture Society.

15.00 to 17.20 Theme 3: Circular Economy in EU Aquaculture

- **An EU Policy Context:** EU policy on circular economy and aquaculture, including in the context of the European Ocean Pact - Lorella de la Cruz Iglesias, Deputy Head of Unit- Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning – DG MARE, European Commission.
- **EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism:** Circular Economy in Aquaculture - presenting key findings from the circular economy background paper - Dr. Tiziana Pacchiarini, Senior Sector Consultant, Aquaculture Expert, NTT Data

Audience feedback / Interactive element

- **EU Circular Economy Project Pitch Session**

Circular Economy Topic	Title	Programme	Speaker
Fish waste	VALORISH	Horizon Europe	Akanksha Mishra / Marta Franco
Sludge valorisation	AQUAPHOENIX	Horizon Europe	Dorinde Kleinegris
Algae byproducts	CIRCALGAE LIFE22-ENV-IT-LIFE	Horizon Europe	Amparo Jimenez Quero / Kasra Mashhadi
Bivalve shells	GREENLIFE4SEAS	LIFE	Grazia Masciandaro
Educational	BlueAquaEdu	EMFAF	George Triantaphyllidis
Plastic valorisation	LIFE MUSCLES	LIFE	Marzia Mattioli

- **Audience Feedback / Interactive element**
- **Panel Discussion, Q&A and Interactive Dialogue**

17.20 – 17.30 Closing Remarks: David Bassett, General Secretary, EATiP