

Sustainable aquaculture project
Good Practice Workshop



GALICIA FISH FARM PLANNING



Dublin Castle. Ireland
April 11st, 2014



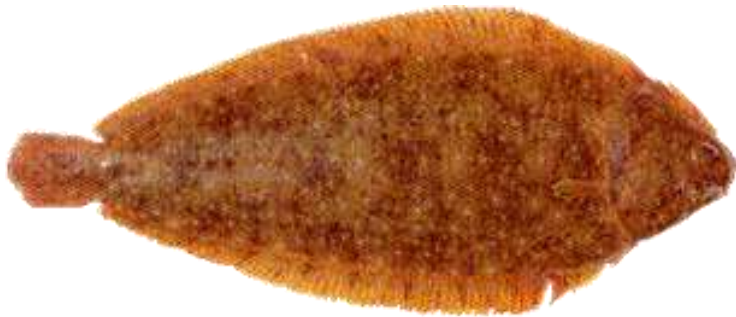
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AQUACULTURE IN GALICIA



Production (2013):

- 8,120 t of turbot (75% of Europe)
- 350 t of sole
- 4,500 t of trout
- 210,000 t of mussels



Facts & figures (2013):

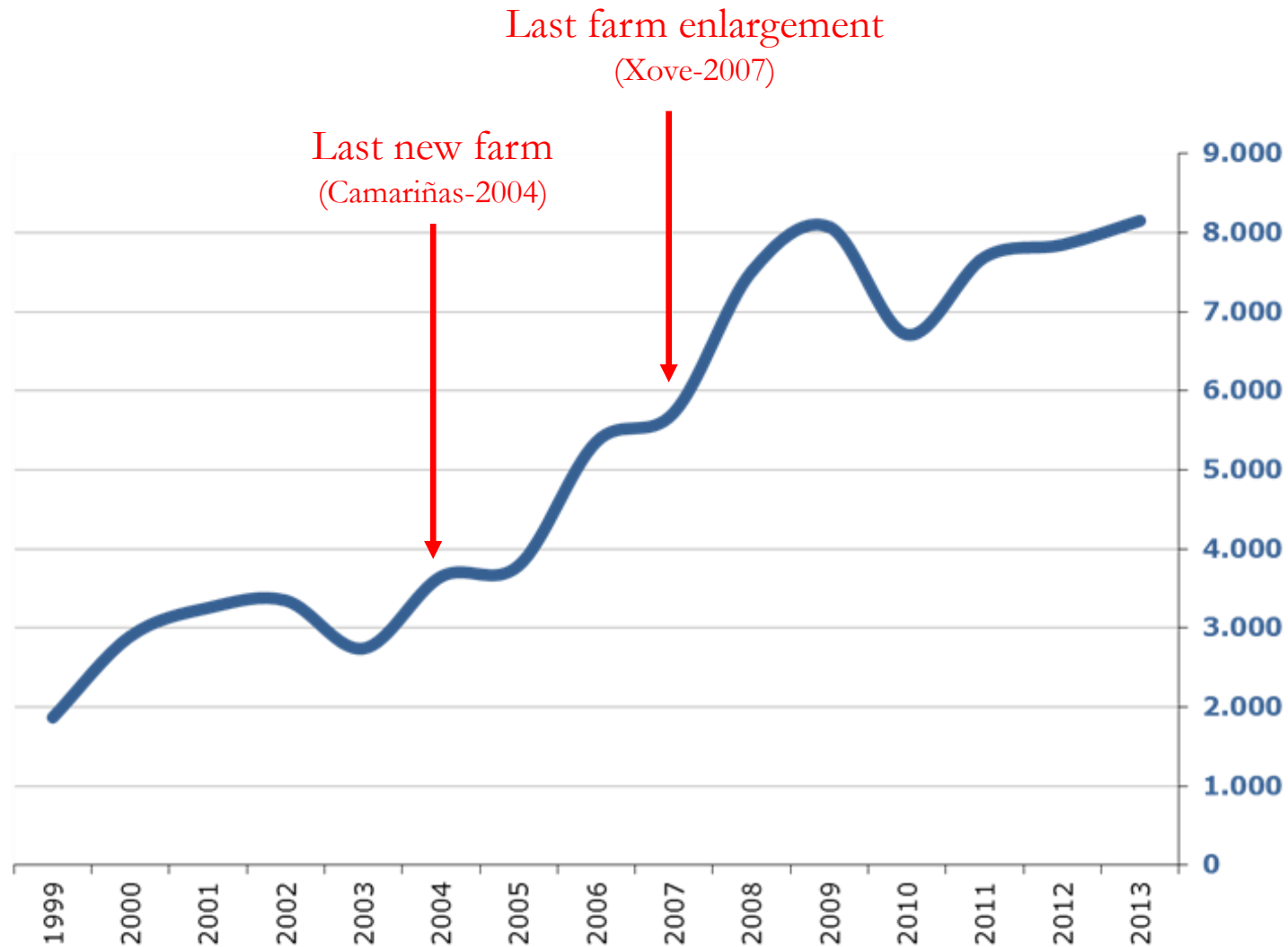
- Flat fish are produced in land based fish farms
- Highly technological farms
- 16 farms, 5 hatcheries.
- ~ 600 workers; sales > 60 M€



Facts & figures (2013):

- A fairly healthy business.
- But a problem exists... All economic, social and environmental requirements for growing in a sustainable way are there, but nothing happens.

TURBOT PRODUCTION IN GALICIA (FARMED)



Number of new farms since 2004 = **0 !**

AQUACULTURE IN GALICIA

We face a governance problem!

- Siting land based aquaculture in populated coasts is a challenge
- However, neighboring citizens welcome fish farms
- Successive governments have tried (unsuccessfully) to establish aquaculture planning.

GALICIA MARINE AQUACULTURE PLANNING

Limitations:

- Spanish law does not allow construction on the coastline close to the water.
- If Galicia wants to continue leading flat fish aquaculture it has to create a legal exception for land based marine farms and approve a specific legislation.
- This new regulation should have the highest possible legal status.

THE **NEW** GALICIA MARINE AQUACULTURE PLAN



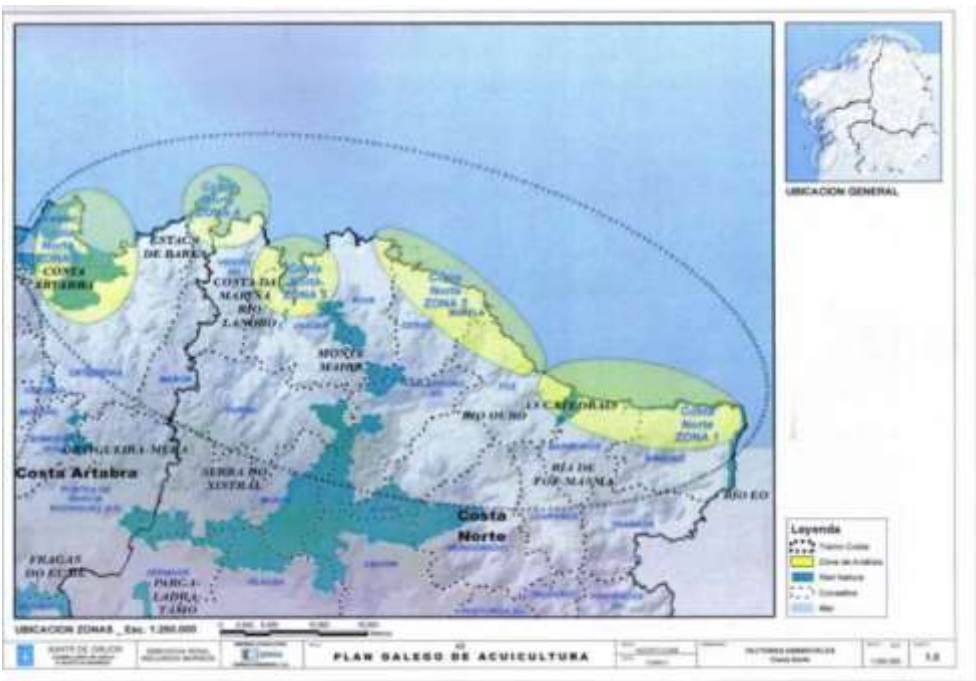
Work began in 2008

- **Basic principle:** Total planning of marine land-based fish farming at Regional level.
- **Legal position:** Maximum political & governance level: Declared of Public Interest and Social Benefit. Regional, overcoming municipal reluctances.

GALICIA MARINE AQUACULTURE PLANNING

Objective:

- Selection of adequate areas for land based marine aquaculture and the establishment of conditions for development:



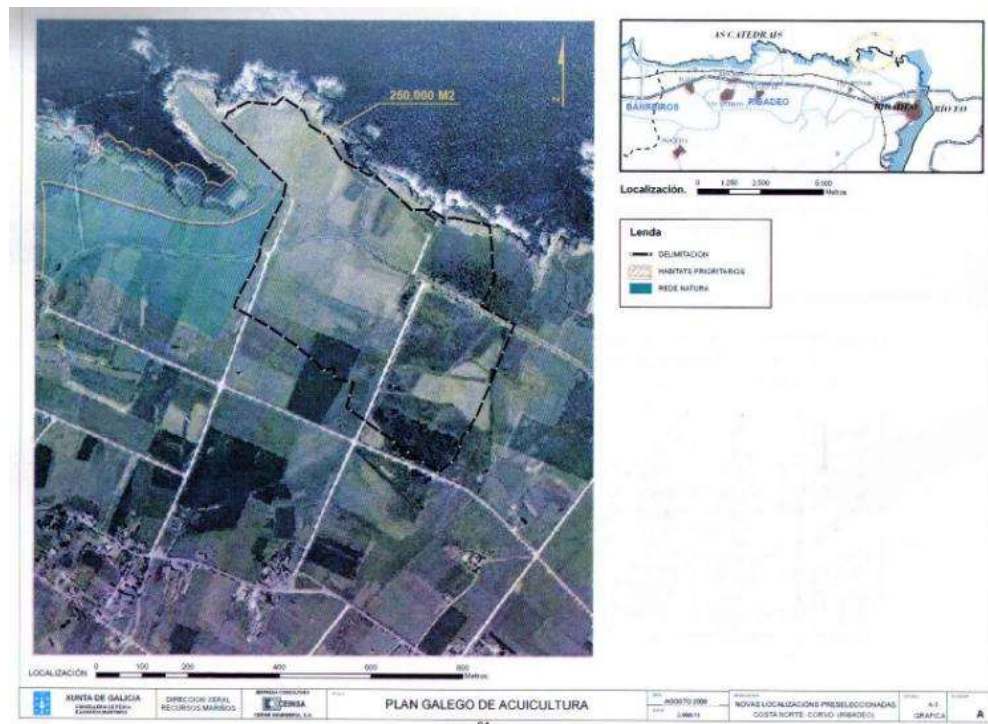
- Siting of farms in pre-selected areas
- One farm per area
- No new authorisations outside those areas.
- Clear rules for farm building and management.
- Obliging for best environmental practices.

GALICIA MARINE AQUACULTURE PLANNING

Criteria for selection of areas:

○ Environmental:

- Not on singular landscapes
- Not on sand dune zones
- Not incompatible with N2K, but away from priority habitats
- Minimising visual impact
- Management of other environmental foot prints



GALICIA MARINE AQUACULTURE PLANNING

Criteria for selection of areas:

○ Urban development:

- Not on urban or developable zones
- Uninhabited zones preferred
- With close by roads
- Near to electricity lines
- Minimum surface = 60,000 m²
- Distance among areas, to contamination points and rivers > 3.5 km.



GALICIA MARINE AQUACULTURE PLANNING

Criteria for selection of areas:

- **Oceanographic:**
 - Ocean quality sea water (35 g/l)
 - Excellent microbiological condition
 - Height above mean sea level < 25 m
 - Water temperature 10°C - 21°C
 - Suitable pumping conditions

GALICIA MARINE AQUACULTURE PLANNING

Criteria for selection of areas:

○ Social:

- Not close to touristic areas
- Not close to popular beaches
- Need for acceptability by social agents, town council and other administrations
- Special care on preserving social, cultural and traditional values

Number of new farms
with the new Plan = 0 !



Having a Plan is not enough!

AQUACULTURE IN GALICIA/SPAIN/EU



The main problem is the plethora of rules inadequately required to aquaculture,

+

uneveled playing field on production and marketing with respect to imports.

Problems:

- Overuse of the Precautionary Principle
- Establishment of extremely high prices on the use of water
- Non acceptance of internationally recognised carrying capacity models
- Unrealistic taxing on effluents
- Ultra restrictive criteria for determining environmental flows

Problems:

- Insufficient basic knowledge about the industry by environmental competent authorities.
- Governments see in the WPD a lucrative source of taxes.
- Excessive sensitivity to criticism asserted by minority groups
- Higher (better?) lobbying capacity by other stakeholders

EXAMPLES OF (REAL) GOOD PRACTICE

Stolt Sea Farm (Lira, A Coruña, Galicia)



- Producing 1,200 t of turbot + hatchery
- Operating since 1993
- A Protected Area was created in 2004 in the surrounding coast: *Os Miñarzos* because of environmental values.

EXAMPLES OF **(REAL)** GOOD PRACTICE

Tres Mares - Lires (Cee, A Coruña, Galicia)



- Producing 3.000 t trout.
- Operating since 1969
- All studies prove that local environmental conditions remain perfect

TAKE AWAY MESSAGE

The WFD & MSFD are here to achieve water bodies with good environmental status and improvement of the aquatic environment.

Both FDs are *objective oriented* legislations. It is Member states who establish how to get there.

TAKE AWAY MESSAGE

The Guidelines this workshop is about are to aid MS on how to better achieve those objectives.

Aquaculture should comply with and benefit from the WFD & MSFD and not be a victim of them.

Let's help our competent authorities to implement EU environmental legislation without imposing unnecessary burdens or unfair competition on producers (EC *dixit*).

5 WAYS TO IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FDs:

EU level analysis & harmonisation of:

1. The application of the Precautionary Principle.
2. How to price the use (\neq consumption) of water.
3. Carrying capacity models
4. Taxing of contaminants in effluents
5. Determination of environmental flows.

Thanks for your attention. I hope you found this presentation interesting.

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