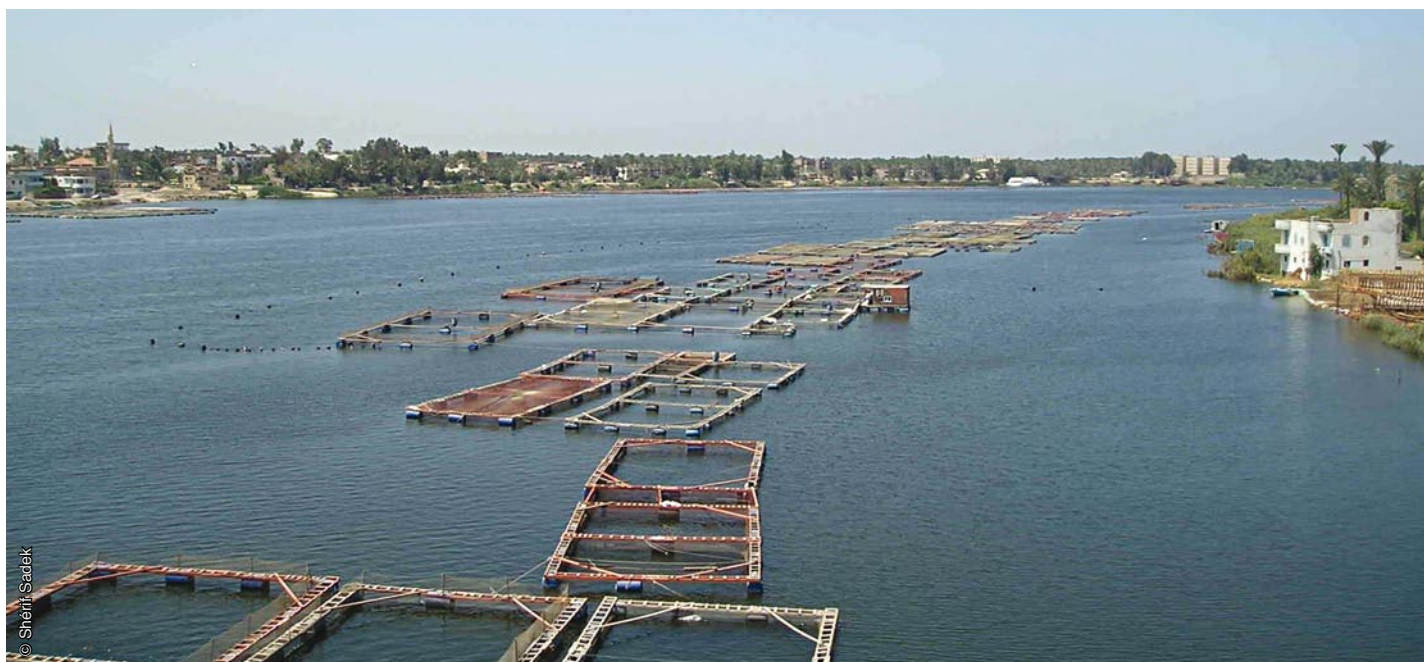


Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture

Aquaculture site selection and site management



Worldwide aquaculture tends to develop faster than other industrial sectors chiefly in response to the soaring demand for seafood products, which is likely to grow as human populations increase.

However, in an often exploited coastal zone like the Mediterranean shore, there exist various limiting factors that may impede the research of new sites for aquaculture such as the competition and interaction with other human activities, which depend on the same ecosystem. This may lead to conflicts of use and appropriation of natural resources. Moreover, natural characteristics of the marine ecosystem can also be an hindrance to the development of the activity and have to be considered as well.

This Guide, the second in a series of Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of Mediterranean Aquaculture, aims at providing basic recommendations to decision makers and other parties interested for aquaculture site selection and site management.

Introduction

In line with the first Guide on Interactions between Aquaculture and the Environment, this book encourages the development of good practices in aquaculture.

Prepared by IUCN / FEAP working group on aquaculture, more than 50 Mediterranean experts of different areas have participated to the different workshops. This document is the result of extensive debates and discussions.

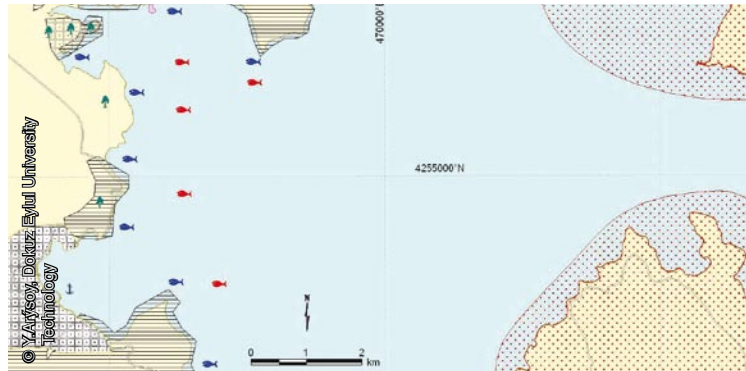
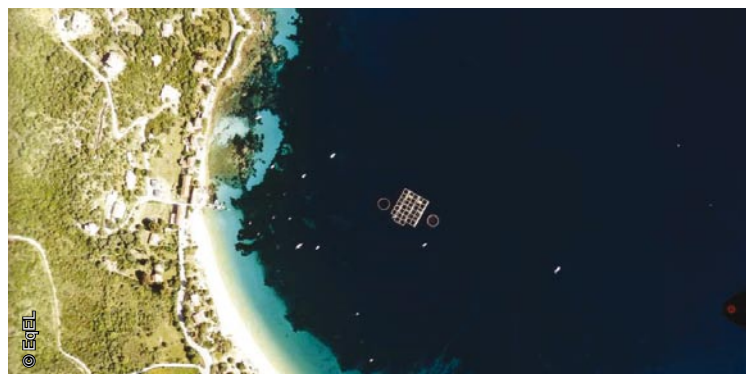
The Guide addresses fundamental topics to take into account in aquaculture site selection and site management since most of the problems that the sector encounters in its development are due to making wrong decisions during these processes.

Chapters are gathered in three main sections:

- **Concepts** to put into practice to achieve the sustainable development of aquaculture such as the Importance of Knowledge, Importance of Governance, Participative Approach, Social Acceptability, Precautionary Principle, Scale Approach, Adaptive Approach, and Economic Aspects.
- **Frameworks** to take into consideration, including legal, sectorial and organizational frameworks.
- **Methods and tools** to apply such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Processes of Site Selection, the Ecosystem Approach, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), The Concept of Carrying Capacity and the Use of Indicators and Models, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP).

For each chapter, a series of specific recommendations for aquaculture site selection and site management are formulated, to move towards the development of a sustainable aquaculture in the Mediterranean. A series of Mediterranean examples helps to provide an overview of the current situation in the region.

This Guide handles all marine and brackish waters including shellfish, cage and land-based finfish aquaculture in the Mediterranean.



For More Information

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A draft is already available. The Guide will be released in December 2008 in English, French and Spanish.

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