

Opinions on the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture

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cases, extensive management may become a source of high biodiversity [8] while abandoned farmed areas depict a loss of biodiversity [9]. By environmental impacts, we mean not only biodiversity shift as an exhaustive list of species present or absent from ecosystems but rather a combination of impacts on the environment and the society.

Aquaculture as a key industry supporting the economy is relatively new in some regions of the world. Interestingly, aquaculture is not perceived the same way in areas where it has had a long-term persistence as compared to areas where it has been limited to a few niche products responsible for small economy. This presents a good example showing how strongly we are affected by our own perception whereby points of reference change over time and place, an important consideration when establishing a conservation baseline [10]. Extensively managed land farming habitats are recognized as socially important and are supported financially in many countries because they are considered as a traditional, cultural, and natural heritage. We believe that aquaculture will also, in due time, be part of the 'conservation baseline'. However, in order to achieve such a standing, the industry first has to prove that this food production is sustainable by ensuring that the environmental carrying capacity is not exceeded, causing decreased negative environmental impacts, and also by ensuring a good quality

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