

Call for expression of interest for a  
new community of stakeholders with  
expertise in the field of  
Environmental Risk Assessment  
(ERA) of feed additives for  
aquaculture



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# Call for expression of interest for a new community of stakeholders with expertise in the field of environmental risk assessment (era) of feed additives for aquaculture

## 1. About the call

In line with European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)'s commitment on transparency and engagement with its stakeholders, EFSA is launching a call for expressions of interest to shape a community of stakeholders with expertise in the field of Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of feed additives for aquaculture and with a focus in marine sediments.

The aim of this community is to facilitate ongoing discussions on the matter allowing for exchanges on the scientific evidence, scientific studies, projects outcomes and peer discussions on the subject.

Through this forum, members of the community will have the opportunity to broaden their scientific network and collaborate with high level experts from the public and private sectors throughout Europe. Moreover, each member will have the chance to establish relevant partnerships on the ERA of feed additives for possible future collaboration.

## 2. Background

The European Commission has [mandated](#) EFSA to assess the safety for the environment of 7 trace elements used as nutritional additives in feed (cobalt, copper, iodine, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and zinc). The assessment should consider the maximum authorised levels and the target species for which they are authorised and should be based on available and/or new data. The scientific opinion is expected for May 2026. In this frame, a call for data and a literature review are ongoing.

In parallel to this work, the Feed Additives team (of the Feed & Contaminants Unit) has launched and awarded a framework contract for the [development of a model to predict environmental concentrations of chemical substances in marine sediments when the substances are applied via feed for marine aquaculture \(sea cages\)](#) .

## 3. The need for a comprehensive network of partners and stakeholders



As consultative platform, this community would gather experts in the field of Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of feed additives for aquaculture, EFSA staff, as well as EU Agencies representatives, feed industry and NGOs representatives.

EFSA will engage this community through various activities (technical meetings, workshops, consultations, etc.) inter alia to:

- Check, reflect and comment on the deliverables submitted by the contractor working on the development of a model to predict environmental concentrations of chemical substances in marine sediments. This could include the testing of the appropriate functioning and usability of the developed tool (model).
- Support the identification of challenges for feed additives ERA and the prioritisation of knowledge gaps.
- Identify best practices on how to integrate feed additives risk assessment and EU environmental initiatives related with aquaculture.
- Make recommendations on data, methods, technology, collaboration, outreach needs.

## 4. What is out of scope

The community is not intended to inform or shape any policy decisions, and members of the community should not expect their input to influence policy matters.

## 5. Who we are looking for

For this community, EFSA aims to attract professionals and stakeholders from the European Union and beyond. EFSA is looking for:

- Professionals working for public institutions and/or for academia, with demonstrable expertise in fields such as:
  - Marine sediments and ERA of marine sediments (mandatory)
  - Aquaculture (optional)
- Representatives from the European sister agencies, such as European Chemical Agency (ECHA), European Environmental Agency (EEA), European Medicine Agencies (EMA), involved in ERA related activities
- Industry representatives with relevant expertise in the field
- NGOs representatives knowledgeable and interested in the field

To allow meaningful interactions throughout the timespan of the project, out of this call for expression of interest, EFSA intends to select a maximum of 5 professionals in the field of ERA of marine sediments, to reach a maximum of 20 members including selected stakeholders and EFSA staff.

To ensure efficient exchange dynamics within the community, EFSA may need to select the most suitable profiles, prioritising those who demonstrate strong expertise and interest in the topic, as indicated in the submission form.

## 6. Selection criteria and deadline for expressing interest

The members of the community will be selected based on the following selection criteria:



- Criteria 1: Demonstrated expertise in ERA of marine sediments.
  - Knowledge on aquaculture and/or feed additives is a plus.
- Criteria 2: Demonstrated expertise in ERA related activities (specifically for EU agencies, industry, and NGOs representatives)
- Criteria 3: Good knowledge of English (at least B2 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages – CEFR).

EFSA will determine the final composition of the community to ensure a fair representation across stakeholders' affiliations according to the specific needs of these activities. EFSA reserves the right to subsequently contact individual stakeholders as needed for the specific participatory activities as deemed appropriate.

## 7. How you can apply

Stakeholders interested in joining the EFSA's new community in the field of Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of feed additives for aquaculture are invited to submit their interest via the

**DEDICATED FORM**

**by 15 January 2025 23:59 CET**

## 8. Operating model, tools and convening venues

Upon creation of the community, the EFSA community manager will coordinate the activities of the group and prepare the draft for the Terms of Reference of the newly created community, which will be tabled for discussion and agreement at the first community meeting.

The community will essentially meet and discuss online (via Teams and dedicated online platform/s put at disposal from EFSA) on a periodic basis. Ad hoc physical events might also be organised upon necessity and EFSA's availability of budget and resources.

The minimum required effort foreseen for each member taking part to this community is approximately as follows:

- Participation to online meetings 3 to 5 times per year (about 2 hours duration each)
- Review of some selected scientific work on the matter upon necessity (estimated time required 16 h/year)
- One physical meeting per year upon necessity

The establishment of this community has an initial duration of 2 years, which can be subject to amendments according to new and different needs.

## 9. Notification of the call for expression of interest outcome

The composition of the community is expected to be finalised by the end of January 2025.

Applying members will be notified of the outcome of their request to join the community via e-mail, sent to the address they provided in their expression of interest form.



## 10. Timeline

Opening of the call:	10/12/2024
Deadline to submit interest via the dedicated form:	15/01/2025
Notification of the outcome of the request:	By end of January 2025
Kick-off of the Community:	By beginning of February 2025

## 11. Inquiries

Any questions or requests for assistance regarding this call or the submission of the form should be sent via the [Ask a Question service](#) including in the subject field "New stakeholder community on Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) of feed additives for aquaculture".