

Stakeholder Discussion Group on Aquaculture Environmental Risk Assessment (StaDG-ERAQUA)

Location: European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma

1. Background

In line with European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)'s commitment on transparency and engagement with its stakeholders, EFSA has launched 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.

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 \(sea cages\)](#).

2. Composition of Selection committee

Feed and Contaminants (FEEDCO) Unit: Joana Firmino, Jordi Tarrés Call, – chair and member; Engagement and External Relations (ENREL) Unit: Margherita Guidi – member.

3. Selection procedure and composition of the group

The [call for expression](#) of interest to set up a discussion group of stakeholders with expertise in the field of environmental risk assessment (ERA) of feed additives for aquaculture was published on the EFSA website on 10 December 2024, and also disseminated to several stakeholders including registered stakeholders, Art. 36 organisations, member states, sister agencies and other stakeholders. The interested candidates have submitted their expression of interest via the dedicated Microsoft (MS) form by the deadline set (15 January 2025). Upon closure of the call, the selection committee met to assess the expressions of interests received against the defined needs and selection criteria specified in the call for expression of interest document.

A total of 28 expressions of interest were received.

The selection committee scrutinised the information submitted by the candidates via the MS form tool and against the criteria specified in the call for expression of interest (available at this [page](#)).

To ensure efficient exchange dynamics within the group, EFSA had to select the most suitable profiles, prioritising those who demonstrated strong expertise and interest in the topic, as indicated in the submission form. The final composition of the group was determined also taking into consideration representation across stakeholders' affiliations according to the specific needs of the activities foreseen for this group.

EFSA has selected 15 professionals from the 28 expressions of interest received.



A total of 13 candidates were rejected due to a comparison assessment with other more suitable profiles and in line with the maximum intended number of members.

The names of the selected stakeholder experts are publicly available on the EFSA web site.

Depending on the nature of the issue, EFSA has the discretion to invite non-selected professionals to participate in the StaDG-ERAQUA activities on ad-hoc basis, when their expertise is considered beneficial for the ongoing discussions. In this case, EFSA might contact individual stakeholders during the groups' activities and/or consider reopening the call for expression of interest to the public.

It is worth noting that for the non-selected candidates there are several channels – including public consultations and open plenary meetings of EFSA Scientific Panels – which remain available to all stakeholders to actively interact and contribute to EFSA's work.

4. List of selected stakeholders

Name	Affiliation
Carvalho Natacha	EU Institution
Gerlitz Niall	EU Institution
Muusse Martine	Public authority
Gomes Newton	Academia/research institute
Grøsvik Bjørn Einar	Academia/research institute
Hannon Colin	Academia/research institute
Kapetanović Damir	Academia/research institute
Kolar Boris	Academia/research institute
Manfra Loredana	Academia/research institute
Martins Irene	Academia/research institute
Vighi Marco	Academia/research institute
Gonsior Guido	Private Research Institute
McCartney Elinor	Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
Jamieson Jennifer	Industry
Morken Thea	Industry