

Kick-off meeting of the Stakeholder Discussion Group on Aquaculture Environmental Risk Assessment (StaDG-ERAQUA)



4 March 2025

10:00-11:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 6 March 2025

Location: Hybrid – EFSA, Parma (MTG SEAT 00/M03)/Web conference

Attendees:

- **Discussion Group Members:** Niall Gerlitz, Martine Muusse, Newton Gomes, Colin Hannon, Damir Kapetanović, Boris Kolar, Loredana Manfra, Irene Martins, Marco Vighi, Guido Gonsior, Elinor McCartney, Jennifer Jamieson and Thea Morken
- **EFSA:** Joana Firmino (Chair) and Jordi Tarrés-Call (FEEDCO Unit), Yann Devos (CSO), Roberto Lava (PLANTS Unit), Angelo Maggiore (KNOW Unit), Giovanna Azimonti (FEEDAP Environment WG)

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants and members of the Discussion Group. Participants presented themselves during a brief tour de table. Apologies for absence were received from Natacha Carvalho and Bjørn Einar Grøsvik.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Introduction to the Discussion Group

EFSA staff presented EFSA's general work, the legal framework and risk assessment process for feed additives, and the environmental risk assessment (ERA) of feed additives. The ongoing activities on ERA of feed additives intended for marine aquaculture were presented (see section IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion).

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Framework contract for model development to model PEC in marine sediments ([EFSA-Q-2024-00649](#); [EFSA-Q-2024-00650](#))

EFSA staff presented EFSA's Framework contract (FWC) for the development of a model to predict environmental concentrations of feed additives in marine sediments when used in aquaculture (sea cages) (EFSA/FEEDCO/2023/01; Lot 1: EPA02.02.03) that started on 28 June 2024. The FWC will close no later than 28 June 2028. The Discussion Group will be kept up to date on the project's progress and preliminary results.

b. Generic mandate on ERA of additives containing trace elements ([EFSA-Q-2024-00482](#))

EFSA staff presented the European Commission's generic mandate received on 8 July 2024, tasking EFSA to perform the ERA of seven trace elements used as nutritional additives in feed: cobalt, copper, iodine, manganese, molybdenum, selenium and zinc (M-2024-00092). In this frame, a call for data and literature review were completed. The adoption of the scientific opinion is anticipated for May 2026. The Discussion Group will be kept up to date on the project's progress and preliminary results.



V. Any Other Business/Next steps

- Framework of Interaction Agreement.
- Confidentiality Statement and Data Protection Notice.
- Meetings documents and scientific topics content share in the dedicated MS TEAMS channel.
- Future requests for contributions.

VI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held online on **5 June 2025 (AM)**.



StaDG-ERAQUA Members

#	Affiliation	Member name
1	EU Institution	Natacha Carvalho
2	EU Institution	Niall Gerlitz
3	Public authority	Martine Muusse
4	Academia/research institute	Newton Gomes
5	Academia/research institute	Bjørn Einar Grøsvik
6	Academia/research institute	Colin Hannon
7	Academia/research institute	Damir Kapetanović
8	Academia/research institute	Boris Kolar
9	Academia/research institute	Loredana Manfra
10	Academia/research institute	Irene Martins
11	Academia/research institute	Marco Vighi
12	Private Research Institute	Guido Gonsior
13	Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)	Elinor McCartney
14	Industry	Jennifer Jamieson
15	Industry	Thea Morken