Czech Republic

Developments in fisheries and aquaculture policy, 2015-16

- The Czech Republic will receive support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) according to European Union (EU) regulations. The funds will support aquaculture in the aim of making the sector more productive without compromising sustainability and conservation goals. The total budget for the Operational Programme (OP) is approximately EUR 41 million (USD 55 million) for the period 2014-20.
- Additional government financial transfers, of approximately EUR 5 million (USD 5.5 million) annually in the last years, represent a broad spectrum of the supports for freshwater aquaculture.
- The government is also funding actions aimed at boosting fish consumption in the country; these measures include investments in improved market organisation and marketing to consumers.

Fisheries and aquaculture statistics in the Czech Republic

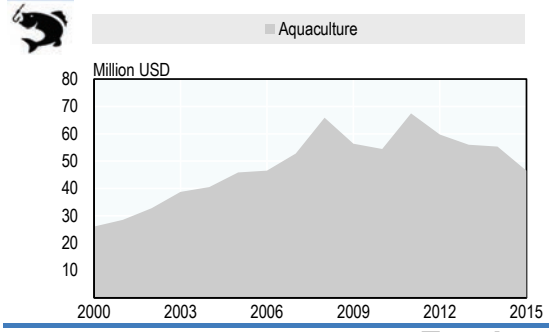
Value of production

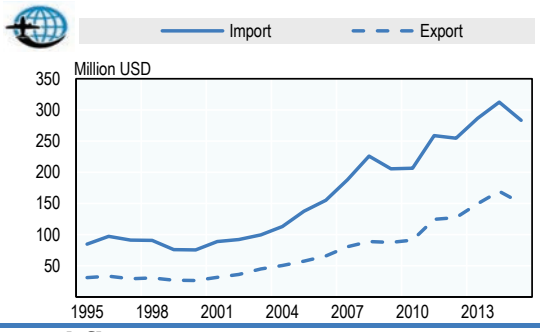
in global context

USD 47 million	---	0.02%
Total value of fisheries and aquaculture	*Share of global fisheries landed value*	*Share of global aquaculture production value*

Trends in production value and trade

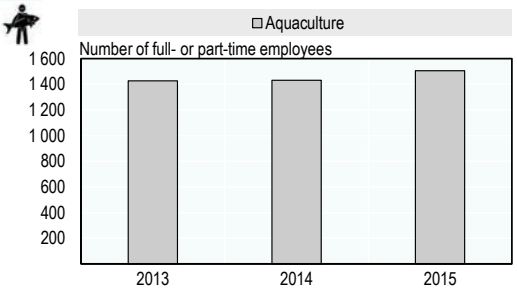
Total production value in USD decreased at an annual average rate of 8.9% between 2011 and 2015

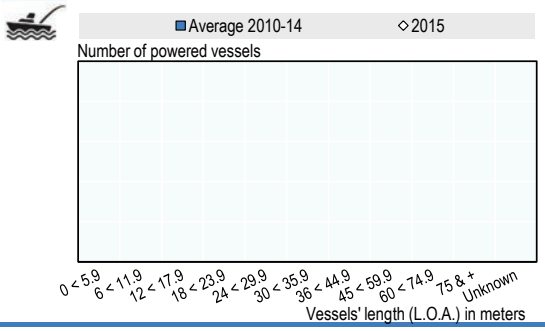




Employment and fleet

Employment in aquaculture increased by 5.1% between 2014 and 2015 to 1 506 persons





Government support and resource management

There is no marine fisheries production in the country

Note: Reference year is 2015.
Source: OECD Fisheries Database. World's total values of production for catch and aquaculture were sourced from the *FAO Yearbook, Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics, 2015*. Both numbers have been corrected adding the value of seaweed production; aquaculture has also been adjusted to account for the value of Chinese production reported to the OECD.

Policies and policy-making

The Czech Republic concentrates its public support on modernising the aquaculture sector

The Czech Republic budget for support of fisheries and aquaculture activities in the period 2014-2020 is approximately EUR 41 million (USD 55 million) of which EUR 31 million (USD 41 million) is an European Union (EU) contribution from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF, see EU chapter).

The biggest share is allocated for the investments and modernisation of the aquaculture sector, about 67%, that is intended to create an important alternative to the imported marine fish, which often are from overexploited stocks. The focus is on the implementation of the environmentally friendly and resource efficient farming methods that in turn would lead the Czech Republic's aquaculture sector to become competitive and supportive of stable employment in the region. The operational programme will also support modern intensive farming systems, which would mainly contribute to the increase of salmonid production. Additional support will be given for the diversification of income sources for aquaculture farms via development of complementary activities related to tourism, conservation or education.

EMFF funding will aim to improve market organisation, as well as the profitability and sustainability of the entire fish market chain. This includes the processing sector where the allocated funds will support activities contributing to energy savings, improved safety, hygiene, health and working conditions. The objective is to boost currently low consumption of fish and address the seasonality of fish consumption in the Czech Republic. The intent is to promote freshwater fish as a nutritious and healthy food source that can be consumed in a balanced way throughout the year. The funding will also be used to strengthen marketing and raise awareness of sustainable fish and aquaculture products. The activities related to fostering marketing and processing are allocated approximately 19% of the total budget.

Additionally, 8% of the total EMFF budget is allocated to fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The main shortcoming of the landlocked countries recognised by the EU has been the lack of comprehensive data on fish production. The support given through the CFP priority is mostly allocated to support data collection on aquaculture and fish processing.

The Czech Republic launched the first call for support from the operational programme for fisheries in October 2015, mainly for support of the investments in the aquaculture sector. Subsequent calls, launched throughout the period until April 2017, conveyed all the priorities included in the EMFF budget for the country.

Apart from the operational programme, average government financial transfer to the aquaculture sector is approximately EUR 5 million (USD 5.5 million) per year in the last years. Government financial transfers represent a broad spectrum and include, among others, support for fish production efficiency control, consultations related to aquaculture production, support of non-production functions of fish ponds, removing of the pond silt, elimination of flood damages, etc.

The Czech Republic implements additional national measures to protect its fish stocks in inland waters

The Czech Republic's concern regarding the protection of the fish stocks in its inland waters resulted in several new measures introduced in 2016. Those include increase of the size limit for carp to 40 cm in non-trout and trout fishing grounds, codification of the protection of all fish species in trout fishing-grounds from 1 January to 15 April and from 1 December to 31 December, and protection of the European perch in non-trout fishing grounds from 1 January to 15 June. The last measure is aimed at pleasing the recreational anglers who were experiencing a decline in catches lately. The new measures have been in place since 16 June 2016.

Health of the sector

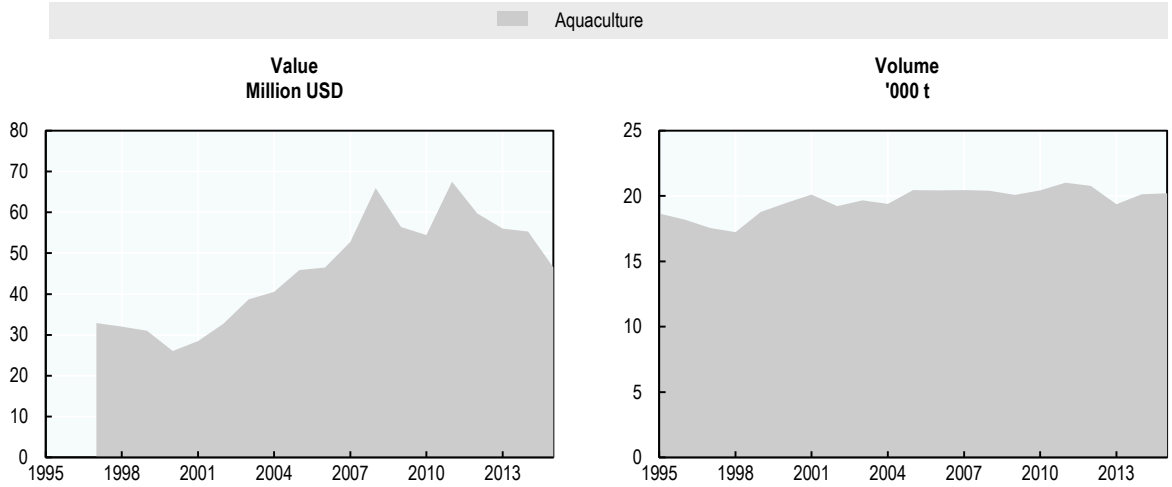
Carp continues to be the most important product in the aquaculture industry

Aquaculture production in the Czech Republic over the last ten years has varied between 19 400 and 21 000 tonnes. The data available for 2016 suggest a production of 20 950 tonnes, of which the majority is carp production originating from ponds. Pond aquaculture is the main fish production technique in the Czech Republic. The remaining production originated from specialised facilities with recirculating systems, mainly trout farms and from catch from dams. Total production is largely driven by both domestic and international demand.

Based on 2016 data, the average yield from a fishpond in the Czech Republic is 474 kg of fish per ha. A total of 40 624 ha is used for fish farming in Bohemia and Moravia. A total of 8 300 tonnes of live fish was supplied to the domestic market, a decrease of 854 tonnes from 2015. About 11.5% of the total harvest volume has been processed. The composition of species produced by the Czech aquaculture is relatively stable; carp accounts for the majority of production (87.6%), followed by herbivorous fish (5.1%), salmonids (3.2%), predatory fish (1.1%), and tench (0.7%). The total value of freshwater aquaculture output in 2016 was CZK 1.2 billion (USD 49.9 million). Aquaculture production value decreased at annual average rate of 1.0% between 2011 and 2015.

Figure 4.15 summarises data available on aquaculture production in the Czech Republic.

Figure 4.15. Fisheries and aquaculture production in the Czech Republic, 1995-2015



Note: Aquaculture volume is expressed on a live weight basis. Production data are incomplete. More information is available in the OECD Fisheries Database.
Source: OECD Fisheries Database.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933629081

The Czech Fish Farmers Association shapes the country's aquaculture sector as its members supply 90% of fish production

The traditional fish farming contributes to the majority of the Czech Republic's fish production. Czech aquaculture is a consolidated and stable sector, both in terms of production and in terms of sales. Approximately 90% of production comes from entities organised in the framework of the Czech Fish Farmers Association. Its members, which are about 70, manage about 85% of the farmable ponds surface. The association also has representatives from fisheries research institutions, schools, universities, fisheries organisations and other related entities. Since 1996, the Czech Fish Farmers Association has been a member of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), which represents a major international professional body in the field of aquaculture. The remaining 7% of the production originates from other registered breeders and 3% from producers in unregistered entities using extensive farming methods.

The latest forecast on the evolving aquaculture sector in the Czech Republic for the period between 2012 and 2024 suggests that future production will increase by 0.75-2.4% annually, with a 0.75% increase being the most realistic prediction. The conclusions are based on expert discussions following the evaluation of the current state of the EU operational programme for fisheries, partial delays in the approval process of the relevant EU legislations and the financial perspectives related to the allocated support from the EMFF. The production increase is expected to be primarily ensured by constructing new capacity for intensive recirculating aquaculture. In 2016, employment in aquaculture sector was 1 506, of which 16% were female.

The management of fishing grounds also consists of managing river systems and maintaining fish communities in locations where recreational fishing is carried out using rods. In the Czech Republic, approximately 2 000 fishing grounds with an area of

approximately 42 000 ha have been declared as recreational fishing sites. There are about 350 000 registered recreational anglers; most are associated in either the Czech Fishing Union or the Moravian Fishing Union.

The export of live fish has reached a record high in 2016, totalling 10 977 tonnes, which represents approximately 11% increase comparing with the previous year. The Czech Republic is also one of the largest exporters of aquarium and ornamental fish in Europe, supplying the most in-demand species such as characins, guppies (millionfish), molly fish and barbs. The total value of fish and other aquatic production exports in 2016 was USD 182.8 million. Import value in 2016 was USD 314.3 million. Both import and export values in the Czech Republic have shown an upward trend since the early 2000s. Imports have increased more than threefold while exports have increased nearly six-fold.

The Czech government encourages investments in modern aquaculture to reduce its environmental footprint

As a result of the national and EU strategy on fisheries and aquaculture, state aid is provided for developing aquaculture practices using new technologies as part of its environmental efforts. The aim is to reduce the negative impact of fish production on the environment. These conservation measures mainly target trout farms operating with recirculation systems. Recirculation systems decrease the need for clean water, but innovative solutions are required to deal with the resulting sludge. There have been recent promising developments in using waste product for breaking down nutrients in downstream production processes.

Traditional pond-based farming is considered environmentally friendly when complying with current regulations. The majority of feed consists of natural ingredients. Supplementary feeding, mostly with cereals, serves as an additional energy source for fish. The amount of cereals for supplementary feeding is limited by Czech legislation. Apart from production, aquaculture in ponds also fulfils an important role in the context of the non-productive functions, such as water management, landscape creation, etc.

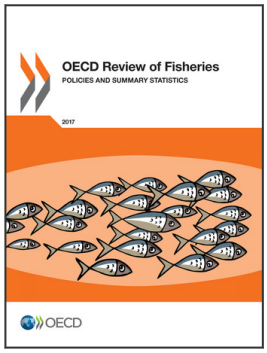
Institutions and authorities

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic is a central authority of the state administration for fisheries, aquaculture and water management. Fisheries are regulated by the Act No. 99/2004 Coll. on Fish Farming, the Exercising of Fishing Rights, Fishing Wardens and the Protection of Marine Fishing Stocks and on the Amendment of Certain Acts, locally known as The Fisheries Act. The act is fully compatible with the EU rules provided in the CFP.

More information can be found at: www.eagri.cz/public/web/en/mze/.

The Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic is responsible for protecting natural water retention and ensuring the management of flood services. It is also the supreme authority on environmental issues. Environmental regulations are provided in Act No. 254/2001 Coll. on Water and the Amendment of Certain Acts, known as the Water Act.

More information can be found at: www.mzp.cz/en.



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