



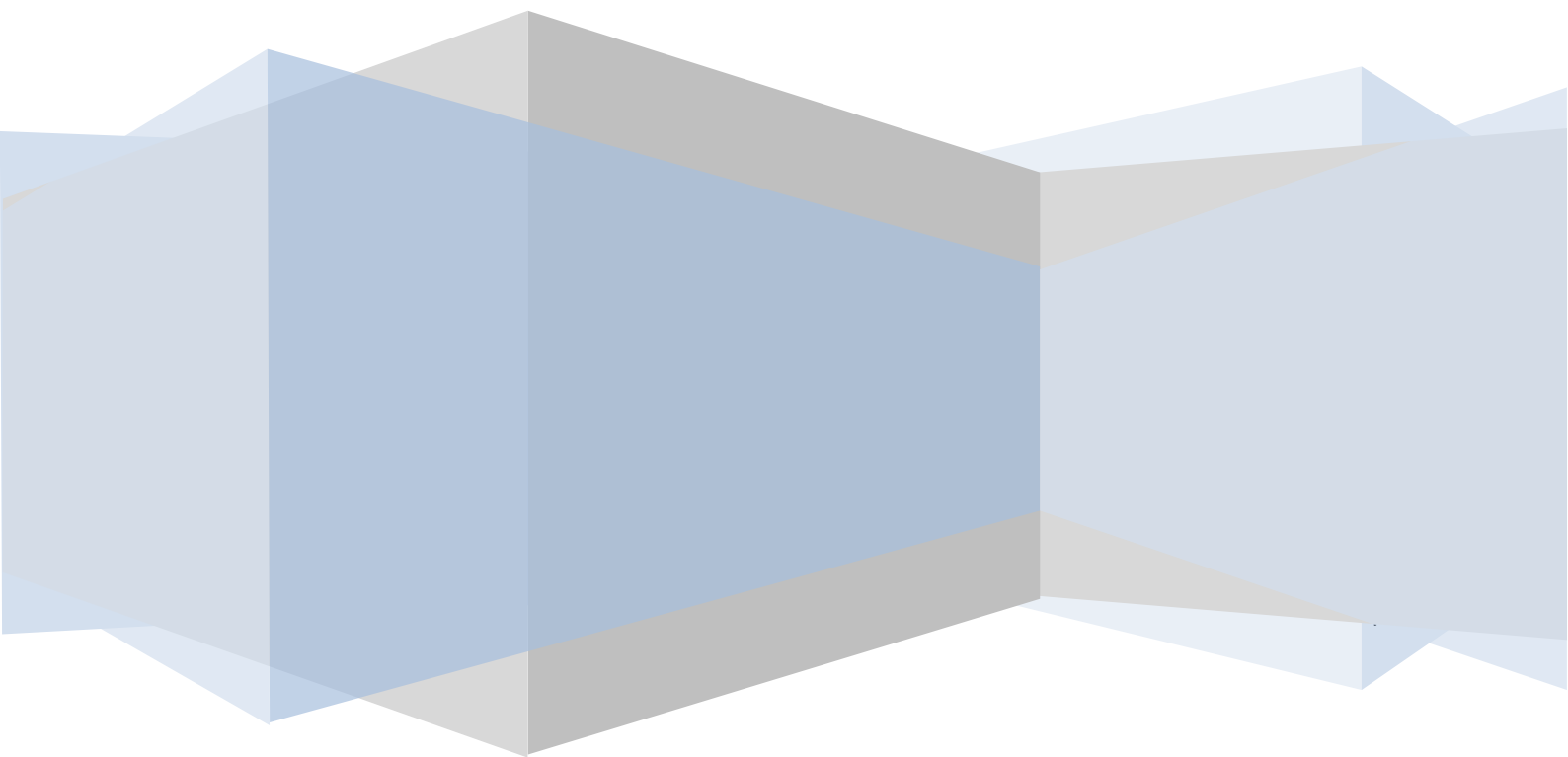
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MINISTERSTVO ZEMĚDĚLSTVÍ

The Multiannual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Evaluation Management Summary

Managing Authority for the OP Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic
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Management Summary

The Multi-Annual National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture (MNSPA) is the concept of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic which defines the needs and national objectives in the aquaculture sector for the 2014–2020 programming period with a view to 2024, taking into account the bases and principles of the reformed EU Common Fisheries Policy. At the Czech level, the priorities and objectives of the MNSPA are mainly implemented through the Operational Programme for Fisheries 2014–2020 (OP Fisheries), which is a tool for drawing financial support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and contributes to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. The programme document was approved by the European Commission on the 2 June 2015 and the first calls for aid applications were announced in autumn 2015.

The MNSPA evaluation is based on the requirement of the Communication from the Commission on Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of the EU aquaculture (COM/2013/0229) which requires Member States to provide an implementation evaluation of the Strategy by the end of 2017. In the Czech Republic, the evaluation was carried out internally by the Evaluation Unit of the Managing Authority for the OP Fisheries.

Methods and resources

The methodological evaluation procedure is based on the recommended methodology of the European Commission, which defines the evaluation questions for individual MNSPA areas. The responses to the evaluation questions were elaborated on the basis of the findings synthesis from the OP Fisheries 2014–2020 evaluations carried so far and the latest analytical and strategic documents dealing with the freshwater aquaculture sector. These are the following:

- Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic with a view to 2030 (May 2016)
- Marketing Study of the Aquaculture Sector (July 2016)
- Communication Strategy for the OP Fisheries 2014–2020 (July 2016)
- Internal Evaluation of the 1st and 2nd call of the OP Fisheries 2014–2020 (turn of the year 2015/2016)
- Process and Result Evaluation of the OP Fisheries 2014–2020 (turn of the year 2016/2017)

The evaluation was further supplemented by an analysis and assessment of the actual progress of the OP Fisheries measures, which contribute to the fulfillment of the corresponding MNSPA priorities. A progress analysis has been made using data on the indicators listed in all aid applications that are in the administration as of 1 November 2017.



Evaluation results summary

The results of the MNSPA areas are as follows:

Simplification of administrative procedures

The measures set out in the MNSPA, which concerned full computerization in the applications administration in the OP Fisheries 2014–2020, were all fulfilled. As part of the ongoing evaluation of the programme implementation, a set of operational recommendations aimed at simplifying project administration, including the removal of barriers to successful programme implementation, were recommended by an internal and external evaluator. Recommendations are continuously incorporated by the Managing Authority for the OP Fisheries, which is responsible for the programme implementation, in accordance with the timetable set. Also, the measures implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade to reduce the administrative burden for all entrepreneurs are successful at the level of the Czech Republic.

Securing sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning

In the Czech Republic, the aquaculture development through coordinated spatial planning was not undertaken. In the evaluation of the measures aimed exclusively at the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector, it was found that the support for the eel restocking in the inland watercourses (in the Elbe and Odra basins) through the OP Fisheries is in line with the plan and the targets set will be most likely exceeded at the end of the programme period. The promotion of the health and welfare of aquaculture animals and providing the treatment of serious diseases in the event of an outbreak through the use of veterinary medicinal products as well as the reduction of spread of non-native species of aquatic and water-bound organisms is ensured through the relevant legislation implementation.

Enhancing the competitiveness of EU aquaculture

An assessment of the enhancement of the competitiveness of EU aquaculture has been carried out on the basis of progress analysis and assessment of the relevant Union Priorities defined in the EMFF. Due to the late launch of the OP Fisheries implementation, only a small number of projects is currently completed (a total of 66 paid projects). However, there are enough projects in the administration that are currently being implemented or preparations are underway to implement them. If they are successfully completed, it can be assumed that all MNSPA priorities are fulfilled, such as: supporting the development of new or innovative products and technologies and their deployment to businesses; lifelong learning; investing in the competitiveness of traditional aquaculture and recirculation facilities and increasing the share of processed fish.



Promoting a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages

From the point of view of MNPSA it can be stated that the priorities in the fish promotion area are potentially fulfilled. This promotion should contribute in the future to increase the fish consumption and to change consumer behavior of the Czech population. For the successful implementation of the measure 5.2.b) The promotional campaigns the Managing Authority prepared the Communication Strategy for the OP Fisheries, which specifies the communication plan and tools for the whole programming period. The Ministry of Agriculture through its subordinate organization as well as other aquaculture entities carries out promotional activities in line with the proposed strategy. At present, communication is focused mainly on removing barriers that the general public perceives to consume freshwater fish in the form of educational and tasting events. Based on the recommendation of the Communication Strategy, activities aimed at increasing fish consumption are currently not supported, since there are not enough suppliers on the market for ensuring the regular supply of fish during the year.

Multi-annual National Plan's general objectives

Since the beginning of the OP Fisheries implementation, there have been no significant changes in the trends, problems and development potential of the aquaculture sector which would require adaptation of the programme or MNPSA as well. Annual fish production in the Czech Republic remains stable over the long term. The priority remains to maintain this production and increase it slightly. It continues to be necessary, through the purchase of new technologies, machinery and equipment, to increase production efficiency and maintain or, improve the competitiveness of aquaculture enterprises. In order to develop domestic aquaculture and increase fish consumption while maintaining sustainable growth, it is important to continue investing in traditional fish farming while at the same time achieving an even supply of fish and expanding fish supply, in particular through the implementation of intensive farming methods (recirculation systems and flow-through systems). It is also important to exploit the potential of fish processing. The development needs of the aquaculture sector in the Czech Republic, defined in the MNPSA, are therefore still valid.

The implementation of the MNPSA objectives is achieved through the implementation of the measures set out in the OP Fisheries. At present, there is a sufficient stack of projects in the administration. Their successful completion should contribute to the fulfilment of the OP Fisheries and the MNPSA objectives.

Conclusions

The evaluation of MNPSA did not bring any new measures or serious findings that should lead to a revision of the Strategy for the aquaculture sector in the Czech Republic. In the individual areas of MNPSA, implementation of the OP Fisheries measures leads to the gradual fulfilment of all the priorities set in the programme and the MNPSA. Progress towards MNPSA targets can be considered as appropriate to the current state of play and



implementation phase of the programme. Effects and impacts of individual measures cannot be measured or evaluated at present, the OP Fisheries Managing Authority plans to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of all interventions at the turn of 2018/2019. The impacts will be most likely assessed at the end of the programming period.

In order to achieve the Strategy objectives, it is currently essential for the Czech Republic to continue successfully with the projects implementation under the relevant OP Fisheries measures. These activities have in the longer term the potential for the desired positive changes in the aquaculture sector as set out in the Strategy. **For this reason, it is also important that the future nature and focus of support to the aquaculture sector remain consistent with the current OP Fisheries 2014–2020.**