Marine aquaculture in Latvia
Experience and perspectives

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Experience

• In the 1980ies
• In the Gulf of Riga mesh (net) cages
  – Cages - not sufficiently resistant to storms and waves
  – Wind - dramatically changes in the cold deep water and warm coastal waters inflow and outflow which caused stress for fish
  – Infectious diseases
Current situation

• At the moment in Latvia there are not any marine aquaculture
• However interest started arise some half year ago
Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (1)

Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (2)

- This law determines:
  - the continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of Latvia, as well as sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the continental shelf and exclusive economic zone thereof, taking into account the provisions of the international agreements;
  - procedures by which the marine strategy shall be developed and implemented, taking into account ecosystem approach and general environmental protection principles;
  - the rights and obligations of the sea users.
Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (3)

• User of the sea
  – regulatory enactments regulating activity and this Law (objectives thereof);
  – environment protection principles;
  – public interests;
  – maritime spatial planning.

• The licence is needed!
Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (4)

• The Cabinet shall, prior to the issue of a licence for use of the sea, determine a certain territory of the sea by the each time order

• The right to use a licence area in the sea shall obtain a person who has won a tender regarding the right to use the permit area in the sea
Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (5)

• The Cabinet shall regulate:
  – the procedures by which a permit area in the sea shall be determined;
  – the procedures by which a tender shall be organised;
  – the procedures by which a permit shall be issued, suspended or cancelled;
  – requirements in respect of establishment, construction of structures in the sea and operation thereof, as well as the requirements in respect of destruction.
Marine Environment Protection and Management Law (6)

- Obligations and Responsibility of a User of the Sea:
  - not to allow pollution of the sea;
  - to perform environmental impact assessment for the intended activity in compliance with regulatory enactments regarding environmental impact assessment;
  - to perform measures in order to prevent threats of damage to the marine environment in compliance with the Environmental Protection Law;
  - to observe the rights of other users of the sea and of other states in the Baltic Sea region, as well as the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, the Helsinki Convention, other international agreements binding on Latvia and other regulatory enactments.
Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (1)

- Impact assessment shall be required in accordance with the results of an *initial assessment*
- If an impact assessment is not required, the head of a Regional environmental board shall issue technical provisions for intended activity
- If the licence area is located in Natura 2000 territory, an impact assessment is compulsory
Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (2)

• Directive 2009/147/EC of the European parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds;
Fishery Law

- A permit from a fish resource manager, for which the accordance of the institute BIOR and the Nature Protection Board has been attained, is required for specialised fish farming and aquatic plant culture in the waters of the Republic of Latvia
Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law (1)

• The purpose
  – to specify the State administration institutional system concerning maritime matters and to ensure the implementation of and compliance with the requirements of international agreements and standards binding on the Republic of Latvia in the field of maritime safety and protection in order to prevent environmental pollution from ships and ensure the efficiency of maritime traffic
Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law (2)

• Contains legal norms arising from:
Perspectives

• Sea spatial planning
• Cabinet regulation
Thank you for your attention!