

aquaculture
europe 19

BERLIN, GERMANY
OCTOBER 7-10

OUR FUTURE
GROWING
from WATER



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Our Future - GROWING from WATER



All life on earth emerged from water and the aquaculture sector, by definition, relies upon its existence for all or part of its many and varied production cycles. The future of healthy and sustainably produced food lies in the diversity of aquaculture, from single-cell microalgae in bioreactors to fish in sea pens or freshwater ponds. This is reflected in the German aquaculture sector which is unique in its diversity, ranging from extensive cultivation systems in ponds and coastlines to intense indoor farming.

Truly unlocking this potential requires innovative ways to support the aquaculture economy, generation of new business models and support of start-ups. We need to proactively work towards the demands of existing and new markets for all our products, seeking new alliances in international trade and consumer support. Meanwhile, the challenges of climate change and scarcity of natural resources are urgent and require our full attention in respect and appreciation of the ecosystems we work with. As a result there has been huge interest in our sessions focussing on the environmental interactions with aquaculture systems as well as those for nutrient recycling and nutrient supply to aquaculture organisms.

The organisation of such a conference is a huge team effort. The Steering and Local Organising Committees, chaired by Stefan Meyer and Birgit Schmidt-Puckhaber respectively have done a great job over the last two years to structure the event and ensure that all is in place. Overall the degree of response for AE2019 in Berlin has been overwhelming. More than 900 abstracts have been submitted and as a result we have been able to offer an impressive program characterised by highly diverse sessions, thematic workshops and innovative fora. These include new inter- and transdisciplinary platforms to support exchange within the aquaculture community and between various stakeholders to generate new ideas and concepts with economic potential. Our Programme Co-chairs Carsten Schulz and Tomáš Polícar have worked incredibly hard to try to accommodate this record number of abstracts. Some difficult decisions have had to be taken by session chairs and some people will of course be disappointed. But we hope that the diversity of the programme will entice you to go out of your 'normal' sessions and listen to others. I dropped in on an Aquaponics session in Las Vegas at a World Aquaculture Conference several years ago and it changed the whole direction of my research!

As you will have seen, EAS has partnered this year with NordicRAS to provide our events back to back and hence allow participants to attend both in one place. We very much hope to pursue this partnership in the years to come.

With all the new knowledge being presented at our events, there is a wealth of possibility for innovation and value creation to help develop the sector. We have therefore developed the EAS Aquaculture Europe Innovation Forum and its inaugural meeting will take place on Wednesday. The event, in partnership with Hatch Blue and the German Startups Association, will consist of plenary speakers and "dragons' den" style pitches from 12 new companies that wish to seek further investment to develop.

The trade exhibition is bigger than ever this year with over 148 booths representing 130 companies from 23 countries and we have a series of special sessions to encourage attendance from exhibitors and trade show visitors. One of these is "Women in Aquaculture," a panel discussion looking at ways to ensure greater gender diversity at all levels of the aquaculture sector. There are also meetings of European associations, the EU EATIP Day and workshops of EU projects.

A special forum has been arranged for students attending AE2019 to enable networking and exchange of ideas. The forum will have a dedicated programme and includes a special student reception. In addition, the opening plenary session will feature the inaugural Aquaculture Europe Student Spotlight Award. This is based on the prize that is presented at the EAS/WAS AQUA events and it allows three finalists the chance to give a short pitch presentation of their work at one of the keynote sessions. The winner is then selected by the audience.

The Estrell Centre is a huge complex so we suggest that you download our EAS Meetings app from the app store or google play which will keep you in touch with all the up to date information on the inevitable last-minute program changes

Finally, I would like to highlight and thank our loyal AE2019 Gold Sponsors Biomar, our session sponsor Sorgal and the Rentenbank in Germany for their support of this event. We would equally like to thank our supporting partner organisations and our media partners.

Berlin is an eccentric city with a superbly integrated transport system and a wealth of cultural and heritage sites. Make sure you take the time to explore its historic streets and buildings.

Let there be life – and a future growing from water!

Gavin Burnell, EAS President 2018-2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	2
AQUACULTURE EUROPE 19 ABSTRACTS	5

To find abstracts for a specific author or subject, use the pdf search features built into Adobe Acrobat.

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ABSTRACTS