Feedback from European Marine Board to European Commission's update to Strategic Guidelines for EU aquaculture (7 April 2020)

The problem statement of this consultation states "The EU imports two thirds of the seafood it consumes and aquaculture in the EU represents only around 10% of EU seafood consumption." However, these numbers include the UK aquaculture, which produce 14% of the total EU aquaculture production.

The STECF report shows that marine aquaculture is the most important economically (generated the largest turnover of €2 731 million, followed by the shellfish sector with €1 134 million and the freshwater sector with €1 028 million), the main marine species produced is salmon, and the UK is the main producer of salmon (covering 91% of the value).

How do the guidelines intend to address the reduction in aquaculture in the EU, the concomitant increases in import of finfish (salmon) and the changes in turnover that will be inevitable after Brexit? Will it highlight the impact that Brexit might have on multiannual plans of countries that trade with the UK, or spatial plans of countries that might now have harder borders than before (Ireland for instance, but also possibly France?), as well as new opportunities for finfish production? How might possible capacity development and training be hampered by the UK's inability to participate in Horizon Europe, Interreg. programmes, Marie Sclodowska-Curie, Erasmus Mundus, etc.?

Big data and artificial intelligence offer opportunities for more efficient management of aquaculture e.g. management of sea-lice outbreaks or escaped, farmed salmon. Are there any updated guidelines on the use of big data and data frameworks for management of these aquaculture facilities? Please see the European Marine Board's new publication on Big Data for more information. https://www.marineboard.eu/big-data-and-digitalization