

Title:

The Social Acceptability of aquaculture. Emergence, utility and amalgams of a new framework to address an old social issue in policy making

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Abstract: (Your abstract must use **Normal style** and must fit in this box. Your abstract should be no longer than 300 words. The box will 'expand' over 2 pages as you add text/diagrams into it.)

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Social acceptability (SA) is a key issue that appears on the political agenda in many areas, including aquaculture. It emerges due to the increase in social opposition to public decisions in the context of a greater demand for participation in decision-making processes by citizens. Thereby, SA becomes a mean for decision-makers to move from an initial blocking situation related to a decision to an acceptable one.

As in many other examples in the field of the management of common resources, and particularly in aquaculture, the political choice of developing this sector within the Blue Growth Strategy framework, is often facing the stakeholders' opposition. The factors leading to these bottlenecks are ecologic, economic or social. Improving social acceptability is a relevant priority for high level institutions (e.g. European Commission, FAO-GFCM). The construction of strategies, guidelines and recommendations to enhance the SA are ongoing in order to accompany the development of aquaculture in a sustainable way.

This work questions the emergence and usefulness of this concept as well as its intellectual appropriation by the scientist, more concerned with explaining what constitutes the SA than with providing an operational vision in support of the decision-making processes. Since aquaculture development is not only a technical question but also a social issue, this presentation proposes to refocus the intellectual debate of the SA utility on the need to explore institutional innovation as a way to improve governance processes and hence reducing the risk social opposition.