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Treatment of aquaculture effluent in closed and semi-closed aquaculture systems — Principles, methods and guidance

Traitement des effluents aquacoles dans les systèmes d'aquaculture fermés et semi-fermés — Principes, méthodes et recommandations

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Foreword

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Introduction

Aquaculture activities influence the environment in different ways, and the scale, performance and location of the activity determines the degree of influence. However, with the rapid development of aquaculture, the discharge of aquaculture effluent has increased, which can affect environmental carrying capacity and environmental self-purification capacity. Nitrogen and phosphorus, in various solid and dissolved forms, among other food residues, as well as excrement of aquatic animals, in effluent can pollute the surrounding waters, which can lead to eutrophication and algal bloom.

Aquacultural effluent discharges can have a potential impact on different trophic compartments of the receiving aquatic environment, with the consequence of limiting green and sustainable development of aquaculture. It is important that problems due to effluent are therefore solved at an international as well as at a national level. Reduced discharge of aquaculture effluent into marine and freshwater bodies will also make a significant contribution to improved resource management, increased sustainable food production and improved circular economy.

This document for effluent reduction and discharge management in aquaculture can contribute to:

— reduced discharge of aquaculture effluent;

— reduced risks to biodiversity and the environment from aquaculture effluent;

— increased contribution to green, healthy and sustainable development of aquaculture.