

ECASA indicator

Name	Public attitudes towards the aquaculture sector
DPSIR class	Impact
ECASA sub-group	Socio-economy (social acceptability)
ECASA code	PUBATT
Proposed by participant	2- CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom
Definition, computation, Data sources and relevant studies	<p>The following studies illustrate some of the methods used to assess public attitudes:</p> <p>Hinds K, Carmichael K, Snowling H. 2002. <i>Public Attitudes to the Environment in Scotland 2002</i>. Research Findings No.24/2002, Scottish Executive, Edinburgh</p> <p>Katrinidis, S., Nitsi, E. and Vakrou, A. 2003. Social acceptability of aquaculture development in coastal areas : the case of two Greek islands. <i>Coastal Management</i> 31 : 37-53</p> <p>Robinson, B. 2004. Social Aspects of Aquaculture in the Bay of Fundy. Report prepared for University of New Brunswick, St John.</p> <p>Whitmarsh, D. and Wattage, P. 2006. Public attitudes towards the environmental impact of salmon aquaculture in Scotland. <i>European Environment</i> 16:108-121.</p>
Summary, scientific meaning, implementation	<p>Public attitudes are a guide to the social acceptability of aquaculture. Attitude surveys are regularly carried out by governments and agencies on a range of issues of public concern, with the environment increasingly featured. The information obtained from such surveys can be converted into various types of quantitative indicator, ranging from simple descriptive statistics (e.g. x% of the sample population answered affirmatively to a particular question) to more sophisticated measures. In the UK, aquaculture was included in a survey of public attitudes carried out by the government in 2002 (Hinds et al. 2002). Typically, however, the data needed to measure the social acceptability of aquaculture requires a specially commissioned survey with a design based on a specific methodology. Two such studies are those by Robinson (2004) on attitudes towards monoculture and integrated aquaculture systems in the Bay of Fundy, and by Katranidis et al. (2003) on the acceptance of aquaculture development by residents and visitors on two islands in western Greece. Preference elicitation techniques, notably those based on multi-criteria methods such as analytic hierarchy process (AHP), may also be used to convert public judgements about aquaculture into quantitative indicators (Whitmarsh and Wattage, 2005).</p>
Range of validity	
Species concerned (fishes/molluscs)	
Related type of aquaculture	
Relevant environments for this indicator	
Geographic scale	

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