

Baltic Blue Growth

BBG Stakeholder meetings consolidated report

A report outlining the stakeholder meetings organised throughout the project period.

Published (date)	28-05-2019
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File name	20190528_BBG_Draft_Stakeholder_Meetings_Report

1 Introduction

Numerous stakeholder meetings were organised under the Group of Activities 5.5. The objective was to provide a forum for regular dialogue and exchange with our main target group in all regions with project mussel farms. In addition, the project aimed to get all stakeholders involved in / affected by regional activities on board to realise the establishment of mussel farming in the regions.

A total of 24 external meetings were organised during the project period in Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Sweden and Estonia. The full reports from the meetings are presented in the annexes. The table below presents an overview of all the meetings in chronological order. Besides the regional stakeholder workshop, a final conference was organised as well as a workshop together with other projects in February 2018. A total of 9 events were organised in Sweden, 5 in Latvia, 3 in Denmark, 4 in Estonia and 3 in Germany.

Date	Place	Topic
24 April 2019	Sweden	Final Conference BBG – ‘Baltic Sea Mussel Farming and Nutrient Offset Conference’
17 April 2019	Latvia	Cultivation of mussels as an optional occupation for coastal inhabitants
15 April 2019	Estonia	Final regional stakeholder meeting in Estonia – achievements and practical outcomes of BBG
19 March 2019	Germany	Stakeholder conference on mussel farming and water quality in the Baltic Sea
31 October 2018	Estonia	Blue Growth Potential in Estonia
October 2018	Sweden	International training WS on mussel farming techniques in Borgholm
20 August 2018	Denmark	Musholm – local municipalities and regional representatives on managing aquaculture and business development/jobs
13-17 August 2018	Latvia	Evaluate the Kurzeme farm from technical and operational views, and to propose investment in technical solutions
12 June 2018	Sweden	St. Anna – mussel farming as a new industry in Baltic Sea Broad presentation for general public, local authorities and policy makers
May 2018	Sweden	CAB Kalmar – WS on legal issues regarding mussels as feed
26 April 2018	Germany	Licensing procedures, management guidelines for better procedures for S-H. BBG <i>Genehmigungsleitfaden</i>
10 April 2018	Latvia	Sea and coastal resources for growth
20-22 March 2018	Sweden	Study visit Bohus Havsbruk
1 March 2018	Sweden	Mussel cultivation: a workshop on new business opportunities
March 2018	Estonia	Live WS with ODSS
9 February 2018	Sweden	Workshop ‘Policy instruments for blue mussels’ with 3 other projects
February 2018	Denmark	SE-DK WS on the future of mussel farming in the BS, marketing opportunities for DK/south SE as one mussel producing region (may be same as above)
15 September 2017	Latvia	Requirements for potential mussel farmers- Compliance of Latvian legislation for start of the mussel farming business.

May 2017	Sweden	Stakeholder meeting Borgholm/Byxelkrok
28 April 2017	Sweden	Regulations for primary production of mussels for feed
10 April 2017	Estonia	Stakeholder interests, MSP, licensing, compensation schemes
30 March 2017	Latvia	Mussel farming as a tool to improve water quality
16 March 2017	Germany	Public informative meeting
22 February 2017	Denmark	Mussel production to compensate for nutrient load in Danish waters

Final Conference BBG project Sweden 24 April 2019

In the context of the recently finalised ‘Baltic Blue Growth’ project, a conference was organised on 24 April in Malmö, Sweden, that brought together experts from across the Baltic Sea Region, including many representatives from Baltic mussels or mussels-related projects. The day was organised around three sessions, focusing on Science and Technology; Business and Finance; and Outreach. The presentations are available for download on the conference webpage: <https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticbluegrowth/mussels-conference-2019>

The conference participants discussed among many other things:

- New data on environmental benefits and ecological impacts of mussel farms in the Baltic Sea
- Nutrient modelling
- Recent advances in Baltic blue catch farming
- Insect- and mussel-based novel feed ingredients
- Blue catch crop farming and implications for Maritime and Coastal Planning
- Financing nutrient catch

The conference was organised by Region Östergötland and the SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth as well as with support from PAC Bio. The conference, as is the project, was funded by the EURDF. The aim of the conference was to raise awareness on the benefits and opportunities of Baltic mussel production and use, and to establish a Baltic mussel farming Working Group that works to maximise these benefits in the Baltic Sea Region. The latest findings in mussel production and use were presented, incl. project results, solutions and tools, as well as the impacts of technology and recommendations for the future. Special attention was given to the Baltic Blue Growth project, which has established three fully operational mussel farms in the Baltic Sea to counteract eutrophication and create new Blue Growth opportunities.

The conference participants represented academia as well as private companies the most, followed by public authorities and NGOs. For each of the three sessions, the conference organisers made use of an audience interaction tool. Questions that were sent in to this tool were discussed by the presenters of that session. In the Science and Technology session, questions that came in had to do with the Operational Decision Support System (whether it can also be used for other type of farms such as algae – yes), as well as the impacts on the

marine environment and the nutrient uptake of the farms. In the second session on Business and Finance, questions were discussed that revolved around the promotion of Baltic ‘cleaning’ mussels and consumer perception of mussels for human consumption, as well as future funding opportunities for Baltic mussel farms. The complete documentation from the audience interaction tool can be found on the conference webpage.

Cultivation of mussels as an optional occupation for coastal inhabitants Latvia 17 April 2019

On 17 April 2019 both Latvian BBG partners - Kurzeme Planning region and Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology organized a regional event for anybody interested with a title "Cultivation of mussels as an optional occupation for coastal inhabitants". The agenda included information on project BBG itself, Latvian experience with mussel farms, possibilities of mussel use as a feed and potential benefits, importance of marketing and relevant aspects of mussel biology and marine environment.

Final Regional Stakeholder meeting in Estonia 15 April 2019

The main aim of the meeting was to inform the public sector (mainly ministries and other public organizations) about the final results of the Baltic Blue Growth project and to discuss the future opportunities of mussel farming in Estonia. Several important project results were addressed:

- a) “Ecological impacts at the small-scale commercial mussel farms in the Baltic Sea” - report on main results of mussel farms and reference areas monitoring through two years
- b) Presentation of “Operational Decision Support System (ODSS) for the Baltic Blue Mussel Farming” as a web platform enabling upload, analysis and sharing of mussel farming related essential information
- c) Presentation and discussion on the potential of the mussel farming in Estonian coastal waters

Significant stakeholders have been represented at the BBG Third Estonian Regional Stakeholders Meeting:

- Environmental stakeholders were represented by a) Estonian Ministry of the Environment, b) Estonian Ministry of the Rural Affairs, c) Environment Agency, d) Estonian Environmental Research Centre
- Academic stakeholders were represented by a) the University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute including the Fisheries Information Centre
- Other interested and involved stakeholders: a) Hendrikson & Ko, b) Ministry of Finance, c) Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication, d) Veterinary and Food Board

The BBG Fourth Estonian Regional Stakeholders Meeting “Presenting the BBG project final results and potentials of mussel farming” combined the presentations and the following extended discussions that included discussion around presented project results and live demonstration of the Operational Decision Support System portal.

Stakeholder conference on mussel farming and water quality in the Baltic Sea – Regional Stakeholder Meeting in Germany 19 March 2019

The German stakeholder meeting was co-organised under the Baltic Blue Growth project and provided a comprehensive overview of the state of affairs within the Baltic Sea mussel farming in Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

Nearly 40 experts from science, administration, NGOs and industry met in Warnemünde on 19.3.2019 and discussed the current situation of mussel farms for water quality improvement in the Baltic Sea. Based on current results from research farms in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Wieker Bodden / Greifswalder Bodden), Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel Bay) and Denmark (Mariager Fjord), ecological aspects such as the growth behaviour of mussels, their effects on the sediment and the realized nutrient reduction after harvesting were discussed.

More information can be found in this [news message](#), which includes the agenda and the presentations.

3rd Regional Stakeholder Meeting in Estonia – Blue Growth Potential in Estonia 31 October 2018

The main aim of the meeting on 31 October 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia was to inform stakeholders about the progress of the Baltic Blue Growth activities in the project and give an overview of blue growth potential and opportunities in Estonia. Also, to give the stakeholders the possibility to meet and exchange their blue growth-related ideas.

Several important for stakeholder's topics were addressed:

- a) Blue Growth funding possibilities in Estonia,
- b) Blue Growth in National Marine Spatial planning processes,
- c) The potentials of reef cultivation in the coastal waters,
- d) development, testing and evaluation of intensive cultivation technology for production of unattached form of *Furcellaria lumbricalis*
- e) Sustainable aquaculture
- f) The economic model used in the maritime planning and the importance of aquaculture in it.

Significant stakeholders represented at the BBG Third Estonian Regional Stakeholders Meeting:

- 1) Estonian marine aquaculture stakeholders were represented by the following companies Õsel AquaFarms OÜ, Power Algae OÜ, Agro marine OÜ, Vormsi Agar OÜ, Vetik OÜ, OÜ Tinurek.
- 2) Environmental stakeholders were represented by a) Estonian Ministry of the Environment, b) Estonian Fund for Nature
- 3) Estonian Ministry of the Rural Affairs – responsible for development of the marine aquaculture in Estonia;
- 4) 5) Academic stakeholders were represented by a) the University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute including the Fisheries Information Centre, and b) the Tallinn University c) Tallinn Technical University

The BBG Third Estonian Regional Stakeholders Meeting “Blue Growth potential in Estonia” was combining the presentations and the following extended discussions that included the farmers’ view on the Baltic Blue Growth farming prospects of success in the Baltic Sea waters in general and in Estonian sea waters in particular, and live demonstration of the Operational Decision Support System portal.

International training WS on mussel farming techniques in Borgholm October 2018 Sweden

No further information available.

Musholm – local municipalities and regional representatives on managing aquaculture and business development/jobs 20 August 2018

On 20 August 2018, a meeting was organized in Musholm, Denmark for local municipalities to discuss how the results of the BBG project can be implemented in the best possible way in management of fish farms. In addition, the discussion revolved around how to develop the best ways to compensate for excess nutrients from fish production. There were 8 participants to the meeting.

Evaluate the Kurzeme farm from technical and operational views, and to propose investment in technical solutions 13-17 August 2018

The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate first Latvian mussel farm, established in 2017, and to produce Evaluation Report, including suggestions and proposals for improvement of the farm technical and technological aspects, as well production issues. Evaluation will be done by external expert of the offshore mussel production John C. Bonardelli, who represents the Canadian company Shellfish Solutions and who has 36 years experience in developing mussel production, also in offshore conditions. The practical evaluation work was done by invited expert on offshore mussel farming Mr. John Bonardelli in cooperation with project partners (Zaiga Ozolina and Ligita Kokaine from Kurzeme Planning Region; Juris Aigars and Ingrida Purina from Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology). Other participants from stakeholder groups participated in the meeting are as follows:

- Experts from Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment (BIOR);
- Participants from Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries Department, representatives from all divisions related to fisheries;
- Local expert on alternative solutions working in the sea (with experience in establishment of the existing mussel farm);
- Local fishermen who have plans to establish mussel farm in the Riga Gulf.

St. Anna – mussel farming as a new industry in Baltic Sea Broad presentation for general public, local authorities and policy makers 12 June 2018 Sweden

No further information available.

CAB Kalmar – WS on legal issues regarding mussels as feed May 2018 Sweden

The meeting attracted 16 participants and was organised in Swedish. The meeting documents are all also in Swedish only.

Licensing procedures, management guidelines for better procedures for S-H. BBG Genhignungsleitfaden 28 April 2018 in Sweden

The meeting was organised in Swedish. The meeting documents are all also in Swedish only.

Sea and coastal resources for growth 10 April 2018 in Latvia

This regional event was organised by Kurzeme Planning Region in cooperation with Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology and Riga Planning Region, with aim to overview the situation in use of sea resources in Latvia and to promote discussion about Baltic Sea and coast as resources for the blue growth. The event was organised in cooperation with two projects:

- (1) The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 project R031 Baltic Blue Growth – Initiation of full scale mussel farming in the Baltic Sea” and
- (2) The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 project R005 Smart Blue Regions.

Study visit Bohus Havsbruk 20-22 March 2018 in Sweden

The study visit attracted 12 participants. The participants were 1. representatives of the project-farms and associated mussel-farmers: Hagby, Estagar, VCO, LIAE and 2. activity leaders: Orbicon, Kalmar municipality, from the BBG-project. The hosts were commercial mussel-farm companies: Bohus Havsbruk and Scanfjord AB. The study visit was organised by Kalmar municipality. The meeting began with a visit to Bohus Havsbruks mussel-farms outside Rossö in Stigfjorden. The farm, consisting of 30 units, is an example of a full-scale net-farm. Company owners Per Persson and Katrin Persson demonstrated the work-method, workboats and pram, and we were also shown the ongoing industrial harvest with a mechanical UW-harvester. Special attention was given to how to prevent predation from eider-ducks with specially designed eider-nets.

Live WS with ODSS March 2018 in Estonia

The main aim of the meeting was to inform stakeholders about the progress of the Baltic Blue Growth activities in the project and give an overview of blue growth potential in Estonia. Several important to stakeholder's topics have been addressed like a) Blue Growth funding possibilities in Estonia, b) SWOT analysis of Blue Growth potential based on the past and present and studies, c) Mussel growth potential in coastal waters of Estonia, d) development, testing and evaluation of intensive cultivation technology for production of unattached form of *Furcellaria lumbricalis*.

Mussel cultivation - a workshop on new business opportunities Sweden 1 March 2018

This workshop took place in Malmö, Sweden on 1 March 2018. Welcome to a Danish-Swedish workshop where we will discuss the latest developments in mussel farming as an environmental measure ("environmental mussels"). There is a lot of exciting happening in the area right now, both in Denmark and in Sweden. What new business opportunities does this offer the Danish and Swedish mussel industry?

Workshop 'Policy instruments for blue mussels' with 3 other projects Sweden 9 February 2018

This workshop took place on 9 February 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden. The topic was 'Policy instruments for blue mussels' and was organised by Baltic Blue Growth together with the NutriTrade, BALTCOAST and OPTIMUS projects. The workshop tackled questions including how much blue mussels can contribute to water quality policies, how large environmental gains are, what policy instruments should be used, and how policy instruments should be designed to achieve low costs and high participation.

SE-DK WS on the future of mussel farming in the Baltic Sea, marketing opportunities for DK/south SE as one mussel producing region February 2018 in Denmark

The meeting attracted almost 30 participants and was organized in Danish – all meeting documents are also in Danish.

Requirements for potential mussel farmers – compliance of Latvian legislation for start of the mussel farming business 15 September 2017 in Latvia

The meeting attracted 22 participants, including representatives of ministries, legal institutions, NGO's, research institutes, entrepreneurs and other interested persons.

Stakeholder meeting Borgholm/Byxelkrok May 2017 in Sweden

The meeting attracted mussel farmers, fishermen, egg-producers, representatives for a local biogas-plant, as well as a local TV network and a newspaper. The meeting was held outdoors on a Sunday, in daytime without electricity. The BBG project was presented orally with help of paper posters. The main attraction was an exhibition of the mussel-farm equipment at the quay – the workboat, drilling rig, mussel-farm nets, anchors, blocks and ropes. Company Bohus havsbruk demonstrated the equipment. The method worked well, there were a lot of interest and questions from the audience. The only problem was the strong wind. People had to shout to be heard, and one or two posters blew away. We solved the problem by parking our cars in formation like a wind-shed.

Regulations for primary production of mussels for feed 28 April 2017 in Sweden

The meeting attracted 14 participants + 7 web-participants, from Swedish national and regional authorities, mussel farmers and researchers. Several Baltic Sea mussel farms were planned for harvest in 2018. The meeting discussed what routines and procedures for harvest, packing, storage and transport etc are recommended for the mussel-farmers (=the primary producers) to conduct in order to follow the EU and national feed legislation.

Stakeholder interests, MSP, licensing, compensation schemes 10 April 2017 in Estonia

The main aim of the meeting was to inform stakeholders about the Baltic Blue Growth activities in general and about the objectives and expected results of the INTERREG BSR Baltic Blue Growth project in particular and to receive the necessary feedback on the prospects of success of the Baltic Sea Blue Mussel farming. Several important to stakeholder's topics have been addressed like a) ecology and biology of the Baltic Blue Mussel, b) the farmers' view on the Baltic Blue Mussel farming, c) the application of the Operational Decision Support System to the Baltic Sea regional Blue Mussel farming information exchange and management support, and d) coordination of cooperation between fisheries and the aquaculture sectors by Estonian Fisheries Information Centre.

Mussel farming as a tool to improve water quality 30 March 2017 in Latvia

The meeting attracted local municipalities, entrepreneurs and other interested persons. As this was the first meeting within the project in Latvia, to introduce the stakeholders with the project objectives, planned activities and outputs, presentation was the main method. After presentations was discussion (fruitful and very active). Fact sheet was high evaluated by both municipalities and entrepreneurs.

Public informative meeting Germany 16 March 2017

Based on the stakeholder mapping list all relevant stakeholder groups were invited in a two-stage process to the meeting by PP8 (1. save the date, 2. invitation with agenda), but especially the sectors of tourism, spatial planning and environmental protection/ ngo were missing. Representatives of the sectors fishery, research, licensing (shipping agency, authorities for aquaculture and nature conservation) as well as representatives of lobby organisations participated in the meeting. The meeting consisted of 4 talks and a bigger discussion at the end, no group work was conducted. The presentations informed about a) the project, overall targets and work packages, b) the farm, location and experiences in growth and harvest, c) planned environmental monitoring linked to the farm, and d) stakeholder involvement and planned steps in the project. The guided discussion was a good method to involve the participants and to show their views and needs. Additionally, a questionnaire was passed out to get personal information on the project topics and personal perceptions. 18 participants filled in the questionnaire form.

Mussel production to compensate for nutrient load in Danish waters, Denmark 22 February 2017

The day was set up with 5 presentations covering: 1) the BBG project. 2) State of the art with regard to mussel production as a way to compensate for nutrient load, and how we can use that to achieve good environmental state (Introduction to the MuMiPro innovation project). 3) Legislation within the areas of mussel production as a way to compensate for nutrient load into Danish waters. 4) Region strategy for blue growth. 5) state of the art- knowledge on mussel production technology and the market for mussels. All these talks gave room for interesting discussions during the entire day, and there was time after each talk to ask questions and discuss the topics.