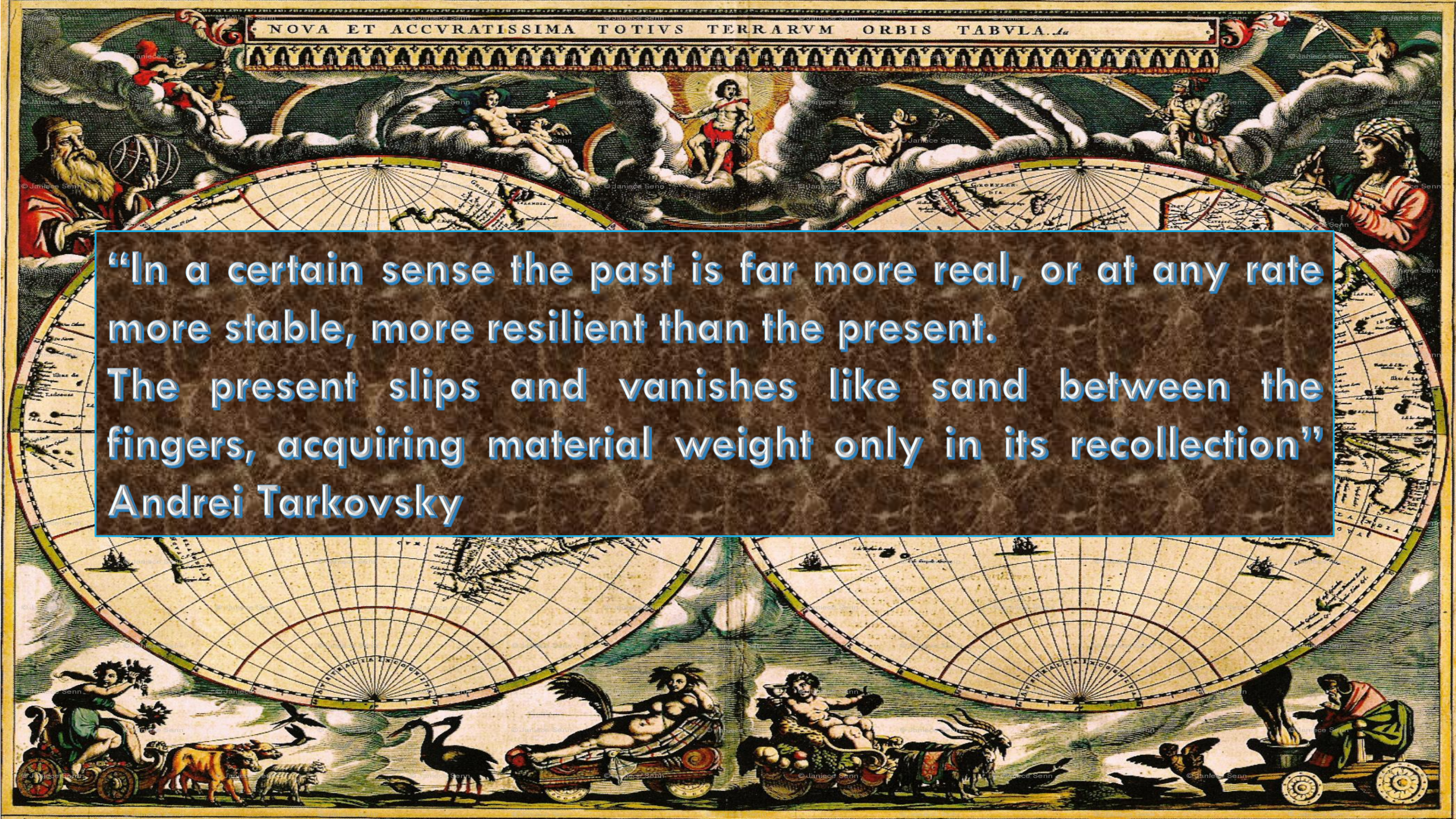


DOES EUROPEAN FRESHWATER AQUACULTURE HAVE A FUTURE?

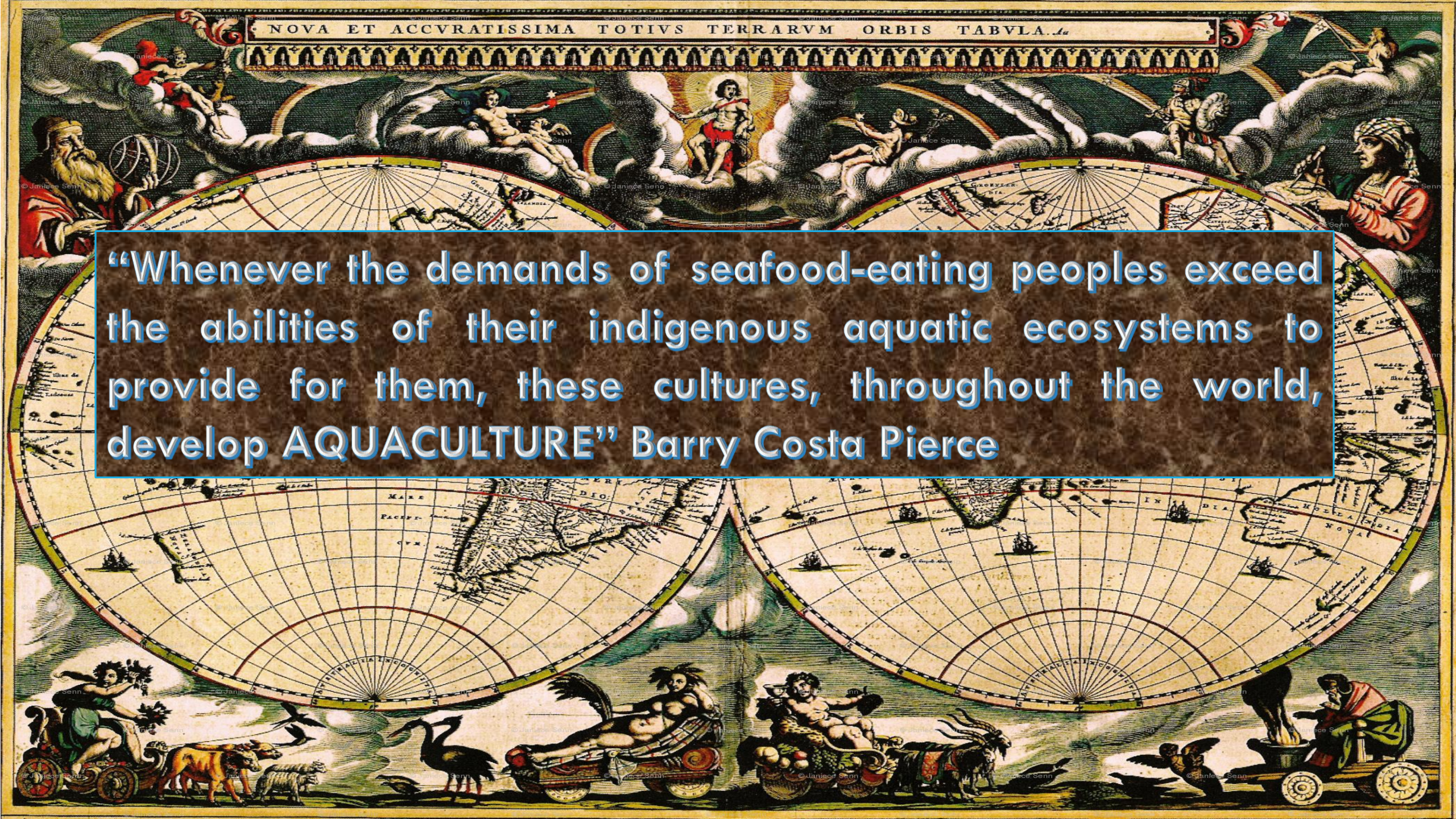
Catalin PLATON – ROMFISH



“In a certain sense the past is far more real, or at any rate more stable, more resilient than the present. The present slips and vanishes like sand between the fingers, acquiring material weight only in its recollection”
Andrei Tarkovsky

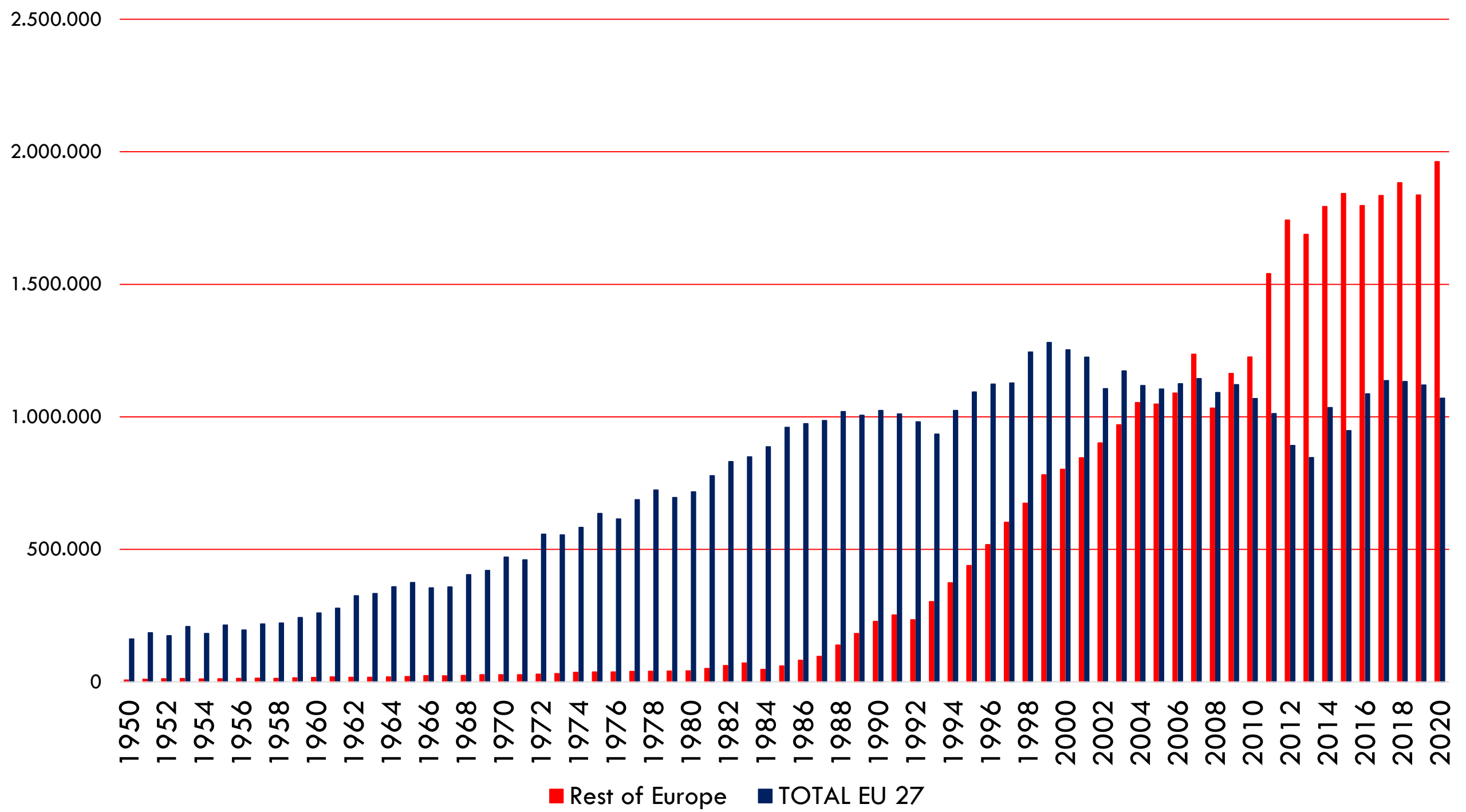


“Whenever the demands of seafood-eating peoples exceed the abilities of their indigenous aquatic ecosystems to provide for them, these cultures, throughout the world, develop AQUACULTURE” Barry Costa Pierce

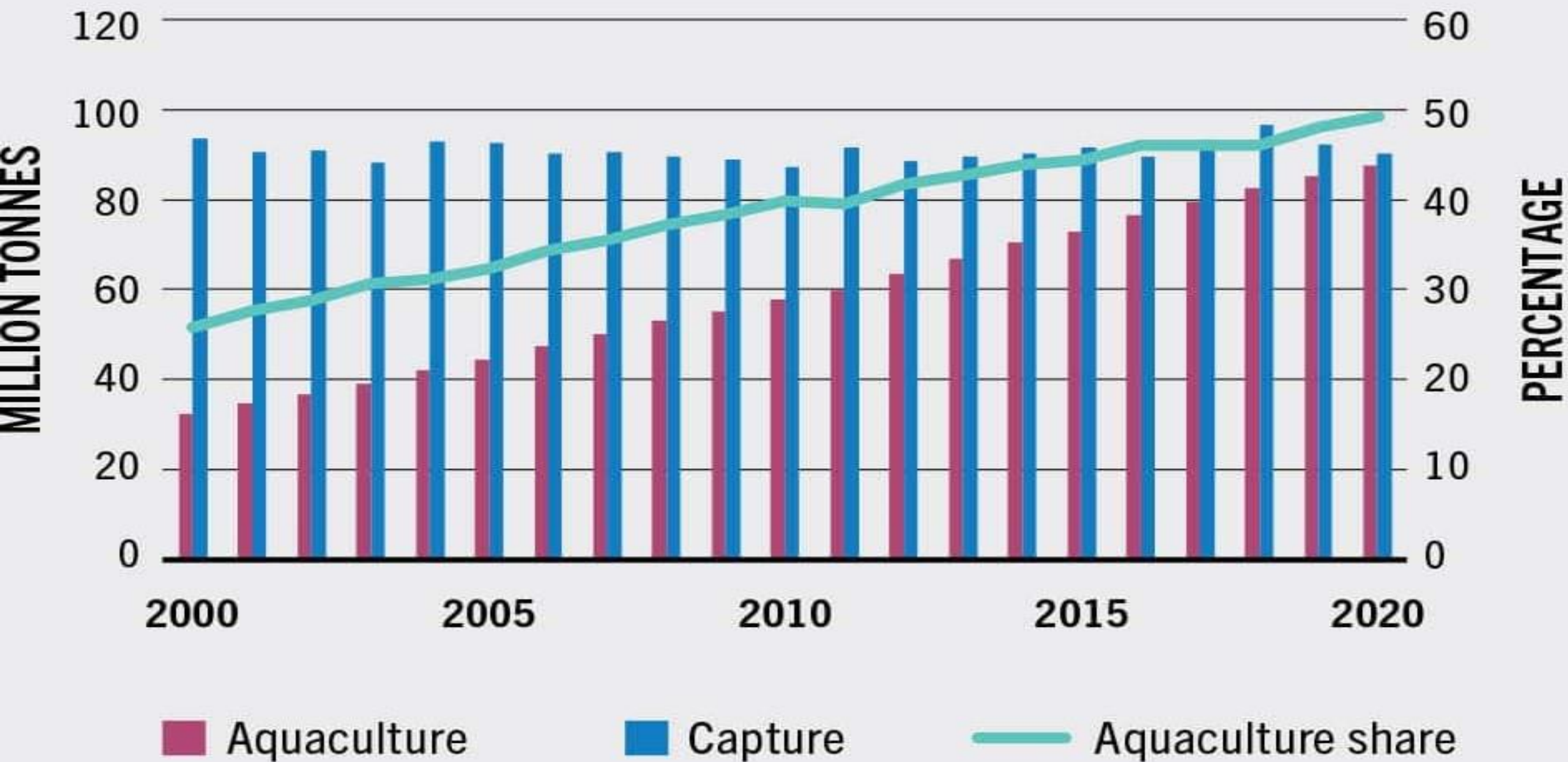


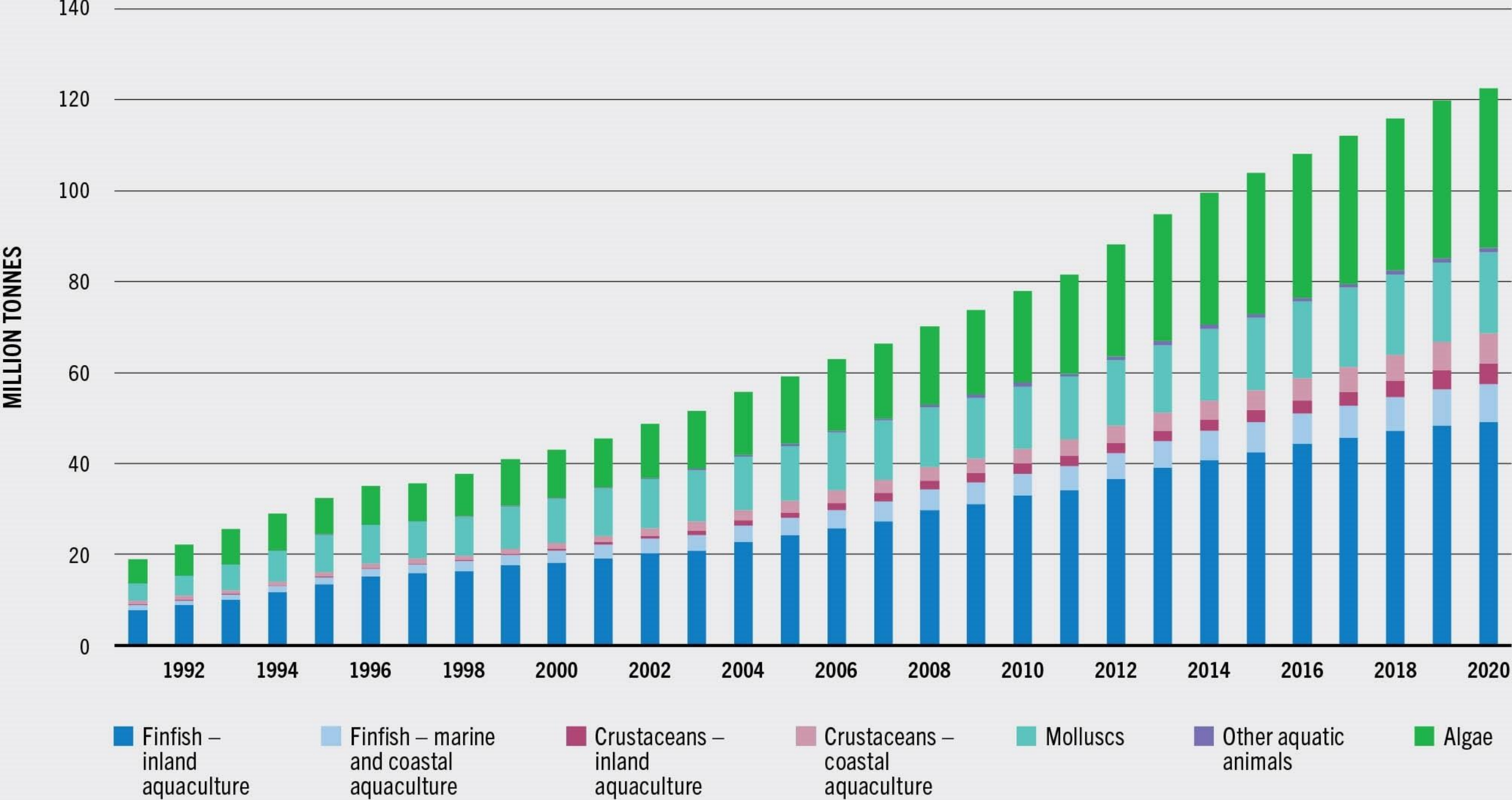
- China – Fan Lai (473 BC)
- Etruscans – Vallicultura (200 BC)
- Roman Empire - Varro, Columella, Sergius Orata (36 BC/50 AD/95 AD)
- Charlemagne (812 AD)
- Hungary – Komarom and Szegeged ponds (X)
- England (1086) – William the Conqueror in Domesday Book orders the registration of the properties of his kingdom
- Poland – Zator ponds (XI), O. Strumienski (1573)
- Bohemia (1115) – Kladrubby Monastery – Charles IV (1355) – Dubravius (1559)
- Transilvania/Valachia/Moldova (1247 - 1420)
- France: 12th – 13 th century – Valois (1160), Dombes (1258)
- Germany – Regensburg – Hildergard von Bingen (XI-XII)
- Sweden – Petrus Magni (1520)

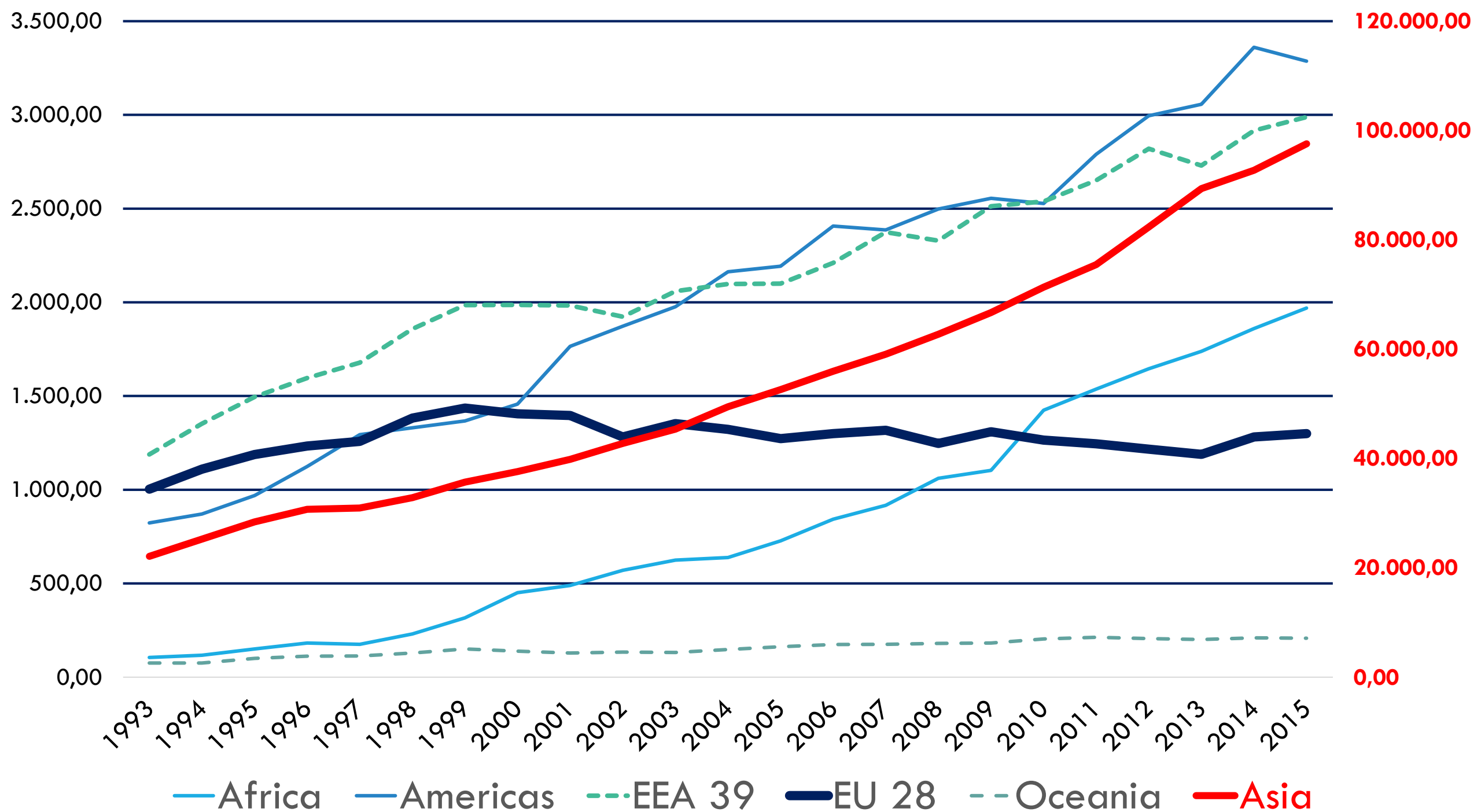


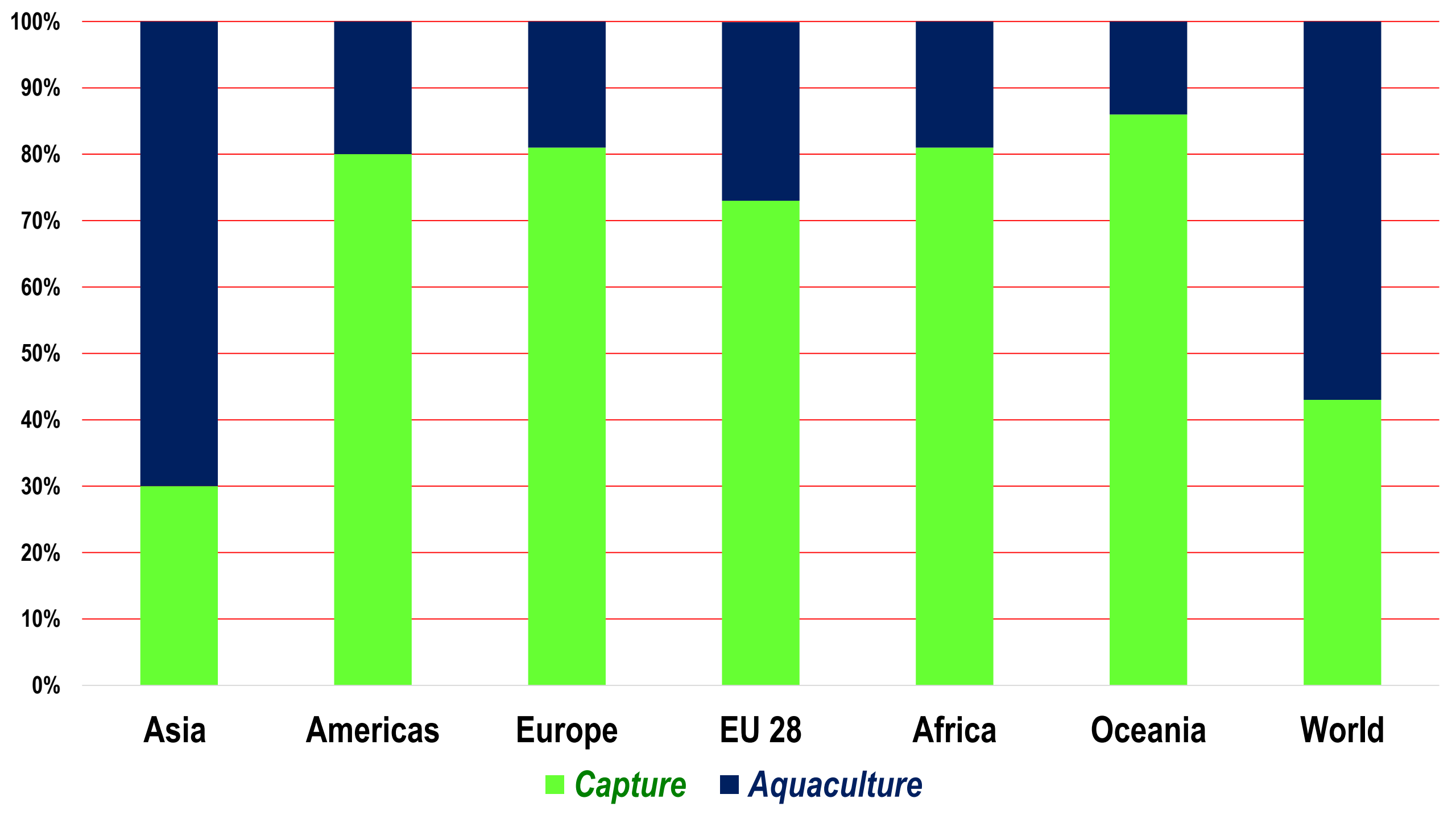


WORLD



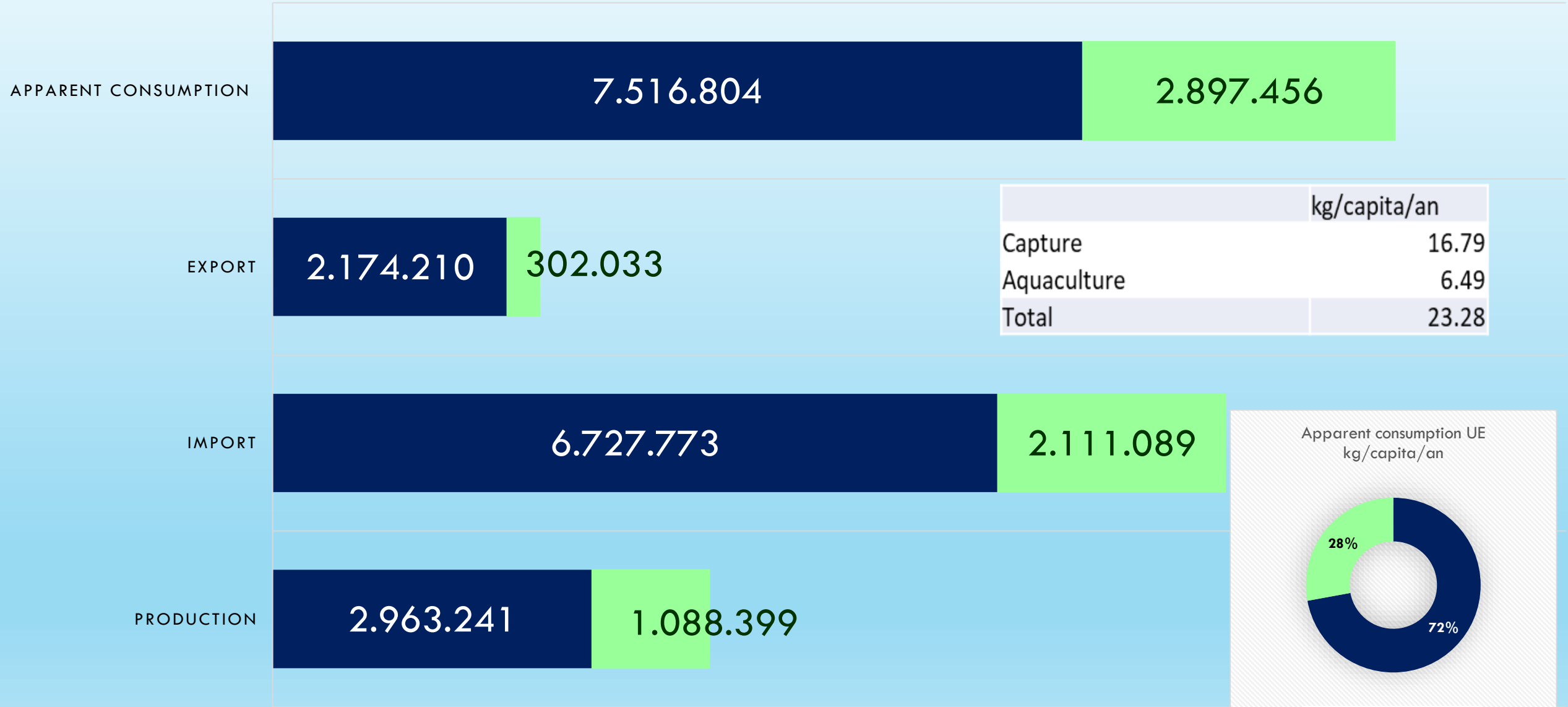




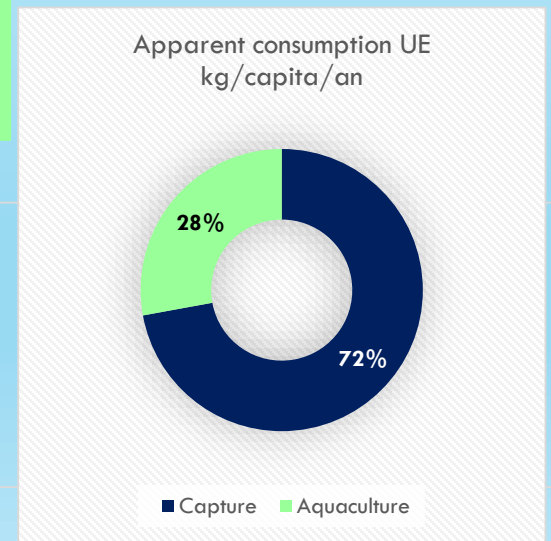


APPARENT CONSUMPTION UE (TO)

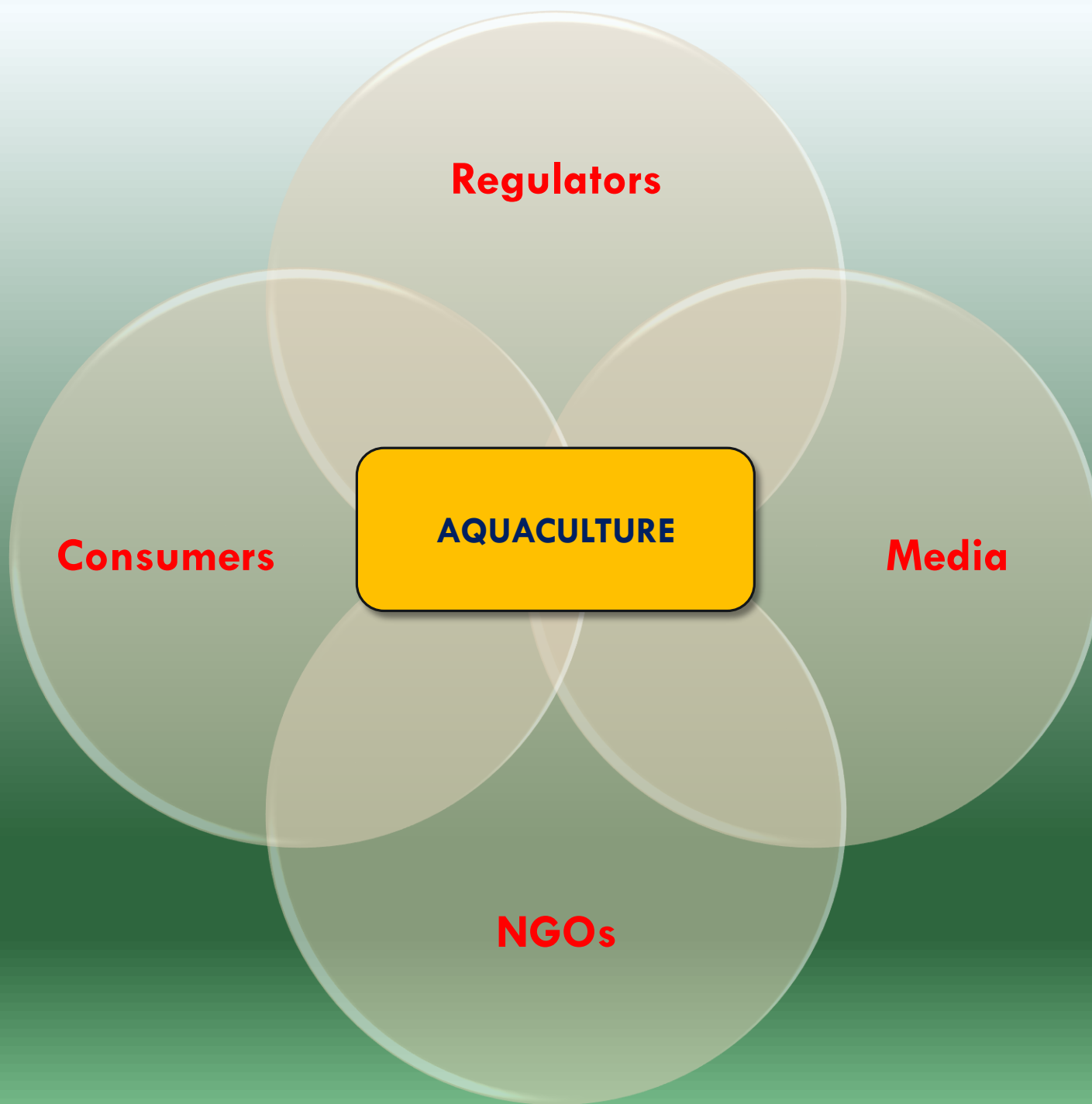
■ Capture ■ Aquaculture



kg/capita/an	
Capture	16.79
Aquaculture	6.49
Total	23.28







Regulators

Consumers

AQUACULTURE

Media

NGOs

REGULATION

- **Strategic Guidelines for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2013)**
 - ✓ Simplify administrative procedures
 - ✓ Securing sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning
- **Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030**
 - ✓ Regulatory and administrative framework
 - ✓ Access to space and water
 - ❖ Aquaculture Advisory Council <https://aac-europe.org/en/>
 - ❖ The EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism <https://aquaculture.ec.europa.eu>
 - Guidance documents on: Access to Space (marine, freshwater, land based)
 - Good practices on regulatory and administrative procedures in aquaculture
 - Sectoral climate adaptation plans and strategies
 - Environmental performance in the aquaculture sector
- **Terminology related to aquaculture**

KEY ISSUES STILL IN DEBATE

TFEU Article 38

“1. The Union shall define and implement a common agriculture and fisheries policy.

The internal market shall extend to agriculture, fisheries and trade in agricultural products. "Agricultural products" means the products of the soil, of stock farming and of fisheries and products of first-stage processing directly related to these products. References to the common agricultural policy or to agriculture, and the use of the term "agricultural", shall be understood as also referring to fisheries, having regard to the specific characteristics of this sector.”

Article 39

“1. The objectives of the common agricultural policy shall be:

(a) to increase agricultural productivity by promoting technical progress and by ensuring the rational development of agricultural production and the optimum utilisation of the factors of production, in particular labour;

(b) thus to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of persons engaged in agriculture;

(c) to stabilise markets;

(d) to assure the availability of supplies;

(e) to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices”

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

“Launched in 1962, the EU’s common agricultural policy (CAP) is a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers. It aims to:

- support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;
- safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;
- help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;
- keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors.”

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

“Farming is unlike most other businesses, as the following special considerations apply:

- despite the importance of food production, farmers’ income is around 40% lower compared to non-agricultural income;
- agriculture depends more on the weather and the climate than many other sectors;
- there is an inevitable time gap between consumer demand and farmers being able to supply – growing more wheat or producing more milk inevitably takes time.
- While being cost-effective, farmers should work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, and maintain our soils and biodiversity”

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

“Business uncertainties and the environmental impact of farming justify the significant role that the public sector plays for our farmers. The CAP takes action with the following measures:

- **income support through direct payments** ensures income stability, and remunerates farmers for environmentally friendly farming and delivering public services not normally paid for by the markets, such as taking care of the countryside;
- **market measures** to deal with difficult market situations such as a sudden drop in demand due to a health scare, or a fall in prices as a result of a temporary oversupply on the market;
- **rural development measures** with national and regional programmes to address the specific needs and challenges facing rural areas.”

AAC RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CFP/CMO TARGETED CONSULTATIONS

“In the meantime, the CFP should be renamed the common fishery and aquaculture policy (CFAP);”

“Priority should be given to including an Eco Scheme, Areas Facing Natural Constraints (ANCs) and an organic Farming Scheme for aquaculture in the CFAP and, subsequently, schemes for Early-Stage Support for Producer Organisations, On-farm Capital Investment, Complimentary Income Support for Young Farmers and a Knowledge-Transfer Programme.”

COMMUNICATION

➤ Environmental issues

❖ AAC Recommendation on the Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR)

- “The AAC is concerned that most fish farmers have no insight into the product environmental footprint life cycle assessment. For this reason, the AAC requests that the Technical Screening of the PEFCR or the European Commission draft a document that explains the concept, how it will work and the relations with other initiatives on sustainability (including the taxonomy regulation’s technical screening criteria, STECF’s criteria and indicators to incorporate sustainability aspects for seafood products in the marketing standards under the Common Market Organisation, ASC’s certification scheme, etc.) and with the marketing standards of the Common Market Organisation in fishery and aquaculture products”

COMMUNICATION

➤ Biodiversity

- **AAC Recommendation on EU Aquaculture Values** “As a consequence of its complexity, aquaculture displays a wide range of values, and there is no species, system, type or region that delivers all of the values at their best, as there is always room for improvement for each specific case. As aquaculture targets sustainable development and sustainability is based upon at least three main pillars: ecosystemic viability, economic robustness and socio-cultural consonance, some aquacultures show different degrees of meeting one or more of these criteria.”
- **AAC Recommendation on the provision of ecosystem services by European aquaculture** “Research carried out in the last few years identified 41 potential ecosystem services (10 provisioning, 20 regulating and maintenance, 11 cultural) that aqua-ecosystems can provide”
 - 1) “Provide appropriate regulation and support for ecosystem services of pond, lagoon and estuary fish farming (in line with the EU biodiversity strategy);
 - 2) Provide specific support to maintain the functionality of pond, lagoon and estuary farms to preserve wetland;
 - 3) Provide specific support for recoupling short rural-urban food webs and local markets to sustain biodiversity at the local level;
 - 4) Finance research on ecosystem services provided by pond, lagoon and estuary fish farming”

COMMUNICATION

➤ **Animal welfare**

❖ AAC Recommendation on Fish Welfare at Slaughter

An EU Animal Welfare Reference Centre to be tasked with:

- Consolidating knowledge base and identifying best practices
- Identifying and prioritising knowledge gaps
- Ensuring efficacy of commercially available stunning equipment
- Validating efficacy of best management practices”

❖ Animal welfare until the slaughter

COMMUNICATION

➤ Transparency

- ❖ Recommendation on Consumer Information “Finds that inadequate and misleading consumer information on aquatic food products frequently takes place in the hotel, restaurant, and catering segment (HoReCa).
 - Concludes that the key problems are: [...] 2) **defrosted products are sold as fresh**; [...] 4) **farmed fish are sold as captured fish**;[...].”
- ❖ Communication campaigns about how farmed aquatic products are grown and what are we doing in the farm

Communication 

Goals 



Creativity

TEAMWORK



Collaboration 



Leadership

Research



Vision

Objectives

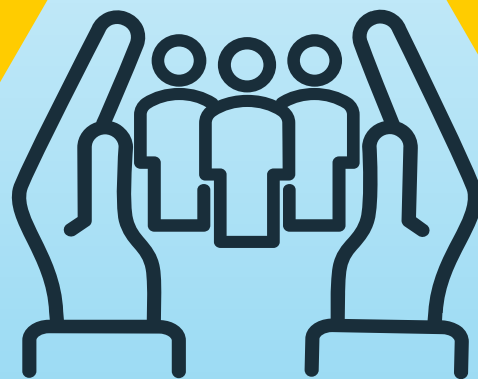


Costs

Time



Objectives



Costs

Time

Thank you for your patience!



Selective bibliography

1. Beike, M. (2014). *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* in Europe-indigenous or introduced? (S. Ruuskanen, Ed.) *Ornis Fennica*, 91(1), pg. 48-56;
2. Costa-Pierce, B. A. (2010). Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture Systems: The Need for a New Social Contract for Aquaculture Development. 44(3), pg. 88-112;
3. Eurostat processed data 2023;
4. Giurescu, C. C. (1964). *Istoria pescuitului și a pisciculturii în România (Vol. I)*. București: Editura Academiei R.P.R;
5. Nash, E. C. (2011). *The history of aquaculture*. Ames, Iowa, USA: Wiley-Blackwell;
6. Rabanal, H. R. (1988). *History of Aquaculture*. ASEAN/UNDP/FAO Regional Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries Development Project, Manila;
7. Svanberg, Ingvar. Bond, James. Cios, Stanisław. Hofmeister, Erik. Bonow, Madeleine. Hufthammer, Anne Karin. Moe, Dagfinn. (2016). *Historical aquaculture in Northern Europe*. (M. Bonow, H. Olsén, & I. Svanberg, Ed.) Stockholm: Södertörn University;
8. FAO. 2022. *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022. Towards Blue Transformation*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0461en>;
9. Hoffmann C.R., Winiwarter V. (2010). Making Land and Water Meet: The Cycling of Nutrients between Fields and Ponds in Pre-Modern Europe in *Agricultural History*, Vol. 84, No. 3 (SUMMER 2010), pp. 352-380;
10. European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products- THE EU FISH MARKET - 2022 Edition;
11. https://commission.europa.eu/index_en