

German Licensing processes for mussel farming in the Baltic Sea

Introduction

Since 2013, aquaculture has been an integral part of the common European Union fisheries policy. However, no unified European-wide aquaculture permission system exists. Rather than one particular aquaculture authority, several authorities are concerned with aquaculture matters in most European Member States. In Germany, these include the fisheries, environmental and coastal protection authorities, as well as administrative offices of waterways and veterinary inspection offices.

At least four permits are required for mussel cultivation in German Baltic coastal waters. Depending on the product and farm location, additional permits may be required, meaning that mussel farmers often need to apply for at least four permits.

So far, mussel farming in the Baltic Sea has not gone beyond the experimental scale. The Baltic Blue Growth project aims to advance Baltic Sea mussel farming to full-scale by clarifying legal and regulatory aspects for mussel farming. This factsheet provides an overview of the possible permit procedures and their application requirements in Germany. At least half of all permits mentioned in this factsheet directly implement European law, which is valid in all European Member States equally. However, due to European federalism, the implementation of European law in national laws is organised by all Member States individually and accordingly, the aquaculture permit system differs significantly between Member States, as well as between regions.

Necessary application documents

General

- Applicant information (contact details, website, VAT number)
- Business registration
- Certificate of good conduct
- Commercial register entry
- Extract from the trade register

Mussel production information

- Project description (farmed species, use/product, production technique and harvesting yield, anchorage, maintenance, everyday work, harvest, drawing)
- Installation description (intention of use, construction costs)
- Description of the working boat/aquaculture vessel (number of boats, name, number, dimension, hp, vessel berth)
- Winter storage of farm equipment

Location description

- Location description in detail, e.g. coordinates; dimensions; water body; water depth; environmental description, distance to: coast, harbour, protected areas, species & biotopes; seafloor material, general plan (suggested is: 1:5000 overview map with farm location in red, north & current arrows), and site plan.
- Evidence: free from explosive ordnance
- Water quality data (microbiology, algae toxins, contaminants – if available)

Nature and marine conservation issues

- Description of compliance with WFD and MSFD goals (obligatory report)
- Description of potential impact in nature and landscape and the measures to avoid/minimise impacts
- Compensation concept for remaining impact




Risk assessment

- Description and evaluation of potential farm damage/accident
- Description of expected user conflicts and measures to avoid/minimise these conflicts

- Risk evaluation for sea ice appearance
- Mussel disease (Marteiliosis) risk assessment (evaluation of the potential of Marteiliosis infection in the planned area; description of avoidance measures to prevent disease spreading)

Biocertification

- Description of separation of conventional production (if parallel to organic production at your site)
- Description of neighbouring conventionally used areas (if suitable)
- Sustainability plan (eventually in form of a biological report)

Mussel farming permission obligations in the Schleswig-Holstein Baltic Sea									
Product									
	food			feed			biofilter / nutrient recycling		
Permit	Location								
	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III
River & Shipping Police Permit*	A	A		A	A		A	A	
Fisheries Permit*	B	B		B	B		B	B	
Coastal Protection Installation Evaluation*	C	C		C	C		C	C	
Aquatic Animal Disease Permit* (authorisation/ registration)	D	E	F	D	E	F	D	E	F
Mussel Production Area Classification (Food Law Permit)	D	G	H						
Animal by Product Authorisation				D	E	F			
Feed Production Authorisation				J	J	J			
Offshore Installation Permit			K			K			K
Appropriate Assessment	(L)	(M)	(O)	(L)	(M)	(O)	(L)	(M)	(O)
Biotope Protection Assessment	(L)	(N)	(O)	(L)	(N)	(O)	(L)	(N)	(O)
Species Protection Assessment	(N)	(N)	(O)	(N)	(N)	(O)	(N)	(N)	(O)
Impact Assessment	(B)	(B)	(O)	(B)	(B)	(O)	(B)	(B)	(O)
Organic Production Certification**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Legend: I (municipalised waters (fjords, harbours)); II (coastal waters (12 nm)); III (German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (200 nm)); "(O)" (permission eventually needed, decided on a case by case basis); *obligatory permission, **if organic certification is planned

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Competent authorities:

A Wasserstraßen- und Schiffsamt Lübeck
Moltkeplatz 17
23566 Lübeck

B Ministerium für Energiewende, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt, Natur und Digitalisierung des Landes Schleswig-Holstein
Referat „Grundsatzangelegenheiten des gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutzes und des Veterinärwesens, Fischerei, Absatzförderung von Lebensmitteln, Gartenbau“
Mercatorstraße 3
24106 Kiel

C Landesbetrieb für Küstenschutz, Nationalpark und Meeresschutz Schleswig-Holstein
Fachbereich Koordination und Vollzug
Herzog-Adolf-Str. 1
25813 Husum

D veterinary authority (districts & district free cities)

E Ministerium für Energiewende, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt, Natur und Digitalisierung des Landes Schleswig-Holstein
Referat Veterinärwesen
Mercatorstraße 7
24106 Kiel

F Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft
Wilhelmstraße 54
11055 Berlin

G Ministerium für Justiz, Europa, Verbraucherschutz und Gleichstellung in Schleswig-Holstein
Referat Lebensmittel tierischer Herkunft
Lorentzendam 35
24103 Kiel

H Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz
Mohrenstraße 37
10117 Berlin

J Landeslabor Schleswig-Holstein
Amtliche Futtermittelüberwachung
Max-Eyth-Straße 5
24537 Neumünster

K Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie
Bernhard-Nocht-Straße 78
20359 Hamburg

L competent lower nature conservation authorities (districts & district free cities)

M Ministerium für Energiewende, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt, Natur und Digitalisierung des Landes Schleswig-Holstein
Referat Meeresschutz und Nationalpark
Mercatorstraße 3
24106 Kiel

N Landesamt für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume
Department 5: Nature Protection and Forest
Hamburger Chaussee 25
24220 Flintbek

O Bundesamt für Naturschutz
Konstantinstr. 110
53179 Bonn

P eco certification body

Table 1: Required permits and competent authorities.

Practical hints for farmers

- Obtaining the obligatory permits will take at least six months to be granted, and often even one year for a new classification of a mussel production area. Depending on the product, the original conditions and the location influence the length of the period during which the permit is valid.
- Mussels for human consumption require the most expensive and time-consuming permits, with costs of approximately 30.000 EUR and a minimum of 1-year data collection for water and mussel quality analysis is required. It is therefore important to start with the permit process as early as possible.
- It is crucial for prospective farmers to contact the authorities prior to starting the application process, and to use the detailed version of their licensing manual.
- Most authorities offer help and guidance – prospective farmers should ask for it directly.
- Consultants may help with coordinating permit procedure.
- Direct personal contact and organised to support with the process are not obligatory but are very helpful tools to make the permit process short, less cost intensive and as efficient as possible. meetings application
- Acquire a potential mussel considering its productive, ecological as well as economical aspects. Consider already existing classified mussel production areas (food law), if possible. farm location
- Develop your application as complete and as detailed as possible. Consider all aspects with equal diligence. Use this accurate for all permissions and apply simultaneously. This saves time, avoids delays and allows all authorities the same project knowledge. application
- Consider the permission costs and the eventually necessary analysis costs (food mussels) in your business plan.
- The permission process is ongoing and is not finished with the granted permission.
- Keep in mind all permissions additional requirement. In case of time limited permissions, apply for permission extension in due time.

THE
PROJECT

This factsheet has been elaborated by the Baltic Blue Growth project. The aim of Baltic Blue Growth is to advance mussel farming in the Baltic Sea from experimental to full scale to improve the water quality and to create blue growth in the feed industry. 18 partners from 7 countries are participating, with representatives from regional and national authorities, research institutions, private companies. The project is coordinated by Region Östergötland (Sweden) and has a total budget of € 4.7 million. It is a flagship project under the Policy Area "Nutri" of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR).



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