

## PRESS RELEASE

An public workshop, co-organized by Cyprus Subsea Consulting and Services (C.S.C.S.) Ltd and Maritime Institute of the Eastern Mediterranean (Mar.In.EM), with the topic of Offshore Aquaculture in the Eastern Mediterranean was held with the support of the Municipality of Larnaca, on Friday 30 June 2017, at the House of Literature and Arts, in Larnaca. The main objective of this workshop was to discuss the feasibility to transform the aquaculture industry for offshore operations with the aims of sustainability and economic growth. The speakers and attendees discussed the possibility of increased production, in order to cover the demand in fishery products for the next few decades, while keeping in mind limitations of natural resources, ecosystem health and commercial fishing.

After CSCS Managing Director Daniel Hayes opened the workshop, the Mayor of Larnaca, Mr. Andreas Vyras addressed the importance of Blue Growth initiatives for the sustainable development of Larnaca and underlined the contribution of aquaculture in this roadmap. He welcomed the organisers, the technology experts, the governmental officials as well as industry stakeholders and scientists present.

Mr. Zacharias Siokouros, President of the Mar.In.EM., welcomed participants and mentioned the importance of aquaculture in the well being of human societies, the benefit for the economy and related sectors and finally addressed the initiatives that Mar.In.EM coordinates in support of science and technology in the marine and maritime sectors.

The Director of DFMR Ms. Marina Argyrou outlined the implementation of the European law regarding fisheries, aquaculture and environment, as well as contributions of the department to the Marine Spatial Planning and Marine Strategy Framework Directives.

Mr. Daniel Esser, New Business Director with Kongsberg Maritime, Norway, presented the technological advancements that KM implements at operational level within other projects; aquaculture included. Special guest, Mr Tonny Argroy, from KM Simrad, outlined the development of sonar technology for use in underwater science, commercial fishery and more recently, aquaculture industries. He presented an integrated approach that KM Simrad products can offer in fulfilling real industry needs. Special attention has been spent by participants for the biomass estimation techniques and the feed monitoring and management automated systems.

The second part of the workshop outlined the local practices and the current situation of the industry. Fish farmers, represented by the President of their Association, Mr. Antonis Kimonides of Kimagro Fish Farming Ltd, outlined the importance of the sector and the high quality of aquaculture products that are produced in Cyprus. It was noted that antibiotics are not at all used in Cyprus, which gives Cypriot aquaculture products an advantage over organic-certified farmed fish of other regions. Mr. Kimonides identified possible issues that should be taken in account during planning offshore expansion.

Officers from DFMR presented the approach that government takes in developing the aquaculture sector. Mr. Vassilis Papadopoulos, head of the Aquaculture Division in DFMR described the position aquaculture takes in the context of the DFMR mission and provided valuable data on technical issues, as well as policy making and future planning. Ms. Melina Marcou of the Marine Environment Division of

DFMR described the environmental monitoring requirements and discussed the connection with other EU and National policies. A special presentation on training and education for aquaculture was presented by the coordinator of the EU project “MENTOR” Prof. Georgios Georgiou, director of the Oceanography Center, University of Cyprus.

Besides open questions and answers during the workshop, it was finalized by a dedicated discussion on local issues relevant to those presented by speakers. The workshop brought together governmental officials, technology experts, researchers, scientists, marine environmental consultants, shipping experts and the general public, all discussing aquaculture issues from different points of views. It was a promising next step for the future development of aquaculture in the Eastern Mediterranean.

On behalf of CSCS and MarInEM, we thank the Municipality of Larnaca and DFMR for supporting the Workshop. Special credits to Kongsberg Maritime for the chance to partner with local companies for the promotion of marine and maritime technology, in service of fisheries and aquaculture sciences.

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