Fisheries Law and Regulations

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Limitations on access to land and water

- MoFAL declares leasing fee guidelines and rent aquaculture area both in seas and fresh waters.Permits for logistic or shore facilities (jetties, service areas, etc.) for mariculture are granted by the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning at provincial level per Coastal Law No. 3621, Law on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets No. 2863 and the Regulation on Implementation of Coastal Law.

- Most of the coastal areas, particularly in the Aegean Sea, have been declared natural/historic sites, and fish farms or shore bases cannot be found in or around these areas (Principle Decision High Council of Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets Concerning Fisheries production and Aquaculture Premises at Natural/Historic Sites – No. 725). This is one of the major limitations for accessing land and water for aquaculture production.

- The other constraints, as outlined by Aquaculture Regulation No. 25507, are:

- Distance between cage farms is determined by the Central Aquaculture Department according to criteria such as projected annual production capacity, water depth and current speed. Distance between tuna cage farms, and tuna and other fish farms may not be less than two kilometers, and less than one kilometer between other fish farms.

- In freshwater cages, a minimum distance of 250 meters is required.

- Minimum annual production capacities of farms are set up by the Aquaculture Department in order to ration use of the area. Currently minimum capacity for a cage farm is 25 mt/y in freshwater and 250 mt/y in marine waters.

- Cage sites offshore, on open coast, or outside the enclosed bays and gulfs should have a minimum depth of 40 m of water. However, the Aquaculture Department may allocate sites for cage farming that has a depth less than 40 m, taking into account the capacity of the farm, water depth, current speed, and the intended production system/technology.