

FISHERIES SERVICES

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Slovakia as an inland country does not practice marine fishing. We do not have any fishing vessels and ports. Nonetheless we are able to forward information on services provided to aquaculture and processing. The standing of the fisheries sector in the national economy can be expressed by contribution to the GDP; fisheries contribute with a share of 0.002 %. The employment in the sector constitutes a negligible part of the inhabitants employed in Slovakia (0.00075 %) and due to dispersion its relevance within the national economy is very marginal.

Services

Research – is provided by public authorities, we have the Slovak Center of Agricultural Research, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Research institute is financed as a public body. Considering its size (2 researchers engaged in fisheries research) the tasks are very limited, research is directed to participation on international projects without practical contribution for breeders, oriented to serve whole society (e.g. conservation of sturgeon on Danube river, conservation of original Danube carp Sazan).

All individual requests for research services in research (other than officially approved research tasks) made by private companies are financed by these companies.

Veterinary services – according to the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. on veterinary care, the following services are provided by the State Veterinary Administration:

- Approval of the establishments (food business operators) and approval of fish farms
- Control of hygienic rules in establishments and in retailers' chain
- The National plan for the residue control in live animals and animal products in the Slovak Republic
- Regular controls for protection of animal health and protection of animals for production of live freshwater fish for direct human consumption and for breeding – 2 x a year, when the water temperature reaches 10-12 °C
- Special controls in the case of diseases

All other veterinary services are provided on commercial bases by members of the Slovak Veterinary Chamber and fish farmers can not apply for any cost recovery scheme for recovery of costs connected to veterinary services.

Fuel services – fish farmers can take advantage of lower rate of excise duty on diesel fuel. According to Act No. 239/2001 Coll. on the excise duty on mineral oils taxpayers in agricultural production (that means also fish farmers) pay lower rate of excise tax on fuel for machines used for production or services in agricultural production - diesel fuel; in 2005 in the amount of SKK 6,800 (194 EUR)/1,000 litres. Compared to the general tax rate (SKK 14,500 (414 EUR)/1,000 litres) the rate is reduced by 53%.

Flat tax – Since 2004, Slovakia introduced a bold tax reform -- flat tax at the rate of 19% for personal and corporate income taxes. Moreover, the standard and the lower VAT rates were unified at 19%. Fish farmers and processing companies do not have any exemptions.

Re-training – we do not provide any services concerning re-training nor we have knowledge about this kind of services specialized for fish farmers.

Use of water – according to Act No. 364/2004 Coll. on waters, water used in and discharged from the fish farms is not deemed to be used water. Inlet and exploitation of the surface and underground water in fish farms is not subject to payment.

All other services mentioned in the examples are not relevant for the Slovak Republic or we can not provide any information in that connection.

The Slovak market for fisheries and aquaculture products is liberalised and open. The fisheries sector does not benefit from the direct State aid, the only possibility for fish farmers and processing companies is support from the European Fisheries Fund (previous FIFG).