



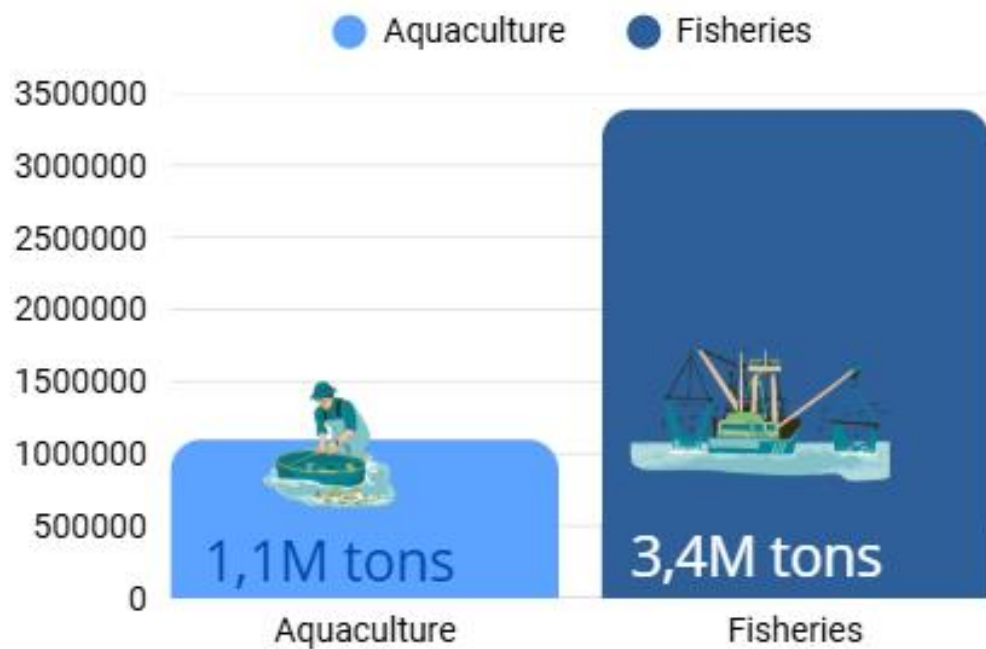
CIRCALGAE: key findings and perspectives

24 June 2026 | European Parliament

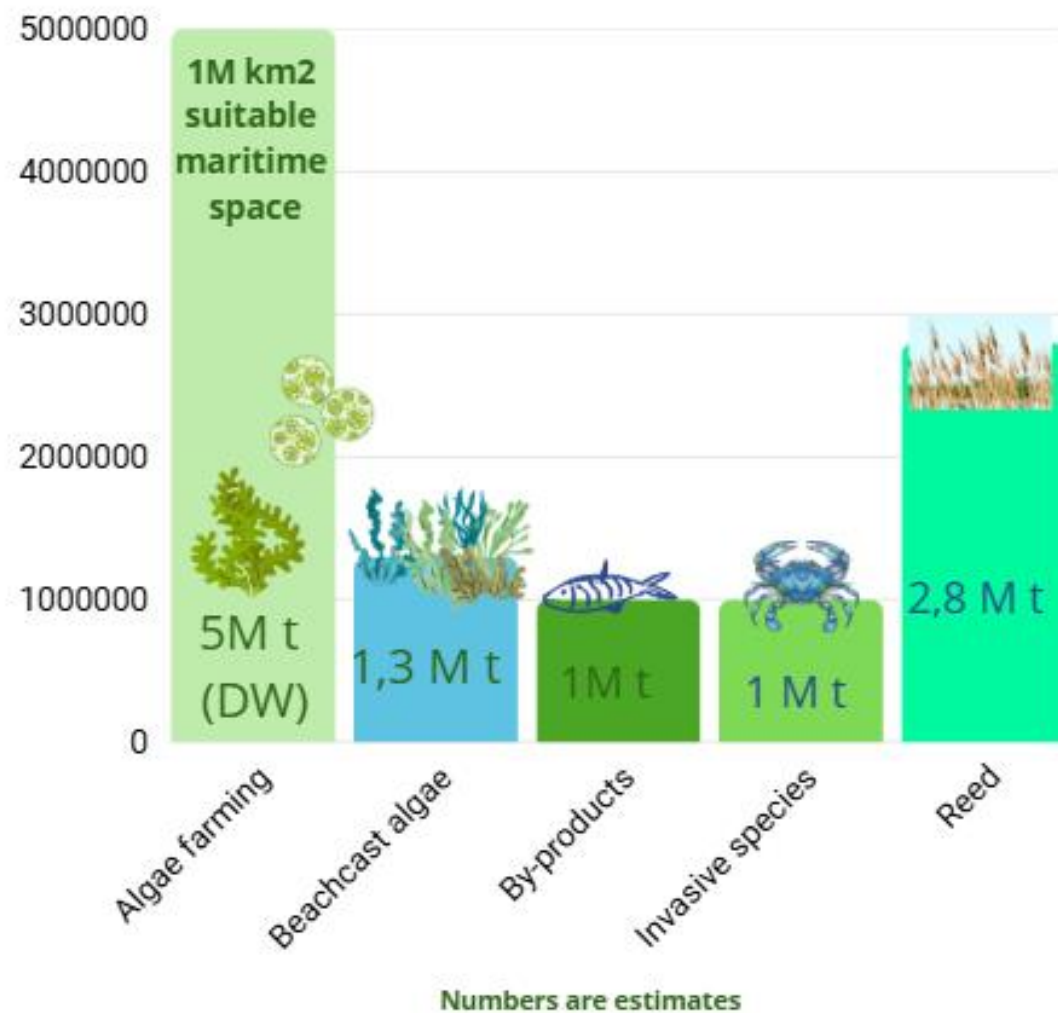
Blue bioeconomy and biotechnology: Policy context and the way forward

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Fisheries and aquaculture



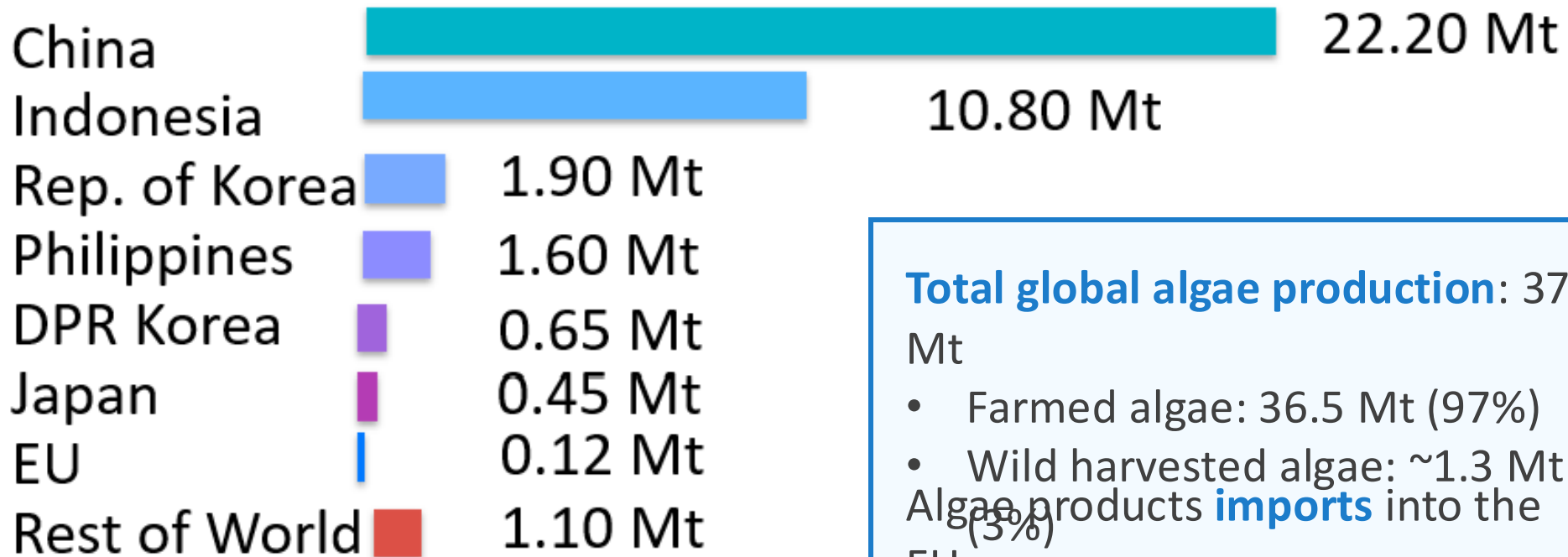
EU Blue Bioeconomy





EU algae production: potential vs reality

Global Algae Production, 2022 (FAO)



Total global algae production: 37.8 Mt

- Farmed algae: 36.5 Mt (97%)
- Wild harvested algae: ~1.3 Mt (3%)

Algae products **imports** into the EU:

- **2018** => EUR 500 million
- **2022** => EUR 850 million



Overview of recent EU-level developments in the blue bioeconomy and algae policy space

European Ocean Pact (2025)

- Provides a coherent EU framework for ocean governance and the transition to a regenerative blue economy that restores ocean health while generating economic and social value.
- Announces EU actions to **scale up European algae production**, launch of a **Blue Bioeconomy Innovation Initiative (BlueBIP) by 2027** and development of **voluntary EU-wide targets for algae production**.

New EU Bioeconomy Strategy (2025)

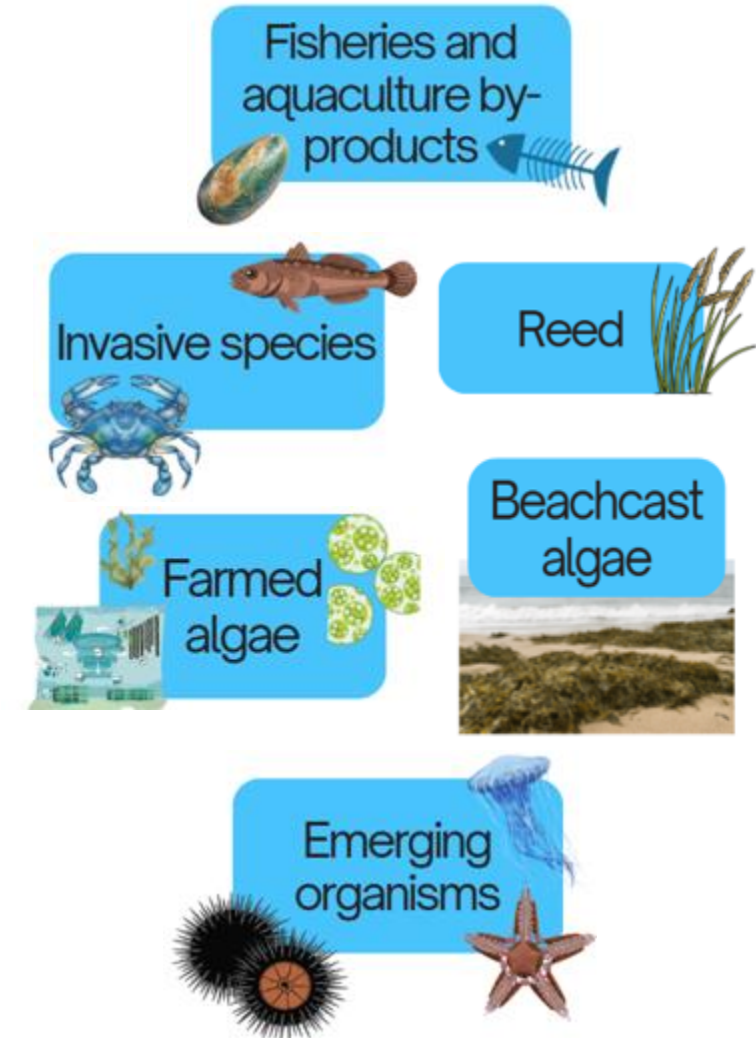
- Aquatic resources – will contribute to a more diverse and resilient biomass supply while protecting vulnerable ecosystems.
- **EU Algae Initiative** supports the production and valorisation of algae
- Launch of the **BlueBIP** to unlock **underutilized aquatic biomass** and **Horizon Europe calls** focused on the blue bioeconomy.
- The **InvestEU Blue Economy**, a blended finance instrument, supports venture capital and private investment in the blue bioeconomy



Blue Bioeconomy Innovation Partnership (BlueBIP)

To be established by end of 2027 - *work ongoing*

- Will create **EU added value** by systematically identifying and advancing the **most promising EU blue bioeconomy project results** towards market uptake
- Will unlock the valorisation of **underutilized aquatic biomass**
- Will support **innovation, piloting and scale-up** through targeted actions developed **in collaboration with stakeholders**
- Will facilitate the **development of value chains**, connecting producers, processors and end users across the EU Blue Bioeconomy



EU Algae Initiative Report to EP&Council end 2027

To unlock the algae potential in the EU 23 policy actions are implemented by the Commission in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Focus areas:

- Improving governance and legislation
- Creating business support mechanisms
- Raising awareness
- Driving research, knowledge, and innovation

Awareness raising and acceptance of algae in EU

- Euronews
- Communication campaigns
- Eurobarometer

EU Algae awareness summits

European Algae Stakeholder Platform (EU4Algae)

- Share business-related information
- Access funding calls and events
- Collaborative space for algae stakeholders
- Share best practices
- 7 industry-relevant working groups

> 1250 stakeholders

What has the EU ever done to support the algae sector?

Working together with EU national authorities

- To inspire & inform
- Collaborate
- Share best practices (licensing procedure, access to marine space)

Bio-economy Strategies

Aqua-culture Strategies

Algae Strategies

Maritime Spatial Plans

Research, innovation and investments

- EU funding and investments are instrumental for the emerging algae sector to derisk investments - More than 850 projects have been funded. Funding allocation from EU funds will continue.

> 1,5 bn EUR

ENVIRONMENT - Marine and Water protection, waste and nutrients management, etc

CLIMATE - Blue carbon, carbon farming, sust. carbon cycles

BLUE ECONOMY - Blue Bioeconomy, Sea Basin Strategies, EU4Ocean, EMODnet

FINANCE - BlueInvest

Synergies with other Commission policies and initiatives

RESEARCH - Mission Ocean

AGRICULTURE - Land based cultivation, organic regulation

HEALTH - Contaminants, iodine content in algae

INDUSTRY - Plant biostimulants

Common Fisheries Policy - Common market organization



Overview of recent EU-level developments in the blue bioeconomy and algae policy space (cont.)

Ocean and Water Research and Innovation Strategy (Q4 2026)

- Aims:
 - improve the current governance of R&I by overcoming the fragmentation of initiatives, including research infrastructures
 - address the financing for further development and deployment of new knowledge and solutions
 - address knowledge and innovation gaps to support achieving the objectives of both the Ocean Pact and the Water Resilience Strategy
- The strategy will take a **source-to-sea approach** to addressing pollution and resource management issues
- **Call for Evidence:** DL 2/8/2026
 - [CfE focusing on Ocean](#)
 - [CfE focusing on Water Resilience](#)



Overview of recent EU-level developments in the blue bioeconomy and algae policy space (cont.)

Biotech Act II (Q4 2026)

- Will focus on **industrial biotechnology** and **biomanufacturing**, addressing cross-cutting challenges and establishing an enabling regulatory framework for industrial biotechnology and biomanufacturing in the EU.
- Will explore option in the following intervention areas:
 - Creating lead markets
 - Predictability for investment
 - Sustainability criteria
 - Simplification of EU legislation e.g., fertilisers.
 - Non-legislative cross-cutting support measures
- **Call for Evidence** (DL 10/6/2026): 348 responses



Open and upcoming calls for proposals on blue bioeconomy

Horizon Europe Cluster 5 Work Programme 2026-2027

- HORIZON-CL5-2027-03-D3-09: Co-funding Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan renewable fuel value chains at EU, national, regional, and local level

Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Work Programme 2026-2027 ([link](#))

- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO-11: Harnessing the unique properties of marine organisms to deliver sustainable blue bio-based products (EUR 10 million, [DL: 17 September 2026](#))
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-two-stage: Decontaminate and bioremediate aquatic pollution (EUR 23 million, [First stage closed on 16 April 2026, second stage DL: 23 September 2026](#))

Horizon Europe Mission Ocean and Waters Work Programme 2026-2027 ([link](#))

- HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN-02: Addressing aquatic pollution and biodiversity loss through nature positive solutions from source to sea (EUR 31 million, [DL: 23/9/2026](#))
- HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN-02: Circularity of seafood supply chains (EUR 30.90 million)



Upcoming calls for proposals on blue bioeconomy

EIC Work Programme 2026 ([link](#); Deadlines: various across 2026 depending on the call)

- EIC Accelerator Open
- EIC Accelerator Challenge V.2.3 Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils
- EIC Accelerator Challenge V.2.4 Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain
- EIC Accelerator Challenge V.2.5 Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation
- EIC STEP Scale Up call for scaling up strategic technologies for Europe (EUR 10-30 million/proposal)

Grant component: under EUR 2.5 M for innovation activities (TRL 6 to 8)
Investment component: EUR 1-10 M for scaling up and other activities

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Work Programme 2026 (provisional call launch September 2026)

Please be aware that the listed topics are not exhaustive, and we encourage you to explore the Work Programmes of other Clusters (e.g. CL5) and EU Partnerships to discover additional opportunities that may be relevant to your interests



Open and upcoming calls for proposals on blue bioeconomy

Circular Biobased Europe Joint undertaking Work Programme 2026 ([link](#), DL: 22 September 2026)

- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-04: Diversification of **nutritional food ingredient** sources for increased EU resilience and strategic autonomy
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-01: Biotech routes for valorisation of **residual biomass**
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-01: Boosting biorefinery competitiveness through biotech
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-02: SSbD bio-based alternatives for **fertilising** and/or **crop protection** products
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IAFlag-03: SSbD bio-based solutions for **home and/or personal care**
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-02: Bio-based additives as alternatives to unlock and increase recyclability and/or biodegradability
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-IA-05: **Films** and **coatings** for circular packaging
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-01: Addressing **separation and purification challenges** in biorefineries
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-02- SSbD bio-based **polymers** from alternative sources
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-RIA-03-Develop breakthrough and sustainable **bio-based textile fibres**
- HORIZON-JU-CBE-2026-CSA-01: Supporting industry in the switch to sustainable and circular biobased products and processes



Thank you!

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership