

## KARADENİZ TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY - SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY POLICY FROM AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS -

### PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy is aimed at the sustainable use of regional and national marine and freshwater environments, primarily in the Black Sea Region, for Karadeniz Technical University (KTU); It has been prepared to direct research, education and social contribution studies for the environmentally economically and socially balanced execution of food supply activities obtained from these environments. The policy aims to increase the sustainable management of marine and freshwater resources and the food supply activities obtained from these sources.

### RELEVANCE OF THE POLICY

**Relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Criteria:** This policy is primarily related to the following objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

- SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)
- SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption)
- SDG 14 (Life Below Water)

**Relevant Metrics:**

- THE Impact Rankings
- UI GreenMetric

### SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy covers teaching, research and social contribution activities for sustainable fishing (hunting), aquaculture (aquaculture) and aquaculture production in national coastal and inland water ecosystems, primarily in the Black Sea Region. It focuses on research and development activities aimed at sourcing food from aquatic environments, ensuring food security, and restoring aquatic ecosystems.

**Target Audience:** Students, academic and administrative staff, visiting researchers, visitors, fishermen and aquaculture sector stakeholders are among the target audience of this policy.

**Application Areas:** The principles of this policy are applied in the campuses of Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences and Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology, research vessels, laboratories, application areas, aquaculture facilities and enterprises, and in coastal and inland water ecosystems in the region.

### BASIC PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL BASES

KTU adheres to the following basic principles regarding the sustainable supply of food from aquatic environments:

- **Sustainability and Ecosystem Integrity:** All work is carried out with the understanding of protecting natural life and maintaining ecosystem integrity.
- **Preventive Approach:** In the light of scientific data, the principle of "precaution" is adopted; stakeholders are informed according to possible dangers.
- **Scientific Research and Education:** Research in aquatic food production and management is encouraged; graduate students are involved in projects to train experts.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Food supply activities and ecosystem status are monitored; policies and practices are developed, and reports are prepared according to the findings.
- **Legal Bases:** The policy is based on the Fisheries Law No. 1380 and related regulations, and the Environmental Law No. 2872.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

### Implementing Units

- **Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences:** Conducts research, education and field studies on aquatic life and resources in the Black Sea; coordinates projects for sustainable food supply.
- **Institute of Marine Sciences and Technology:** Trains experts in the field of aquaculture with its graduate programs; supports sustainable fisheries and aquaculture research.
- **Scientific Research Projects (BAP) Coordination Unit: Supports** and funds project applications on aquatic food safety and sustainability.
- **Technology Transfer Application and Research Center:** Develops cooperation projects with the EU and other international organizations, increasing KTU's partnerships in the field of fisheries and the sustainability of food obtained from their products.

### Monitoring Units and Responsible Persons

- **Rectorate and Senate:** Gives official approval of the policy and conducts necessary audits. It ensures that the policy objectives are realized in accordance with institutional priorities.
- **Research Coordination Office:** Monitors the academic and research dimensions of the activities and practices carried out within the scope of the policy, collects, analyzes and reports data on performance indicators. Develop suggestions for improvement when necessary. The Sustainability Unit compiles the necessary data for sustainability indices such as UI GreenMetric and THE Impact Rankings.

## APPLICATION STEPS

1. **Initial Inventory and Target Setting:** A basic inventory for sustainable food policy is determined by collecting environmental, economic and sociocultural data related to aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity and fisheries and aquaculture activities in the region. Measurable goals are defined based on this inventory.
2. **Planning and Design:** During the planning and design phase, a sustainable food policy roadmap that considers environmental, economic, and social balances is created in the light of initial inventory data. An implementation schedule is created by ensuring coordination between relevant units.
3. **Sustainable Aquaculture/Fisheries Practices:** Environmentally friendly technologies in aquaculture are researched; innovative production techniques are tested with pilot projects and practical training is given to graduate students.
4. **Research and Project Supports:** Output-sharing activities are organized by supporting sustainable-oriented projects in the field of fisheries and aquaculture using BAP and national/international funds.
5. **Education and Social Awareness:** Training programs, seminars and workshops are organized for students, university employees and local people; cooperation is made with local fishermen's cooperatives and sector representatives.
6. **Monitoring, Reporting and Improvement:** The studies and the projects carried out are monitored annually within the framework of the determined performance indicators. At the end of each year, the relevant units evaluate the performance of policy implementation and report the results. The process is improved by making the necessary corrections in policy implementations in the issues where the goals cannot be achieved. Progress and experiences are shared with all internal and external stakeholders.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	Goal	Source of Verification
Number of national research projects focused on sustainable aquaculture food (obtained through aquaculture and fishing).	Supporting at least 2 new aquatic food-related and sustainability-oriented projects every year and encouraging researchers	Follow-up of KTU Scientific Research Projects supported project applications/results on the subject
Number of international project partnerships focused on sustainable aquatic ecosystems and resources	Encouraging at least 1 faculty member to apply as a coordinator/partner in projects related to the subject every year	Tracking the projects applied/supported through TTM
Number of stakeholder meetings/trainings/events on aquatic food sustainability	At least 2 stakeholder meetings, trainings/events every year	Stakeholder meeting, training/event visual recordings and signature lists
Aquaculture-based food consumption activities obtained with sustainable methods	Organizing at least 1 anchovy/salmon festival every year	Event visual recordings

## AUDIT AND REPORTING

- **Monitoring Frequency:** Performance indicators are evaluated annually; data on the sustainable supply of food obtained from fisheries and aquaculture are regularly monitored by the relevant units every year. The changes in the values in the indicators during the year are determined and necessary measures are taken in a timely manner.
- **Reporting Frequency: Annual** data is recorded in sustainability reports within six months following the end of the relevant year and shared with the public on the university's website. Four-year data is compiled to form an input for the next strategic planning period. In addition, the relevant data obtained each year is reported to UI GreenMetric and other international sustainability indices.
- **External Verification:** Participation in national and international certification programs is provided in order to certify the performance of the university within the framework of the relevant indicators. The participation program and decision are taken by the senate. The implementation and effects of the policy are verified through audits to be carried out by independent organizations.
- **Revision Conditions:** In case 60% of the targeted values of the determined performance indicators cannot be reached for two consecutive years or in case of changes in national/international legislation; the policy is reviewed by the implementing units, revision proposals are prepared and the policy is submitted to the senate for approval again.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy comes into effect from the date it is approved by the KTU Senate. University units are obliged to comply with and implement the provisions of the policy.