



## **AQUACULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY: ETHICAL PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUATIC RESOURCE USE – INSIGHTS FROM ROMANIA**

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**Abstract:** Aquaculture is an important component of contemporary food systems, contributing to food security by providing a stable source of protein. The paper analyzes the evolution of aquaculture production in Romania during the period 1960–2023, based on FAO data.

### • Introduction

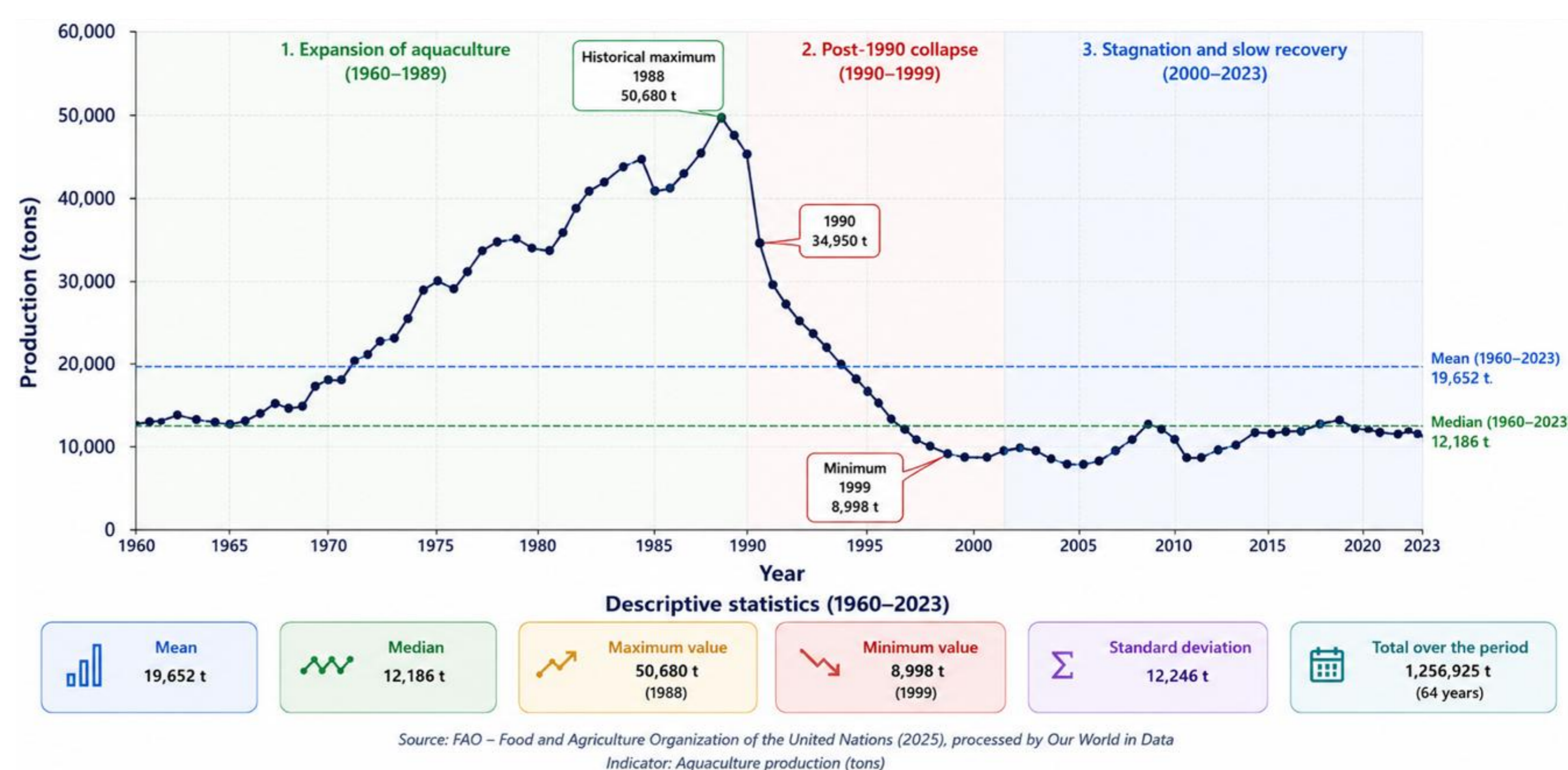
Romania represents a relevant case study, due to the significant natural potential for aquaculture development, but also to its oscillating evolution in recent decades. Although there are important natural resources, including inland waters and access to the Black Sea, the current level of aquaculture production remains relatively low compared to the existing potential.

### • Material and method

The analysis carried out in this paper is based on secondary data on aquaculture production in Romania, expressed in metric tons, for the period 1960–2023. The data were taken from the database of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), processed and made available through the Our World in Data platform. The methodological approach adopted allows correlating the quantitative evolution of aquaculture production with its implications for food security and the sustainable use of aquatic resources, in line with the research objectives and the questions formulated.

### • Results and discussions

From a food security perspective, the stagnation of aquaculture production in Romania limits the sector's contribution to ensuring the availability of aquatic proteins at the national level. In terms of sustainability, the evolution of aquaculture in Romania reflects a paradoxical situation: although, at a global level, the need for aquaculture development is increasing, especially in the context of limitations in capture fisheries, at a national level the sector remains poorly developed.



### • Conclusions

Strengthening the aquaculture sector in Romania requires not only investments and support policies, but also a strategic vision that integrates economic performance, environmental sustainability, and ethical considerations. Such an approach is essential for increasing the role of aquaculture within the national food system and for achieving long-term food security objectives.