



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE.A.2/BVT

**Subject: AAC Recommendation on the differential food safety characteristics of farmed fish**

Dear Mr. Ojeda,

I would like to thank you for the Recommendation of the Aquaculture Advisory Council on the differential food safety characteristics of farmed fish. This reply has been prepared in close cooperation with the Commission's service for Health and Safety – DG SANTE.

As you already know, the Commission acknowledges that numerous species placed on the EU market can either be farmed or caught from the wild and recognises that different production methods (farmed versus caught) can entail different food safety risks.

Regarding chemical contaminants, the Commission makes a distinction between farmed fish and wild caught fish at the level of data collection, risk assessment and where appropriate, in EU legislation. The same goes for infectious food hazards. In most cases fish related food risk assessment reports and consumption guidance documents produced or commissioned by the Commission also clearly specify whether they refer to wild caught fish, to farmed fish or to both. EU funded research on fish food safety makes a differentiation between farmed fish and wild caught fish, whenever appropriate, in the calls for proposals and in the final reports to be disseminated. The Commission is not of the opinion that it should stress that wild caught fish is less safe than farmed fish, given the lack of scientific basis for this and a possible negative effect on overall fish consumption.

I thank you again for this Recommendation and I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Pascale COLSON, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Pascale.COLSON@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.62.73), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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