



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

Maritime Policy and Blue Economy
The Director

Brussels
MARE.A.2/LDLCI

Subject: Your letter of April 2023 on EU Aquaculture policy

Dear Mr Brian Thomsen,

Thank you for your letter of 17 April 2023, in which you recommend the recognition of aquaculture as a shared competence in the EU and the development of a Common Aquaculture Policy as a long-term objective.

In your letter, and as a short-term action, you also call for a **more regular monitoring** of the actual impact of the current EU aquaculture instruments on the sustainable development of EU aquaculture on the basis of defined indicators. I would like to thank you for your suggestion to cooperate with us on the definition of effective baseline indicators.

I agree to your proposal of an annual monitoring of progress and impact of the implementation of the Commission Strategic Guidelines and the EU Member States Multi-Annual National Strategic Plans for Aquaculture. This monitoring could also cover the use of EMFAF for the implementation of these plans.

I would like to propose that this monitoring takes the form of an **annual survey** to EU Member State experts on aquaculture on a number of defined performance indicators and on the basis of the abovementioned baseline indicators. In terms of baseline for the performance indicators, we would suggest taking the 5-year reference period of 2016 to 2020.

Our Aquaculture team will start working on a **first draft of this survey**. I suggest that the Aquaculture team in MARE and you and other members of the Executive Board of the AAC of your choice meet **before 24th of August** to discuss this draft. The new draft resulting from this discussion would then be shared with EU Member States experts in aquaculture and the AAC Members after the summer for comments.

A presentation of this draft could be scheduled at the next technical seminar of aquaculture experts in Brussels in October, with a view to a final discussion and agreement on the survey and baseline indicators at the technical seminar of aquaculture experts in December.

Mr. Brian Thomsen
Chairman of the AAC
brian@danskakvakultur.dk
Rue de la Science, 10B
1000 Brussels Belgium

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË – Tel. +32 22991111
Office: J-99 06/083 – Tel. direct line +32 229-99158

Delilah.AL-KHUDHAIRY@ec.europa.eu

The survey would be launched for the first time by the beginning of next year. The results of the survey would be presented and discussed at the first technical seminar of experts in spring 2024. This exercise would be conducted on a yearly basis.

In addition, as you indicate in your letter, a **more thorough assessment** as provided for in the Commission Strategic Guidelines will be launched **in 2025**. This assessment will look into: (i) the progress made in developing the recommended actions in the annex of the guidelines; and (ii) the efficiency of these actions in helping achieve the objectives laid down in these new strategic guidelines, with the possibility of adapting actions accordingly. The annual monitoring described above will certainly provide useful input into this assessment.

Let me nevertheless underline that a number of actions listed in the annex to the guidelines are still being implemented, notably a number of Commission guidance documents to be adopted in 2023 and 2024.

The results of this assessment could provide the opportunity to consider whether more needs to be done in order to achieve in 2030 the objectives that we have set for the sector.

As indicated in the Commission Strategic Guidelines, by 2029, an evaluation of the Strategic Guidelines will be carried out, which will assess their efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, relevance, and EU added value, to provide the evidence base and support the decision on the next steps after 2030.

I look forward to our continuing cooperation in ensuring the successful implementation of the EU strategy for aquaculture.

Yours faithfully,

Delilah AL KHUDHAIRY

c.c.: Cécile Fouquet (AAC); Felix Leinemann; Valerie Tankink; Lorella de la Cruz Iglesias; Eoin MacAoid; Lana Bezinovic Sostar; Evi Lardi; Emilia Gargallo Gonzalez; Julia Rubeck (DG MARE)