



AAC Recommendation on the request by DG MARE of technical studies on aquaculture

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I. Background

In several occasions, the AAC members have noted that the relevance of some DG MARE-sponsored studies could have been greater had the AAC stakeholders been consulted on the scope and aspects of the analysis needed about the matter at hand.

Some recent example of this was the work on the 'Potential nutrient, carbon and fisheries impacts of large-scale seaweed and shellfish aquaculture in Europe evaluated using operational oceanographic model outputs'. This study was envisaged as a two-phases work. The AAC welcomed the presentation of a preliminary version of the first part of the work but was never informed about the final results of this first part. The AAC was subsequently informed that the work on the second part of the study had been launched on the basis of the results of this first part. Thus, the AAC could not contribute to optimise the Terms of Reference in regards to the feasibility of shellfish development in one or more areas (the core of the second study) and to design the maps that will be included in the final results of this second study. This despite the high importance of this study for the future development of the sector.

II. Justification

The AAC members believe that an exchange of views on the knowledge gaps and study needs ahead of the publication of Terms Of Reference (TORs) for technical studies on aquaculture such as this one could be beneficial to maximise the interest and relevance of knowledge gathering through those studies.

III. Recommendations

Recommendation to the European Commission

The AAC advises that the European Commission consults the AAC ahead of drafting the TORs of studies in relation to the preparation of technical studies on aquaculture.



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