



Brian Thomsen
Chair
Aquaculture Advisory Council
Rue Montoyer, 31 - 1000 Brussels

Member States of the European Union

Brussels, 14 May 2024

Subject: Decarbonisation of finfish farming facilities

Dear Madam, Sir,

The **Aquaculture Advisory Council**¹ (AAC) has sent a Recommendation to the European Commission and Member States in June 2023 on the Decarbonisation of finfish farming facilities². A response³ to this recommendation was received from the European Commission in September 2023, addressing several points directly and recommending that the AAC turns towards the Member States competent authorities on others. The AAC therefore decided to draft this letter to request further information to the EU national authorities competent on the matter.

Indeed, our recommendation on the Decarbonisation of finfish farming facilities requested that:

1. Member States take decarbonisation into consideration in the spatial planning of finfish farms, especially the distance between the sites provided to offshore marine farms and the harbours at which they operate.

To this, the European Commission has answered that it has taken note of it for future actions. *Does your administration take decarbonisation into consideration in the spatial planning of finfish farms, especially the distance between the sites provided to offshore marine farms and the harbours at which they operate?*

2. Member States should provide aquaculture farmers with maximum financial support

¹ www.aac-europe.org

² https://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/5.-AAC-Recommendation-Recommendation-on-the-decarbonisation-of-finfish-farming-facilities_2023_5.pdf

³ <https://aac-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Reply-to-AAC-Decarbonisation-of-finfish-farming-facilities-.pdf>





through the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) to promote the decarbonisation of finfish facilities through both the purchase of equipment with a carbon-neutral balance and the decarbonisation of currently operating systems.

To this, the European Commission has informed about the possibility to use the EMFAF to reduce the carbon footprint of fisheries and aquaculture, including the shift to energy-efficient aquaculture production (e.g. use of renewable energy)

Does your Member State provide EMFAF support for investment and/or innovation projects aimed at reducing emissions of GHG from land-based and/or marine fish farming facilities?

Your answers can be sent to our secretariat, who will be happy to communicate them to the AAC membership: secretariat@aac-europe.org

With my best regards,

Brian Thomsen
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