



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE.A.2/BVT

**Subject: AAC Recommendation on “Code of good practices on fish welfare among aquaculture producers”**

Dear Mr Brian Thomsen,

I would like to thank the Aquaculture Advisory Council for the “*Recommendation on Code of good practices on fish welfare among aquaculture producers*” sent on 29 July 2024.

We welcome the advice it provides on the scope and content of the “*Code of good practice on fish welfare*” to be developed with the support of the Commission in the context of the implementation of the “*Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030*”. We thank you for the wide range of reference material that you provide for consideration in the process of developing the code.

As you know, DG MARE organised a meeting on 21 August 2024 with DG SANTE, the EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM), the European Reference Centre for the welfare of aquatic animals (EURCAW-aqua) and the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC). The objective of this meeting was to coordinate the work on fish welfare of the Commission, the EURCAW-aqua and the AAM in 2024 and 2025, as well as the work of the AAC to make best use of all the resources and information available.

At this meeting it was agreed that the AAM will develop by the end of 2024 a document on general good practices on fish welfare and fish welfare indicators addressing different life stages and production methods, which will take into account the above-mentioned AAC Recommendation. The document will be peer reviewed by EURCAW-aqua in early 2025 and presented to the Member States and the AAC before its finalisation.

EURCAW-aqua will work in 2024 on species-specific indicators related to the welfare of common carp and European sea bass during transport and at harvest and on good practices on welfare of the main farmed aquatic animals during transport and harvest.

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I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK, coordinator of the Advisory Councils (Julia.Rubeck@ec.europa.eu; +32.2.296.88.89), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

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