



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE.A.2/LBS

Subject: Aquaculture Advisory Council response to guidance documents

Dear Mr Thomsen,

I would like to thank you for your letter referring to the development of the guidance documents as part of the implementation of the Strategic guidelines for aquaculture, and consultations with the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) in this respect.

As you explain in your letter, the Commission is developing these documents with the help of the EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism (AAM), and as part of this process, it consults various stakeholders – mainly Member States' administrations responsible for aquaculture and the AAC as our main stakeholder-led organisation.

We are aware that the process of decision-making in the AAC can be time consuming, given the need to gather all views and, to the greatest extent possible, reach a consensual opinion. As you know, whenever possible in terms of the Commission's own time constraints, our aquaculture team is ready to provide more time for the AAC to provide its input. However, it is difficult to establish a uniform procedure and timeline for the consultation of the advisory councils. We take note of your suggestion and will consider this in view of the functioning of the advisory councils.

Regarding future consultations on the draft guidance documents, the aquaculture team in DG MARE will continue aiming to provide enough time for the AAC to respond to calls for comments. Please note that we find the contributions valuable and relevant even if not delivered as a consensual AAC position. Your help to distribute the draft and gather various opinions of the members is highly appreciated.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK, coordinator with regard to the

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Advisory Councils (MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

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