



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE.A.2/BVT

**Subject: AAC recommendation on molluscan welfare**

Dear Mr Brian Thomsen,

Thank you for your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 related to the *Commission's reply* to the AAC Recommendation on molluscan welfare.

I would like to reiterate that animal welfare is a key area for further work identified in the “*Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030*” and that DG MARE is working closely with the relevant Commission services to address this challenge.

While aware of the desirability of gathering scientific evidence on the sentience of bivalves, our limited human and financial resources make it necessary for the Commission to focus its work for the moment on fish welfare.

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

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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