



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE.A.2/BVT

**Subject: AAC Recommendation on the use of satellite data for aquaculture**

Dear Mr Brian Thomsen,

I would like to thank you for your mail of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025 including the “*Recommendation on the use of satellite data for aquaculture*”.

In this Recommendation, the Aquaculture Advisory Council specifically calls upon the European Commission to:

- *Implement strategies to make the best possible use of the available data and tools (Copernicus programme and related services) and to provide stakeholders with integrated, easy-access data, as proposed in the Ocean Pact.*
- *Treat satellite data as one element of integrated data systems within multiuser and multiservice platforms, which will be fundamental for analysing, understanding and managing the complexity of aquaculture activities amid environmental and economic changes.*
- *Adopt a bottom-up approach that reflects the needs of the sector and define more precisely the sector's needs based on the satellite data potentially available.*
- *Continue supporting research aimed at improving the reliability of collected data and developing models that expand the range of available services.*
- *Support projects for the creation and subsequent management of multifunction, multiuser platforms, considering the roles of institutions and producer associations in this integration process.*
- *Promote standardisation and harmonization of parameters used, in situ measurement protocols and data collecting and management procedures.*
- *Develop guideline documents on standardised instrumentation for in situ measurements.*

Through the upcoming Ocean Observation Initiative, announced in the European Ocean Pact, the European Commission aims indeed to develop and implement strategies and

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tools which will increase the coherence and the availability of marine data, both through the Copernicus Marine service (satellite data) and the European Marine Observation and Data network – EMODnet (in-situ data), but also through the development of targeted modelling applications and tools via the European Digital Twin Ocean (EU DTO). The aforementioned will be fundamental for analysing, understanding and managing the complexity of aquaculture activities, in combination with research activities and initiatives which will be supported through the Ocean Research and Innovation Strategy priorities.

Under the European Ocean Observation Initiative and its related activities, the European Commission is already working on the standardisation and harmonisation of parameters used, in situ measurement protocols and data collecting and management procedures. Nevertheless, the latter need to be adopted as procedures at the level of the Member States and in the sectoral levels, through coordinated actions and relevant recommendations.

The European Commission's marine knowledge services are already engaged in efforts to reflect and address the needs of the aquaculture sector, based on the satellite data available. For example, under the Copernicus Marine Service portal, users from the aquaculture sector can find [use cases and resources for aquaculture management](#), including applications [supporting aquaculture and fisheries](#) and other systems, as [offshore salmon farming](#).

Additional efforts to identify the sector's data needs have been undertaken in the past through [collaboration between EATIP, Copernicus and EMODnet](#). The aquaculture sector can communicate its additional data needs to the Commission to assess the possibility to address them further. Nevertheless, it is important to underline that the aquaculture sector may need to employ intermediaries or engage into collaboration with local scientific organisations, to exploit in full the rich collections of data already available.

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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