



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE.A.2/BVT

Subject: AAC letter on organic aquaculture

Dear Mr Brian Thomsen,

I would like to thank you for the letter of 1 July 2026 following up on the Commission's reply of 21 August 2023 to the AAC Recommendation on organic aquaculture of July 2023.

In this letter, the AAC is requesting further information on the publication of information contained within the Member States' databases on the availability of organic juveniles on the market. More precisely, the AAC would like a diagnosis, based on the information provided by the databases, on the availability of organic juveniles across the EU and whether there are annual variations year on year.

Let me first recall that, according to the EU organic rules, *Member States shall have in place systems ⁽¹⁾ that allow operators - that market organic aquaculture juveniles, and that are able to supply them in sufficient quantities and within a reasonable period - to publish information on the organic aquaculture juveniles available on the holding, their health status and the production capacity for each aquaculture species. This information can be published on a voluntary basis, free of charge, together with the names and contact details of the operators. By 30 June of each year, Member States shall make available to the Commission and to the other Member States the information ⁽²⁾ provided in these systems. Operators that opt to include information on aquaculture juveniles in the systems must ensure that the information is updated regularly, and that the*

⁽¹⁾ Article 26(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848

⁽²⁾ Article 53(6)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 PE/62/2017/REV/1 OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, pp. 1
ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/848/oj>

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information is withdrawn from the lists once the aquaculture juveniles are no longer available.

Currently, 23 Member States provided links to databases, but all are empty. The same applies to Norway and UK. Therefore, the European Commission is unable to extract any useful information from these systems.

In addition, please note that the current organic rules are being revised. In May 2026 the Council adopted the mandate for negotiations with the Parliament on an amendment of the basic act ⁽³⁾. In this context, the Council has proposed to continue with the authorisations to use non-organic juveniles in organic aquaculture until 31/12/2036, a proposal which the European Commission does not oppose.

Concerning the proposed study on the position of organic production for different aquatic products, I encourage you to discuss the details of such a study with my services and the relevant colleagues in DG AGRI. You can contact our colleague Ms. Birgit Van Tongelen (Birgit.Van-Tongelen@ec.europa.eu) for this purpose.

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 (MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu ; +32.2.296.88.89), who will forward them to relevant colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

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⁽³⁾ [pdf](#)