



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES**

The Director-General

**Brussels,**  
MARE/D3/PC/mb/Ares (2019)

**Mr Javier Ojeda**  
**Chairman Aquaculture Advisory**  
**Council**  
**11, Rue de l'industrie**  
**1000 Brussels**

**Subject: Aquaculture Advisory Council's advice on the Revision of the EU fisheries control system**

Dear Mr Ojeda,

I would like to thank the Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) for its detailed advice on the European Commission's proposal concerning the revision of the EU fisheries control system. I am convinced that this advice will contribute in a positive way to the discussions on this proposal in the Council and in the European Parliament.

We take note of your suggestion to include a definition of the aquaculture vessel in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation itself, and to provide a distinctive regime from fishing vessels for aquaculture vessels. We understand also that the AAC is not in favour of applying the provisions of the Control Regulation No 1224/2009 to the aquaculture vessels, except if vessels are used for both fishing and aquaculture activities. Let me also thank you for the information on aquaculture vessels included in the advice.

I agree with you that clarity on the definition and status of different types of vessels is fundamental for a proper implementation of both the CFP and the Control Regulation. Our proposal on the revision of the EU fisheries control system is introducing one new definition related to "catching vessel". The objective is to distinguish obligations applying to all vessels, which are involved in fishing activities, from those that are used for catching. We confirm that the intention of the European Commission was not to cover aquaculture vessels under those provisions. We will reflect on the AAC' suggestions regarding the introduction of a definition of "an aquaculture vessel" and of a distinctive regime for aquaculture vessels.

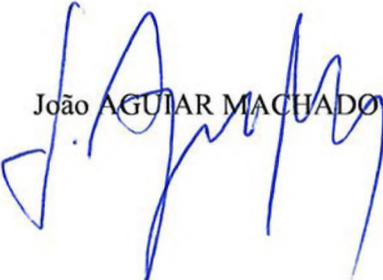
We take note of the AAC's reservation concerning the proposed provisions on traceability. We are convinced that traceability is necessary for all fishery and aquaculture products placed on the EU market. We consider that the food law provisions should be completed with specific provisions on fishery and aquaculture products, as

foreseen under the Commission Implementing Regulation 931/2011<sup>1</sup> in order to allow adequate controls of the CFP rules, including provisions on consumer information.

Finally, we take note of your comments concerning recreational fisheries.

Let me thank you again for your constructive input and detailed advice, which also includes a clear record of the dissenting opinion expressed. I am looking forward to our continued cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, you are invited to contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Pascale.Colson@ec.europa.eu), +32 2 56273).

Yours sincerely,

  
João AGUIAR MACHADO

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L242, 20.9.2011, p. 2.