



To the attention of Mr. François JACQ, CEO of IFREMER  
155 rue Jean Jacques Rousseau  
92138 Issy-les-Moulineaux

CC: Mr. Nicolas HULOT, Minister for an Ecological and Solidary Transition  
Ms. Brune POIRSON, Secretary of State  
Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition  
246 Saint-Germain Boulevard  
75700 Paris

Paris, 29 May 2018

### Registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

**Subject:** Access request to IFREMER's expert report LER-BO/16-077 entitled: "*Expertise following the mortality of seabass larvae in Aquastream's company*" by Dominique Le Gal and Claude Le Bec

Dear Sir,

BLOOM is a non-profit organization that is entirely dedicated to the ocean and those who depend on its living resources. Our priorities are to protect the marine environment and preserve its resilience, while promoting environmentally-friendly and job-generating fishing methods. We aim to help implement the UN's sustainable development goals for the ocean, including ending destructive fishing practices (SDG 14.4) and harmful subsidies that encourage overcapacity and overfishing in the world (SDG 14.6).

In this context, BLOOM is currently fighting at European level against electric fishing, whose drastic efficiency to capture fish makes it extremely desirable to industrials, not only in the Netherlands but also in France, Spain, and the UK. The impacts of this fishing technique are disastrous, even if they remain poorly quantified because few research institutes (except in the Netherlands and Belgium) have investigated this issue. BLOOM conducts a rigorous scientific watch to gather all knowledge related to the impacts of electric current on marine life.

We identified a 2016 expert report by IFREMER, following significant mortality of seabass larvae at Aquastream, a company located in Brittany. This French hatchery benefited from a unique know-how and provided many customers in several countries, mainly around the Mediterranean Sea. Unfortunately, it was liquidated in 2017 as a result of significant losses related to the mortality of their seabass larvae.

It seems that these important mortality rates were due to the presence of weak electric currents in the tanks.

In the current context of European negotiations on the future of electric fishing, and following the vote of the European Parliament in January 2018 to definitively ban the use of electricity to capture marine organisms, this expert report could unveil crucial elements for the understanding of the impacts of electricity on fish larvae. Such effects on early life stages are still poorly understood and studied. That is why we would be immensely grateful if you could make the entire report available as soon as possible.



The economic situation of artisanal fishers in the southern part of the North Sea requires a solution to their distress without further delay. It seems that this IFREMER report could unlock a number of questions and thus public arbitrations. Furthermore, we do not understand why all references to this expert report have disappeared from IFREMER's website, while it was still mentioned in January 2018.

We are counting on your prompt cooperation.

Kind regards

Claire Nouvian  
BLOOM, Founder and Chair