1. The interpretation of the ‘do no significant harm’ principle can diverge in different legislative initiatives. The EU Taxonomy\(^1\) itself is a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. As aquaculture, including commercial octopus farming, is not covered at present, the EU Taxonomy does not provide ‘do no significant harm’ criteria that could apply to such an activity. The Commission can therefore not confirm the (in-) compatibility of commercial octopus farming investments with the ‘do no significant harm’ principle under the EU Taxonomy.

The Commission, as part of the implementation of its Strategic aquaculture guidelines\(^2\), will be working closely with Member States and stakeholders on guidance on environmental performance, including fed-aquaculture.

2. The Commission does not prohibit EU funding for octopus farming.

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation contributes to 1) the development of the EU Taxonomy and the technical screening criteria for economic activities and 2) the application of the EU Taxonomy framework and concepts to other EU policies and initiatives. It contributes to the application of the ‘do no significant harm’ principle of the Taxonomy Regulation to different parts of the Horizon Europe research framework programme. The screening of proposed research and innovation topics under Horizon Europe work programmes regarding the 'do no significant harm' is done by collecting information from services in the lead for guarding environmental policy interests. If they bring to the table critical observations, the topics will be adjusted or not further pursued.

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\(^2\) ‘Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030’, COM(2021)236 final; adopted in May 2021