

## Communiqué on Aquaculture Support (No: 2024/28)

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### Communiqué on Aquaculture Support (No: 2024/28)

Official Gazette dated September 17, 2024

Number: 32665

From the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:

#### CHAPTER ONE

##### Preliminary Provisions

###### Aim

**ARTICLE 1 -** (1) The purpose of this Communiqué is to regulate the procedures and principles regarding the aquaculture support to be given to aquaculture producers within the scope **of the Decision on Livestock Supports to be Provided in the Years 2024-2026, which was put into effect by the Presidential Decree No. 8760 dated 25/7/2024.**

###### Scope

**ARTICLE 2 -** (1) This Communiqué covers the procedures and principles regarding the aquaculture support payments to be made in 2024, 2025 and 2026 to breeders who have an aquaculture certificate approved by the Ministry and are registered in the Aquatic Products Information System (SUBIS) within the scope of the Decision on Livestock Supports to be Made in 2024-2026, which was put into effect by the Presidential Decree No. 8760 dated 25/7/2024.

###### Rest

**ARTICLE 3 -** (1) This Communiqué has been prepared based on Article 19 **of the Agricultural Law No. 5488** dated 18/4/2006 and Article 9 of the Decision on Livestock Supports to be Made in the Years 2024-2026, which was put into effect by the Presidential Decree No. 8760 dated 25/7/2024.

##### Definitions and abbreviations

**ARTICLE 4 -** (1) In this Communiqué;

- Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,
- Bank: General Directorate of TC Ziraat Bankası A.Ş.
- First degree agricultural purpose organization: Agricultural producer unions established within the scope **of the Agricultural Producer Unions Law No. 5200** dated 29/6/2004, which have the first degree agricultural purpose organization certificate according to **the Regulation on the Grading of Agricultural Purpose Organizations published in the Official Gazette No. 32383 dated 28/11/2023.**

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d) Provincial/district directorate: Provincial/district directorates of the Ministry,

e) Closed circuit production: A fully controlled aquaculture system based on the principle of reusing the water used in production in the aquaculture system after being subjected to certain processes such as removing feces and feed residues using a series of mechanical and biological tools, enriching it with oxygen in terms of quality and chemical structure, evaporating carbon dioxide, and treating it with ozone and/or UV. This system ensures less water use, higher yield per unit volume, better growth and greater feed utilization, freedom of location and species, and the ability to produce with less environmental impact.

f) Decision: Decision on Livestock Supports to be Provided in the Years 2024–2026, put into effect by the Presidential Decree No. 8760 dated 25/7/2024,

g) Hatchery: Hatchery establishments established to obtain eggs and fry from aquaculture breeding material and approved by the Ministry,

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g) Sales document: The original, second copy or e-invoice, retail sales receipt or producer receipt of the sales invoice showing that the fish grown in the business were harvested and sold.

h) Aquaculture Information System (SUBİS): The fisheries registration system established within the Ministry, where information on aquaculture is collected in a central database.

i) Aquaculture hatchery certificate: Valid certificate given by the Ministry to businesses established to obtain egg/fry materials from aquaculture breeding materials,

i) Aquaculture: Intensive cultivation of aquaculture products,

j) Aquaculture certificate: A certificate with an ongoing validity period issued by the Ministry to farmers engaged in aquaculture production activities.

k) Technical criteria: The criteria determined by the Ministry for aquaculture in accordance with the decision,

l) Juvenile fish adaptation facility: Facilities established for the purpose of adapting juvenile fish to the inland water and marine resources where they will be raised,

m) Breeder/producer: Real and legal persons permitted by the Ministry to engage in aquaculture activities, excluding public institutions and organizations.

n) Breeder/producer organization: Producer central unions and producer unions established in accordance with Law No. 5200, operating in the field of aquaculture and organized at the central union level,

o) Aquaculture enterprise: Places where aquaculture is carried out with the approval of the Ministry,

expresses.

## CHAPTER TWO

### General Provisions, Application Conditions and Application

#### Aquaculture support

**ARTICLE 5 -** (1) Aquaculture support is given to those engaged in aquaculture according to the following principles:

a) Species within the scope of product support are trout, carp, mussel and new species such as sturgeon, turbot, fangri, coral, dentex, white grouper, sharp-nosed bream, minnow, meagre, sargoz, mir, sariağız, saritail, halibut, catfish, shabut, blackfish, eel, tilapia, crayfish, shrimp, medicinal leech, black sea trout, red spotted trout.

b) Support is provided to producers who hold aquaculture certificates and intensively cultivate the species specified in paragraph (a) and who cultivate mussels, in the amount of the basic support unit price determined in the Decision.

c) Producers who carry out small-scale cultivation in earthen ponds, using groundwater extracted with electrical energy or spring water without using energy, for domestic consumption purposes, are supported up to the basic support unit price determined in the Decision.

ç) If the businesses that meet the basic support conditions have technical criteria such as having a project capacity of 50 tons/year or less, being a member of a producer union, being a member of a first-degree agricultural organization and performing closed-circuit production, these businesses will be provided with additional technical criteria support in addition to the basic support amount determined in the Decision for each technical criterion.

d) Technical criteria support;

1) Businesses with a project capacity of 50 tons/year or less, with technical criteria support, whose approved project capacity is at most 50 tons/year or less,

2) Businesses that are members of the producer unions specified in subparagraph (n) of the first paragraph of the fourth article, from the technical criteria support for union membership,

3) Enterprises that are members of a producer union that has a first-degree agricultural organization certificate in accordance with the Regulation on the Grading of Agricultural Organizations, from the technical criteria support for first-degree agricultural producer organization membership.

4) Businesses that produce with closed-circuit production systems in their approved projects, from closed-circuit production technical criteria support,

benefits.

e) The principles to be followed in calculating the amount that a business can benefit from product support are as follows:

1) If there is more than one aquaculture enterprise belonging to the same real or legal persons in the same potential area determined by the Ministry in the seas, in the same dam lake or in the same region in dam lakes divided into regions, these enterprises are considered as a single enterprise and support payments are made accordingly.

2) In support of multiple aquaculture operations belonging to the same real or legal persons, within the same potential area designated by the Ministry in the seas, the same dam lake, or the same region within the same reservoir divided into zones, the facility owners prior to the date of publication of the Decision will be taken into account. Transfers of these facilities after the date of publication of the Decision are excluded from the scope of support.

3) According to the decision, the maximum amount that a business can benefit from support is 30,000 kilograms per year for the cultivation support in paragraph (c) and 350,000 kilograms per year for other supports.

4) In case of benefiting from the support in subparagraph (b) and subparagraph (c) at the same time, the maximum amount that can be benefited from the support is 350,000 kilograms in total, provided that it does not exceed the 30,000 kilograms that can be benefited from the support in subparagraph (c).

5) In the aquaculture certificate of the business, the current capacity specified for the facility (project) capacity (tons/year) is taken into account.

6) In subparagraph (c) of the first paragraph of Article 6, the kilogram prices in the sales documents requested are those sales documents that are lower than 75% of the kilogram/cost value of the product to be announced by the Ministry after taking the opinion of the Aquaculture Producers Central Union, and invoices for fish feed that are lower than 50% of the kilogram/cost value are excluded from the scope of support.

7) In calculating the amount stated in the sales documents and/or harvest report of the product; except for the sales documents of live products specified in paragraph (j), the amounts in the sales documents of product exchanges between aquaculture enterprises are not included in the calculation.

8) The invoice for the feed required for the fish to reach the harvested weight according to the species cultivated is taken into account in terms of fish nutrition science.

9) The growth period of the cultivated product is taken into account.

10) For products sold as fillets or smoked meats, 2 (two) times the amount stated on the invoices of the product is taken into account, and for products that have been cleaned inside, 1.25 (one full twenty-five percent) times the amount stated on the invoices of the product is taken into account.

11) Except for businesses that have a permit from the Ministry to produce fry, businesses that start production by collecting the fry they need from nature on a one-time basis with the permission of the Ministry, and businesses that produce as specified in clause (i), the amount remaining after deducting the amount in the sales documents showing that the last sale was made from the amount in the sales documents or harvest report issued for the first harvest of the same product is taken into account.

12) In order to issue a breeding certificate for businesses that have started breeding for the first time and businesses that are increasing their capacity, the date of arrival of the fry to the business is taken as the basis, provided that the fry placed in the business is identified. In other existing businesses, the date of arrival of the fry to the business is taken as the basis for the beginning of the fish growth period.

f) If more than one species is grown in the same business, the capacity limitations specified in subparagraphs (3) and (4) of paragraph (e) also apply to these businesses, and business owners in this situation must apply to the provincial/district directorate before harvesting their products and have the species they grow identified.

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g) Sales invoices of processed products of those who market their products as fillets or smoked meats in businesses approved by the Ministry are accepted as sales documents.

g) Those who purchase the fry fish they raise in their own businesses from other businesses shall procure these fish from hatcheries licensed by the Ministry, from businesses that have a fry production permit in their aquaculture certificate, from fry adaptation businesses, and from hatcheries belonging to universities or research institutes.

h) Those who obtain the fingerlings they raise in their own businesses from another business that has a fry production permit from the Ministry or from another fingerling adaptation business that belongs to them are required to have the Fisheries Fingerling Identification Report in Annex-1 prepared by the provincial/district directorate where the business from which the fingerlings are procured is located and submit this report to the provincial/district directorate where the fingerlings are taken.

i) Among the trout farming enterprises established on land and in dam lakes, the enterprises that do not have a fry production permit in their project but produce only the fry needed by their enterprise, on the condition that they do not sell them to anyone else, are required to apply to the provincial/district directorate and have the Fisheries Fry Fish Detection Report in Annex-1 prepared.

i) In determining the growth periods of the products grown, the species grown, the environmental characteristics of the region and the growing system are taken into consideration by the provincial directorate.

j) Those who raise fish by placing them in their establishments not as fingerlings but in larger sizes and in different weights are required to indicate the phrase "live" in the Fisheries Harvest Determination Report included in Annex-2, which they will have prepared by the provincial/district directorate of the establishment where the fish are procured. This document is submitted to the provincial/district directorate where the fish are taken from, and these fish are left at the establishment under the supervision of the provincial/district directorate personnel. The date, time, type, and quantity of fish released are recorded on the harvest determination report and signed. If breeders procure their fish from another establishment, the phrase "live" is also required to be included in the sales document. In this context;

1) Live fish that are raised in inland waters and transported to the seas to be raised further,

2) Live fish that are transported from their own or someone else's aquaculture facility in inland waters and are raised further,

3) In marine aquaculture activities, if live fish of different weights are sent to marine facilities from another facility at sea, facilities that only send live fish,

benefits from support.

k) Farmers who are required to have a harvest report prepared for their products must submit a petition to the provincial/district directorate at least five days before harvesting. The harvest report, which includes the average weight of the harvested fish, must be prepared in three copies by at least two authorized personnel, and two copies must be given to the product owner.

l) The start and end dates for the procedures and processes specified in this Communiqué are announced by the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquatic Products on the Ministry's website. Farmers wishing to benefit from the support must apply to the provincial/district directorate where their farming facility is located within the announced dates and submit the required documents in accordance with this Communiqué.

## Application

**ARTICLE 6 -** (1) Producers who wish to benefit from the support shall apply to the provincial/district directorate where their aquaculture facility is located, with the following documents required for the aquaculture support they wish to benefit from:

a) Application Petition for Aquaculture Support in Annex-3.

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b) Sales document showing that the cultivated product was purchased and/or the Aquaculture Juvenile Fish Detection Report in Annex-1 (when requested by the application deadline).

c) Sales document showing that the harvested product has been sold and/or the Aquatic Products Harvest Determination Report in Annex-2 (when requested by the application deadline).

d) Membership certificate to a producer union or cooperative related to aquaculture (This document is not required where it is not available).

d) A copy of the hatchery, fry adaptation business or aquaculture certificate of the business from which the fish raised in the business were purchased, which has a fry production permit, and if the fry were procured from universities or research institutions, a document showing that the sale was made by these institutions.

e) Invoice for feed used by producers with project capacities exceeding 10 tons/year (upon request by the application deadline).

f) Photocopy of breeding certificate.

g) A document showing that the aquaculture enterprise that will benefit from the support has no penalty debts to be paid within the scope of the Aquatic Products Law No. 1380 dated 22/3/1971 and a document showing that it has no water/water area rental debts.

g) Facility inspection form for the production year.

h) A report of determination regarding the juvenile fish placed in the business for the purpose of issuing a breeding certificate for businesses that have started breeding for the first time.

#### **Work and procedures to be carried out by the provincial/district directorate**

**ARTICLE 7 -** (1) Applications made to benefit from the support are recorded in SUBIS by the provincial/district directorate, by checking the documents and information requested within the scope of this Communiqué, and data entries are made.

(2) Based on the information entered into SUBIS, the Aquaculture Support Summary Lists (Annex 4) are created by the provincial/district directorate. The Summary Lists are posted on the provincial/district directorate's bulletin board for the first five working days following the end of each term. The posting and posting procedures are recorded in a report by at least two designated personnel.

(3) Objections to the Summary-Is must be submitted to the provincial/district directorate during the public display period. Objections are evaluated and decided upon by the provincial/district directorate during the public display period. If no objections are raised during the public display period, the Summary-Is are deemed final.

(4) Summary-Is prepared by the district directorate are approved after being taken down from the post and sent to the provincial directorate within five working days at the latest.

(5) Approved Summary-Is arriving at the provincial directorate are checked against their records in SUBIS and the Summary-3s of Fisheries Supports in Annex-5 are prepared and approved and sent to the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquatic Products within five working days.

#### **Deduction from member growers**

##### **ARTICLE 8 - (Amended: Official Gazette-15/10/2025-33048)**

(1) In support payments for which membership is a condition for breeder organizations, 3% of the support they are entitled to as service fee is deducted from the members of producer unions established in accordance with Law No. 5200, which have established the central union, to the provincial/district unions, and 20% of this amount is deducted from the central union under the name of Strengthening Farmer Organizations, and 3% is deducted from all producers who benefit from aquaculture support to be used in fishing and aquaculture promotion activities.

#### **Transfer of payments**

**ARTICLE 9 -** (1) The remaining amount will be paid directly to the organized producers who will benefit from the supports included in this Communiqué, after deductions are made at the rates specified in Article 8, provided that they are members of the central unions and submit a document proving their membership during the application.

### **CHAPTER THREE**

#### **Authority, Control and Responsibility**

##### **Those who will not benefit from support**

**ARTICLE 10 -** (1) Public institutions and organizations cannot benefit from the supports within the scope of this Communiqué.

#### **Authority and control**

**ARTICLE 11 -** (1) The Ministry is authorized to take measures to ensure the auditing of support payments. In this regard, the services of other public institutions and organizations, cooperatives, agricultural chambers, and unions may be utilized when necessary.

(2) The provincial/district directorate is authorized to resolve issues not included in this Communiqué and problems that may arise in the provinces, provided that it does not contradict the matters specified in the Decision and this Communiqué.

(3) The provincial/district directorate is authorized to conduct all kinds of inspections, including the production process, regarding the supports within the scope of this Communiqué and to request information and documents related to this.

(4) In the inspections carried out by the provincial/district directorate regarding the support specified in this Communiqué, the relevant parties are obliged to provide the necessary facilities and provide all kinds of information and documents.

### **Responsibility**

**ARTICLE 12 -** (1) The individuals and institutions submitting the documents, approving them within their authority, and entering the data are primarily responsible for the accuracy of the information and documents submitted pursuant to this Communiqué to benefit from support. Documents for which support payments are made are retained by the relevant units for a period of five years and are available upon request.

### **Recovery of unjust payments and deprivation of rights**

**ARTICLE 13 -** (1) The competent authorities specified in this Communiqué are directly responsible for the accurate entry of data within their jurisdiction into the registration system, the verification of documents submitted to them within the scope of their authority, and the documents they prepare. Responsibility for documents submitted to benefit from support rests with the relevant parties. Those who fail to fulfill this obligation and cause unjust payments, or who issue or use forged or false documents to benefit from unjust payments, will be subject to the necessary administrative procedures and legal and criminal proceedings will be initiated.

(2) Producers who are found to have unjustly benefited from the support payments determined by this Communiqué, excluding payments made using documents issued as a result of administrative errors, will not be eligible for any support program for five years. Provincial/district directorates are responsible for monitoring this.

(3) Unjustly made support payments shall be recovered, together with legal interest calculated from the date of payment, taking into account the late payment interest rates specified in Article 51 **of Law No. 6183 on the Collection Procedures of Public Receivables**, dated July 21, 1953, in accordance with the provisions of the said Law. In the case of unjust payments, the natural and legal persons who provided the payment and prepared the document(s) shall be held jointly liable for the collection of the amounts to be recovered.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **Miscellaneous and Final Provisions**

#### **Financing and payments**

**ARTICLE 14 -** (1) The financing required for support payments will be covered by the Ministry's agricultural support budget, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Decision on Livestock Support for the 2024-2026 Period. Payments will be made to accounts previously opened or to be opened in the names of producers at the relevant branches of the bank.

(2) Since the support payments made within the scope of the decision are public resources, no seizure/execution, assignment or similar procedures are carried out before they are transferred to the rights holder's account.

#### **Repealed notification**

**ARTICLE 15 -** (1) **The Communiqué on Aquaculture Support** published in the Official Gazette dated 2/12/2023 and numbered 32387 (Communiqué No: 2023/43) has been repealed.

#### **Force**

**ARTICLE 16 -** (1) This Communiqué shall enter into force on the date of its publication, effective from 1/1/2024.

#### **Executive**

**ARTICLE 17 -** (1) The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry shall enforce the provisions of this Communiqué.

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Official Gazette in which the Communiqué was published		
Date	Number of	
September 17, 2024	32665	
Official Gazettes in Which the Communiqués Amending the Communiqué Are Published		
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