



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

**The Director-General**

Brussels,  
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Mr. Jesper Raakjær  
Pelagic Advisory Council  
Louis Braillelaan 80 2719 EK  
Zoetermeer  
The Netherlands

**Subject: Inclusion of pelagic chapter in future STECF Annual Economic Reports on the EU fishing fleet**

Dear Mr Raakjær,

I would like to thank you for your letter regarding the inclusion of a specific chapter on pelagic fleet segments in future STECF Annual Economic Reports (AER) on the EU fishing fleet.

In acknowledgment of your letter, the AER of the EU fleets has indeed become the most comprehensive source of socio-economic data and analysis on the EU fleets at an international level. It is also the main reference for most socio-economic analysis in support of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Although the quality and coverage of this economic report and datasets have improved substantially in recent years, there is still room for improvement in certain areas where data availability or appropriate level of aggregation are more limited, such as pelagic fleet segments. In this context, my services are taking a number of specific actions to further strengthen the socio-economic analysis and data availability of the pelagic fleet segments.

This year's AER will attempt to develop a first section devoted to the socio-economic analysis of the pelagic fleet segments. In order to achieve this, socio-economic experts and fisheries scientists with specific knowledge on the dynamics and on the data collected for these segments will be invited to participate in the STECF working group aimed at preparing the AER (3-7 June, Dublin).

I would like to underline that in order to bring the economic analysis of the pelagic fleet segments to a more detailed level, we should ensure that accurate, reliable and updated socio-economic data with the appropriate level of aggregation from the EU fleets are readily available. Therefore, the role of the fishing industry is instrumental in supporting these efforts towards more complete, up to date and high quality datasets. In this context, we are grateful for your offer to support this process and the possible attendance of a representative of the Pelagic Advisory Council to participate in the STECF working group for the preparation of the AER.

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I am confident that with your support and that of other stakeholders concerned, we will be able to further develop the socio-economic analysis of the pelagic fleet segments. I thank you for your constructive input and invite you to contact Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu); +32 2 29 56273) and Angel Calvo, coordinator of the AER exercise ([Angel-Andres.Calvo-Santos@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Angel-Andres.Calvo-Santos@ec.europa.eu); +32 2 29 93630), should you have any questions on this response.

Yours sincerely,

João AGUIAR MACHADO



c.c.: Ms Veits, Ms Roller, Ms Colson  
Mr. Nikolian, Mr. Calvo