



Ms. Charlina Vitcheva
Director General
Directorate General Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries
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Date: 5 July 2021
Our reference: 2021/PAC69
Subject: Request for continuous inclusion of pelagic chapter in future STECF Annual Economic Reports on the EU fishing fleet

Dear Ms. Vitcheva,

In our letter dated April 8 2019, the Pelagic Advisory Council requested the inclusion of a pelagic chapter in the STECF “Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet (AER)” (reference 1819PAC16). The request was based on the acknowledgement that although the report covers different fleet segments and various EU regions, it lacked a specific chapter on pelagic fisheries. In our view, inclusion of such a chapter was needed for the report to fully reflect the correct fleet structure in Europe.

The Pelagic AC was very pleased with the uptake of a pelagic chapter in STECF’s subsequent AER report, and greatly appreciates your support in getting our request across to STECF. However, we were surprised to find out this year that the chapter on pelagics was discontinued for the following report. We had hoped to have been clear in our request that such a chapter would increase the quality of the AER report and be a relevant expansion of the scope, moving forward.

The Pelagic AC reiterates that a pelagic chapter would present the sector proportionally relative to the demersal fleet and highlight its importance in Europe in terms of economic performance. It would also capture the impact of reductions in catch advice. Therefore, the Pelagic AC would greatly appreciate your assistance once more, in requesting STECF to include a chapter on pelagic fisheries in its AERs but on a continuous basis.

We remain at your disposal to cooperate with STECF and offer our support in this process, such as ensuring delivery of required data.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of the above, and looking forward to your response,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jesper Raakjær'.

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman Pelagic AC

