

Ms Charlina Vitcheva

Director General
Directorate General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Date: 11 October 2024

PelAC reference: 2425PAC06

Subject: Fish Welfare in Pelagic Fisheries

Dear Ms. Charlina Vitcheva,

The Pelagic Advisory Council (PelAC) is taking steps to discuss and address fish welfare in pelagic fisheries. Members of the PelAC both from industry and the other interest groups are actively involved in ongoing work in this area, recognising the importance of this issue from a broader societal perspective, including by consumers.

As a result, the PelAC has convened two meetings on fish welfare in pelagic fisheries, where experts were invited to present and discuss the challenges, identify main research lines and possible policy implications. The reports to these meetings can be found on our [website](#) (once approved).

In order to move forward on this topic, and to ensure adequate discussion and reaching consensual positions, the PelAC has identified Fish Welfare as one of the topics to be addressed in the newly formed WGIII - Working Group on Ecosystem and Horizontal Issues, and has created the Focus Group on Fish Welfare in Pelagic Fisheries (FGFW).

While the work is at its early stages and the PelAC will only develop its position over the coming months, we consider that it is of the utmost importance that DG-MARE is aware that this topic is of concern to PELAC members. We would request we are consulted on any process regarding the issue of fish welfare in pelagic fisheries. We kindly request you to ensure that other bodies of the Commission that may work on the topic are informed of our interest and availability.





We thank you in advance for your kind consideration of the above and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Esben Sverdrup Jensen
Chair of the Pelagic Advisory Council

