



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE.C.3/AS

**Subject: Reply to the Joint-ACs Advice on stakeholder engagement in the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries processes**

Dear Chairs of the Advisory Councils,

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2025 concerning the joint advice on stakeholder engagement in the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) processes.

We recognise the important contributions that the Advisory Councils (ACs), representing a diverse range of stakeholders, make to the Common Fisheries Policy, particularly in the preparation of scientific advice. DG MARE is committed to strengthening stakeholder engagement in these processes.

Firstly, I would like to emphasise that ACs are entitled to be observers at the STECF Expert Working Groups (EWGs), and your applications are given priority. However, due to capacity constraints, the number of representatives from each AC who can participate in the EWGs is typically limited to one or two per AC. We expect that observers, particularly the ACs' secretariats ensure proper reporting to their respective members, enabling the broader membership to stay informed. Any member of the AC attending an EWG should be prepared to represent the collective interests of the AC.

Secondly, the terms of reference for the EWGs are defined by DG MARE and agreed upon in advance. These terms of reference are publicly available on the STECF website. It is important to note that the Commission consults STECF on matters such as marine and fisheries biology, fishing gear technology, fisheries economics, in accordance with Commission Decision 2016/C 74/05.

In response to your request on the organisation of targeted meetings between STECF and the ACs on specific topics prior to an EWG, as well as the scheduling of dedicated sessions with STECF during AC working group meetings, we suggest that such discussions take place with the STECF chair or a designated STECF representative during the Inter-ACs annual meeting.

To: Mr Emiel Brouckaert NWWAC Chairman, Mr Antonio Marzoa Notlevsen Chair MEDAC, Mr Ken Skau Fisher Chairman North Sea AC, Mr Ivan López Chairman Long Distance AC, Mr Sergio Lopez Président du CC SUD, Mr Ruben Farias Chair CCRUP, Mr Esben Sverdrup-Jensen Chairman Pelagic AC

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Regarding the new version of the STECF website, we have noted your feedback and will work toward improving its functionality and user experience.

Finally, concerning the implementation of a notification system for STECF meetings, the list of upcoming meetings is available on the [STECF Meetings calendar on the European Commission](#) website. We kindly ask the ACs to monitor this page for updates.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Agnieszka Sadowska, Policy Officer in the scientific advice unit at: [agnieszka.sadowska@ec.europa.eu](mailto:agnieszka.sadowska@ec.europa.eu) or Ms Julia Rubeck, our ACs coordinator, via the functional mailbox [MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Cc: DONATELLA Fabrizio; IVANESCU Raluca; PEYRONNET Arnaud; SADOWSKA Agnieszka;  
Tamara Talevska (NSAC); Alexandre Rodriguez, Marta de Lucas, Manuela Iglesias (LDAC); Anne-Marie Kats, Merel Barbosa (PELAC); Sally Clink, Ewa Milewska (BSAC); Mo Mathies, Matilde Vallerani (NWWAC); Aurélie Drillet, Chloé Pocheau (SWWAC)