



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE / A4

Subject: Reply to the MAC advice on STECF Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet and estimates on the GHG emissions for the EU fisheries sector.

Dear Ms Bermudez,

Thank you for your interest in the work on the socio-economic analysis of the EU fisheries sector, in particular the Annual Economic Report (AER) of the fishing fleets, for which you requested a more detailed analysis on the impacts of the high prices of the energy on the EU fisheries sector.

I am pleased to inform that this request has been fully integrated in the *Terms of Reference* (ToRs) for this year's Annual Economic Report. Accordingly, updated estimates of break-even revenue in relation with current fuel prices and the new economic data formally submitted by Member States, for each fleet segment of the EU fishing fleet, will be produced and made available by September, once the new report is endorsed and published by the STECF.

Furthermore, my team will continue to produce economic analysis and indicators to help measure and monitor the progress on the economic sustainability and on energy efficiency of the EU fishing industry. In this context, the future economic report on the fish processing industry (which is planned for the last quarter of this year) will also analyse the impacts of the energy costs in the economic performance of the EU fishing processing sector.

I am also grateful for your interest in energy transition and the contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in achieving the EU's green ambitions, including achieving climate neutrality by 2050. To help to speed up this transition, the Commission recently adopted a Communication on the Energy Transition in EU fisheries and aquaculture, as part of the "Fisheries and Oceans Package".

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DG MARE welcomes the advice of the MAC regarding the calculation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in light of the STECF data collection and the Annual Economic Report on the fleet. Indeed, accurate data collection on the GHG emission of the sector is of key importance for effective monitoring of the energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, as also mentioned in the Communication.

Within the framework of the DCF, data collection on the energy consumption which serves as the basis for calculating GHG emissions for the EU fishing fleets started in 2009, and therefore does not allow to directly trace emission back to relevant baselines such as 1990 and 2005. For aquaculture and fish processing, there is not currently any regular and comparable data collection on energy consumption and emissions at EU level. To remedy this situation, my team is exploring possibilities for strengthening regular data collection on energy consumption and emissions for the EU fisheries sector in close cooperation with the statistical services of the Commission.

In this context, my team has also recently launched an EU-wide study on the energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector that amongst other objectives, aims to estimate baselines for the energy transition in the sector compared to 2005, in line with the baseline of the Effort Sharing Regulation proposed under the Fit-for-55 package. Preliminary results of this study will be available in the last quarter of 2023 and additional analysis will be produced in the course of 2024.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation on these important matters. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact the functional mailbox of the Advisory Councils MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

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