



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/Unit A4

Dear Ms Bermudez,

Thank you for your interest in the work on socio-economic analysis on the EU fisheries sector, in particular the Annual Economic Report (AER) of the fishing fleets, for which you transmitted a number of recommendations to further expand the socio-economic analysis in this report.

I am pleased to inform you that your recommendations have been thoroughly discussed with the STECF secretariat and the experts in the context of the STECF Working Group of the 2024 AER, which took place on 8-12 April.

In this context, the 2024 AER will implement a common method for nowcasting the economic performance and employment of the EU fishing fleets based on bio-economic modelling. This modelling tool combines both biological and socio-economic aspects of the EU fishing fleet. Furthermore, the STECF and JRC experts will explore the possibility to extend the timing of the nowcast exercises to ensure the alignment between the economic advice and the scientific advice on the status of the stocks as noted in your letter. The experts will also assess the possibility of including a specific section devoted to the analysis of the fishing vessels below 12 meters which are not part of the small-coastal fleet segment, as you suggested in your letter. This methodological discussion will take place during the upcoming STECF WG on 10-15 June.

As regards your recommendations on social variables data, they will be discussed in the context of ongoing work for the improvement of social indicators and analysis in collaboration with the STECF WG on social data. The latest meeting of this WG took place on 13-17 May and its recommendations will be the basis for discussions with national data correspondents on the further collection of social variables in the frame of the EU multiannual programme under the Data Collection Regulation (EU) 2017/1004. Reflections are also underway on the better utilisation of the social variables collected,

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with specific time dedicated to the analysis and reporting of these variables. Regarding dependency, the final report of the STECF WG on social data will cover this important issue (amongst other policy priorities) and should be published during the summer, following the STECF plenary. Lastly, the 2024 AER will pay particular attention to the social aspects of the fishing fleet and will seek synergies with other STECF reports more focused on the social impacts.

Furthermore, my team will continue to produce economic analysis and indicators to help to measure and monitor the progress of the socio-economic sustainability of the EU fisheries sector.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

[e-Signed]
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