



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/Unit A4

Dear Ms Bermudez,

Thank you for the MAC's 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 that the MAC's recommendations will be discussed with the STECF secretariat and the experts in the context of the STECF Working Group of the 2025 AER, which will take place on 16-21 June with a view to explore their feasibility for the current and next year's report.

In this context, the 2025 AER will continue to include a specific section dedicated to the small-scale fisheries as well as 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 fleets.

As you noted, the Expert Working Groups of STECF and the Working Groups of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea analyse similar economic datasets. We will continue to build synergies between these groups when analysing and interpreting economic data.

Furthermore, the STECF and JRC experts will explore the possibility to produce a breakdown of cost structures by fleet segment as recommended in your letter.

As for your recommendation to include a special chapter on the assessment on the impacts of Brexit or an economic impact assessment of increasing energy costs on fleet

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profitability, this will be discussed in the next bureau meeting of STECF in December with a view to explore its feasibility for the next year report.

As regards your recommendations on data on social variables, these have been transmitted to the relevant STECF WG on social analyses as they go beyond the scope of the Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (AER). However, the AER will continue to 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.

Further, my team will continue to produce economic analysis and indicators to help to measure and monitor the progress on 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,

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