



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 its economic analysis.

This report is indeed highly valued by the EU fishing fleet and other relevant stakeholders, and it continues to be the main reference for economic analysis, intelligence, and figures regarding the EU fishing fleet. It also benefits significantly from the recommendations and feedback provided by various stakeholders.

I would like to thank you for your support and attendance as an observer during the STECF Working Group of the 2025 AER. Your first-hand knowledge and feedback contributed greatly to enriching the experts' analysis.

In this context, I am pleased to inform you that the MAC's recommendations have been discussed with the JRC and the STECF experts chairing the STECF Working Group for the 2026 AER. While the demanding agenda of this exercise leaves limited room for entirely new analyses, your recommendations have been incorporated to the extent possible within the Terms of Reference (ToR).

In particular, the report will aim to further strengthen its focus on forward-looking sections, as you recommended, with the objective of providing realistic assessments for the national chapters.

Although the main reference for this report is the scientific economic data of the Data Collection Framework, experts will be encouraged to consult relevant evidence to improve the interpretation of nowcasts and confirm their accuracy, particularly for national and regional chapters. In this regard, we continue to promote a number of actions to steadily improve the quality and coverage of data.

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Furthermore, the 2026 AER will attempt to explore a wider range of factors driving economic performance, which may include changes in marine fuel prices or in fishing opportunities for shared stocks with coastal States. Your recommendation to include a specific section on the age of the fishing fleet has also been reflected in the ToR.

Finally, while your recommendations on social variables are best addressed in meetings specifically dedicated to social aspects, we will actively seek synergies between this report and future social analyses to ensure a cohesive approach.

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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