



**To Raul PRELLEZO**

Scientific Technical Economic  
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Date: 27 September 2021  
Our reference: 2122PAC06  
Subject: Request for continuous inclusion of pelagic chapter in future STECF Annual Economic Reports on the EU fishing fleet

Dear Mr. Prellezo,

In 2019, the Pelagic Advisory Council (Pelagic AC) asked the Commission to convey a request to STECF for inclusion of a pelagic chapter in the STECF "Annual Economic Report on the EU fishing fleet (AER)". The request was based on the acknowledgement that although the report covers different fleet segments and various EU regions, it lacked a specific chapter on pelagic fisheries. In our view, inclusion of such a chapter was needed for the report to fully reflect the correct fleet structure in the EU.

The Pelagic AC was very pleased with the uptake of a pelagic chapter in STECF's 2020 AER report, and greatly appreciates this effort undertaken by STECF. However, we were surprised to find out this year that the chapter on pelagics was discontinued for the subsequent report. We understand that this was a result of a decision to focus on particular key developments affecting the 2020 and 2021 performance of the EU fleets, such as the impacts of Brexit and the covid-19 crisis.

Nevertheless, the Pelagic AC believes a pelagic chapter would increase the quality of the AER report and be a relevant expansion of the scope. We wish to reiterate that such chapter would present the sector proportionally relative to the demersal fleet and highlight its importance in Europe in terms of economic performance. It would also capture the impact of reductions in catch advice. Therefore, the Pelagic AC would greatly appreciate your cooperation, to seek inclusion of a chapter on pelagic fisheries in future AERs on a continuous basis moving forward.

We remain at your disposal to collaborate with you and offer our support in this process, such as ensuring delivery of required data.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of the above, and looking forward to your response,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jesper Raakjær'.

Jesper Raakjær  
Chairman Pelagic AC

