



Director General

Brussels,  
MARE.D.3/ADV

Mr. Ivan López van der Veen  
Chairman Long Distance Advisory  
Council  
C/del Doctor Fleming 7, 2º Dcha  
E- 28036 Madrid  
SPAIN

**Subject: Request to improve data quality and methodology for the EU distant water fleet (DWF) under the STECF Annual Economic Report (AER)**

Dear Mr López van der Veen,

I would like to thank you for your letter regarding the need to improve data quality and methodology of the EU Distant Water Fleet (DWF).

In acknowledgment of your letter, the Annual Economic Report (AER) of the EU fleets has indeed become the most comprehensive source of socio-economic data and analysis on the EU fleets at international level. It is also the main reference for most socio-economic analysis in support of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Although the quality and coverage of this economic report and datasets have improved substantially in recent years, there is still room for improvement in certain areas where data availability is more limited such as the DWF. In this context, my services are taking a number of specific actions to further strengthen the socio-economic analysis and data availability of the DWF.

This year's AER will henceforth have a section devoted exclusively to the socio-economic analysis, trends and drivers of the DWF. It will also include projections of the economic results expected in 2018. In order to achieve this, economists and fisheries scientists with specific knowledge on the dynamics of and data collected for the DWF will be invited to participate to the STECF working group aiming at preparing the AER (11-15 June).

In addition, DG MARE will contact the relevant Member State's administrations and request that relevant socio-economic datasets are made available to this STECF working group through their national correspondents or via the individual experts attending this working group. The task of this STECF working group will be to use these data at a sufficiently high degree of aggregation in order to respect the degree of confidentiality necessary to alleviate any concerns of MS administrations and individual operators while also providing meaningful analysis to satisfy the terms of reference for the meeting and economic report.

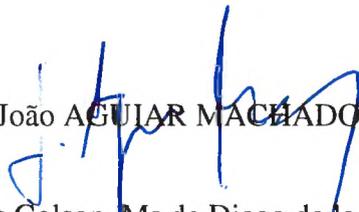
Finally, I would like to underline that in order to bring the economic analysis of the DWF to a more detailed level, we should ensure that accurate, reliable and updated socio-economic data with the appropriate level of aggregation from the EU fleets are readily available. Therefore, the role of the fishing industry is instrumental in supporting these efforts towards

more complete and updated datasets of high quality. In this context, we are grateful for your offer of participating in the STECF working group for the preparation of the AER. I have the pleasure to inform you that the Executive Secretary of the Long Distance Advisory Council, Mr. Alex Rodríguez will be invited to participate in this expert's working group as an observer.

As far as fleet data are concerned, the Commission adopted in February 2017 an Implementing Regulation on the Union fishing fleet register<sup>1</sup>, which should improve accuracy and reliability of data. Concerning the link with EMFF funds, the EMFF regulation stipulates that failure to comply with data collection rules may trigger the interruption or even the suspension of payments in line with Commission Delegated Regulation 2015/282.<sup>2</sup>

Confident that with your support as well as with the support of other stakeholders concerned we will be able to further develop the socio-economic analysis of the DWF, I thank you for your constructive input. I invite you to take contact with Ms Pascale Colson, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu](mailto:pascale.colson@ec.europa.eu); +32 2 29 56273) should you have any question on this reply.

Yours sincerely,

  
João AGUIAR MACHADO

c.c.: Ms Veits, Ms Roller, Ms Georgitsi, Ms Colson, Ms de Diego de la Vega  
Mr. Nikolian, Mr. Calvo

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 34, 9/29/2017, p. 9

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 135, 2.6.2015, p. 13