



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/C1/CA/dsb/Ares(2022)

**Subject: Recommendation 30 on the possible studies on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in all Outermost Regions**

Dear President,

I would like to thank you for transmitting the Recommendation n°30 of the CC RUP on 8 July 2022 recommending that the European Commission requests a technical service from ICES to study the vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in coastal zones, depth zones and above 400 meters, in all the Outermost Regions.

Your request comes at a crucial moment in the implementation of the Deep-sea Access Regulation (EU) 2016/2336 and I would like to confirm that I have asked my services to proceed with such a request to ICES.

It is also the understanding of my services that ICES will deliver an advice in October or November 2022 which may contain an identification of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) are known to occur or are likely to occur in the Azores.

I thank you again for this Recommendation and for the very good cooperation with DG MARE.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

M. David Pavón González  
President of the Executive Committee of the CC RUP  
Rua de São Paulo n.º 3  
9760-540 Praia da Vitória  
Açores - Portugal