



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C1/UK/ms/Ares(2023)

Subject: Improving the scientific knowledge and the assessment of deep-sea demersal stocks, in the outermost regions

Dear Mr Pavón,

Thank you for your recommendation n° 36 referring to the lack of science in the outermost regions. The Commission takes your concerns very seriously and welcomes concrete input from the fishing communities. As part of the EU data collection framework (DCF¹), EU Member States are required to collect scientific data to support the implementation of the common fisheries policy. The DCF is end user driven, while the collection of biological data on specific stocks depends on whether Member States' landings or relevant TAC shares are above specified thresholds². Scientific end-users such as ICES request the data via official data calls for which the Member States are obliged to transmit the data according to specified criteria and conditions listed in the DCF.

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and its successor, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), each have a substantial financial envelope for the collection of data on the state of fish stocks. The DCF pays for the scientists under EMFAF. The fund can be used as well for financing scientists to collect data for the analysis of deep sea stocks.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast) see [EUR-Lex - 32017R1004 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

² Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021 establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022 see [EUR-Lex - 32021D1167 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#) and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1168 of 27 April 2021 establishing the list of mandatory surveys and thresholds as part of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022 see [EUR-Lex - 32021D1168 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

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The Commission encourages you to co-operate with the scientific end-users such as ICES and the Member States with outermost regions, in order to make full use of these means to improve the collection of data. End-users such as ICES communicate to us any unresolved data transmission issues, which we follow up with relevant Member States. In addition, we can raise specific problems of data collection in relevant national coordination meetings.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia RUBECK via the functional mailbox of the Advisory Councils MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA