



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,  
MARE/B2/SH/Ares(24)

Dear Mr. Pavón González,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 29 October, which had in annex the Recommendation n°54 by the Outermost Regions Advisory Council (CCRUP) about conservation and management of species within the scope of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The recommendation will feed into the EU position for this year's ICCAT on-going meeting. We have also had the pleasure of discussing many of these elements with CCRUP members during the ICCAT stakeholder meeting on 7 October and this week in my meeting with the stakeholders on the margins of the session itself.

On **tropical tunas**, and the issues raised in relation to Portugal and Spain's outermost regions, let me assure you that I am fully aware of the specific fishing methods of these regions as well as the need to give them due consideration in terms of allocation. In that regard, the EU has always defended and will continue to defend the need to recognise these artisanal fleets in those islands and to defend their interests in the ICCAT context – even though there is a lot of resistance from many other ICCAT contracting parties on this issue. On the bigeye and yellowfin total allowable catch (TAC), the EU will support the setting of TACs which are in line with the scientific advice for a sustainable long-term exploitation of the stocks. On FADs and the moratorium, the EU will actively engage in striving for the best solution, in line with the most recent scientific advice. In any case, the EU will strongly advocate for a stronger management framework for FADs which will incorporate sustainability elements.

On the **management strategy evaluation** (MSE) processes, the EU has tabled a robust proposal for management objectives for the tropical tuna MSE. The EU will also be requesting that the blue shark MSE be prioritised in the ICCAT MSE roadmap. In relation to the integration of climate change considerations into the MSE processes, the EU is fully aligned with the CCRUP advice. I would like to recall that it was the EU who

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insisted that climate change considerations be incorporated into the western skipjack MSE.

On **sharks**, we are very pleased to confirm that the EU is tabling a proposal on sharks measures consolidation, bringing together the various ICCAT provisions on sharks and going a step further by adding a provision on fins naturally attached as well as a request to the SCRS to examine how we can further protect certain shark species in ICCAT. On shortfin mako, we are actively working with our Member States looking at ways and means to decrease current mortality.

On **compliance and control**, and IUU fishing, I can assure that the EU is fully aligned with CCRUP's position on these points. As always, the EU is vocal in the compliance committee, championing adherence to the ICAT rules as well as calling for improved reporting and data from all contracting parties. Moreover, the EU has put forward a proposal for the rollout of electronic monitoring systems on bluefin tuna processing vessels, as well as driving forward new technologies, such as stereoscopic cameras and AI to improve compliance across the board. The EU will also work closely with the proponent of the proposal on transshipments at sea.

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](mailto:MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

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