



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels  
MARE/B4

Dear Mr Farias,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 14 November 2025 concerning your Recommendation No. 71 on your Roadmap for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Outermost Regions by 2030.

As outlined in our previous reply from 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 to the joint CCRUP-MAC Recommendation No. 62 on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Outermost Regions of the European Union, we take the matter of IUU fishing in the Outermost Regions of the European Union very seriously.

We greatly appreciate the four recommendations made by the CCRUP to the European Commission and the Member States, which should be taken into account by 2030, in order to enable the quantification of the effectiveness of **IUU fishing control in the Outermost Regions**. Although the control and monitoring of fishing activities in the waters of the ORs, including IUU fishing activities conducted by third countries, is a competence of the Member States, the Commission stands ready to support the ORs and its Member States whenever possible.

With regards to your first recommendation of developing an **IUU fishing risk map per region**, we consider this action to be in the remits of the Member States' competences rather than the one of the European Commission. Such risk maps, once developed by Member States, would nevertheless be of interest to the European Commission when carrying out its actions to combat IUU fishing.

Concerning the insurance of **adequate funding, this could be done through measures supported by the EMFAF and other EU instruments, to strengthen the human, financial and technological capacities of the competent authorities, with a view to achieving more effective monitoring, control and surveillance**. EMFAF is the main tool to ensure monitoring and control of the fisheries sector in all Member States. Under the French programme, more than EUR 120M is allocated to data collection and control measures, EUR 168M under the Spanish programme and EUR 60M under the Portuguese

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one. This money is managed at central level by the Managing Authority and the implementation of control measures has already started.

Regarding the entry into force of **CATCH** since 10 January 2026, and the implementation of the CATCH system by the authorities and operators in the Outermost Regions, the European Commission, and in particular DG MARE, has been conducting regular meetings in the past months with the Member States' authorities to ensure a smooth launch of the system. The European Commission and DG MARE continue daily to support Member States' authorities with any issues they may have since the entry into force of this new system, including Spain, France and Portugal.

Finally, when it comes to **strengthening cooperation between Member States, regional authorities and third countries** to improve prevention, detection and response to IUU fishing in the ocean basins of the ORs, the European Commission stands ready to continue supporting such initiatives in and through the various forums and dialogues in which it is involved.

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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