



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE/C1/APP/ms

Subject: Reply to CCRUP's Recommendations n° 68 (sustainable fisheries) and n° 74 (climate change), as well as your letter on scientific nomenclatures.

Dear Mr Farias,

I would like to thank you for transmitting RUP Recommendation n° 68 on sustainable fisheries, Recommendation n° 74 on climate change, as well as the recent letter on the scientific nomenclature of species covered by fishing opportunities (your ref. 76/2025).

➤ *On sustainable fisheries in the EU (reference Rec. n°68 and letter 76/2025)*

I take note that CCRUP proposes to introduce a specific chapter for the Outermost regions in our **annual communication** to the European Parliament and the Council on the sustainable fisheries in the EU. The Communication covers several topics also encompassing Outermost regions, in particular in the chapter on fleet capacity balance.

I also understand that CCRUP is suggesting the Member States to make documents relating to **delegated TACs** publicly available. It may be of interest to the CCRUP to review the STECF report assessing the scientific basis for setting the delegated TACs in 2025 ⁽¹⁾. In its latest decision on fishing opportunities, the Council introduced a novelty regarding delegated TACs, *i.e.* if, according to the STECF advice, the proposed delegated TACs do not comply with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Member States concerned will have to amend those TACs accordingly. This marks an important step forward, as it makes even clearer that the CFP objectives apply equally to delegated TACs, meaning their levels must be set on the basis of the best available scientific advice, including where only the precautionary approach is available.

We take note of the CCRUP's suggestion to include the **scientific name and FAO code** of each species covered by fishing opportunities. At the same time, this is already included in the fishing opportunities Regulation, notably in its Annex 1 and in each TAC table.

⁽¹⁾ [STECF\(2025\)](#). 79th Plenary Report (STECF-PLN-25-02), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2025.

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However, when it comes to press release and social media, common names are often chosen to keep language simple and accessible.

DG MARE agrees on the importance to further develop and integrate **ecosystem considerations** in our work. To take stock, in 2019, we commissioned studies to assess the state-of-play of the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) in EU waters, including the Outermost regions. The analyses revealed some key obstacles in the governance arrangements that should facilitate an EAFM, and the advisory process should build on an inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge base. This is why we work closely with ICES to make progress on integrated ecosystem assessments (IEAs) and ecosystems overviews in several regions, including the Azores waters. ICES also provides regularly advice on mixed fisheries considerations for the major ecoregions in its area of competence. The Science Plan developed by ICES includes seven interrelated themes, one of which focuses on the effects of human activities on marine ecosystems and services. These are some examples how the scientific advice on ecosystem approach is being developed with the support of the Commission.

I take this opportunity to inform the CCRUP that late in 2025 the Commission adopted a Communication on the updated guidelines for the analysis of the **balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities** for fleet segments of less than 12 metres length in the Outermost regions ⁽²⁾.

➤ *On climate change (reference Rec. n °74)*

I would like to thank you for the in-depth description of the impacts of **climate change** in the Outermost regions and the recommendations to the Commission involving several Directorates-General. We indeed share the same concerns on the impacts of climate change on the Outermost regions, including for vulnerable coastal, fisheries and aquaculture communities throughout the EU. These concerns are also reflected in the strong commitment to support coastal and islands communities and Outermost regions as set out in the European Ocean Pact. The Commission is preparing several actions to step up the resilience to climate change of coastal and island regions in 2026, including specific strategies on islands and on coastal communities, an updated strategy on the Outermost regions, and a new integrated framework for Climate Resilience and Risk Management. To that end, the Commission opened and/or will soon launch the following consultations:

1. European Climate Resilience and Risk Management – Integrated Framework (open until 23 February 2026, [link](#)).
2. Two parallel calls for evidence expected by mid-February on
 - an EU strategy on coastal communities
 - an EU strategy for islands

I strongly encourage the CCRUP and its members to participate and share your views on these key consultations, as this will shape the future framework to protect and empower Outermost regions.

⁽²⁾ [COM\(2025\)798](#). Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament. Updated guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities for fleet segments consisting of vessels of less than 12 metres in length in the outermost regions according to Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy, 18/12/2025.

I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Amanda Perez Perera (Amanda.PEREZ-PERERA@ec.europa.eu), our policy officer and Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

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