



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels
MARE/B2/SH

Dear Mr Farias,

I would like to thank you for submitting the Outermost Regions Advisory Council's (CCRUP) Recommendation No. 77 regarding the pilot project for fattening Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in the Canary Islands as adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 2025.

First, I would like to stress that with the efforts made at last year's annual meeting of ICCAT, the EU – at the request of Spain – obtained the *possibility* for the development of a pilot project in the Canary Islands to assess the conditions for fishing and farming in the waters of the Canary Islands, including the added value of any future developments also for the local fishing communities. While we have provided for this possibility, whether or not such a pilot project materialises is ultimately a decision of Spain, undoubtedly in close consultation with the relevant local authorities.

As set out in ICCAT Recommendation 25-01, the results of any such project must be submitted for review by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), which would then require further consideration by ICCAT before any further developments would be endorsed. I would like to reassure you that DG MARE will work closely with the national administration to ensure that where a report is submitted, it is as comprehensive and robust as possible in order to facilitate a thorough SCRS review.

In relation to the bluefin tuna element of the project, for 2026 DG MARE did not receive the requisite information from the authorities of Spain. Given the lack of information from the national authority, DG MARE did not include this pilot project in the EU's bluefin tuna plan. The bluefin tuna pilot project was therefore not endorsed at the ICCAT Panel 2 March intersessional meeting and will not go ahead this year.

Mr. Ruben Farias
President of the Executive Committee of CC RUP
info@ccrup.eu
Rua de São Paulo, 3
9760-540 Praia da Vitória
Açores - PORTUGAL

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

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA

Cc: Dcosta@ccrup.eu

