



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/C1/CA/ms

Subject : Reply to your letter of support requesting an STECF review of the Technical report of the ISPAMER 2023 project (*Impact and selectivity of demersal longline targeting hake in European Atlantic waters*)

Dear President,

I thank you for your letter dated 1 July 2024 and for your continued engagement in the VMEs file.

I concur with your statement that technical projects, led in cooperation with scientific institutes, are fundamental to improve our knowledge base and take informed decisions in fisheries management.

Hence, we have followed suit to the request you made for a peer-review of this report within STECF as well as to the similar request of the Spanish authorities, and I am pleased to inform you that my services have secured such a review.

The scientific review process is now ongoing and should deliver conclusions in the coming weeks.

We will of course keep you informed of the results.

I take this opportunity to thank you for accommodating the address of and discussion with the Chair of the STECF Expert Group, M. Ralf Döring, at the South-Western Waters AC Working Group on 23 October. As explained in my letter of 30 August to all Member States and Advisory Councils, this will be a key moment to gather stakeholders' expertise to feed into the STECF socio-economic analysis of the VMEs closures.

M. Sergio López
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I would like to thank the Advisory Council for its work and I am looking forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Caroline Alibert-Deprez via caroline.alibert-deprez@ec.europa.eu and Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

[e-Signed]
Charlina VITCHEVA

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