



Ms Charlina Vitcheva
Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
European Commission
Jozef II-straat 99
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Dun Laoghaire, 13 May 2022

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

Subject: Update of economic fleet data to reflect current commodity price crisis

The STECF Annual Economic Report (AER) on the European Union (EU) fishing fleet provides a comprehensive overview of the latest information available on the structure and economic performance of the EU Member States' fishing fleets.

The AER is the main source of economic and social data to take these aspects into account in scientific advice. It aims to provide an in-depth view of the different factors affecting the economic performance of the EU fishing fleet with a special focus on the major drivers and issues affecting the sector.

As you are aware, the war in Ukraine has led to an exponential rise in commodity prices with vessels remaining tied up in many Member States as mainly the increase in fuel prices makes trips to sea economically unviable for fishers.

Therefore, recognising that 2022 data will not be available for two more years, the North Western Waters Advisory Council recommends that the most recent available economic data are updated with realistic exploitation costs. This would allow to predict the point at which fisheries become insolvent and to provide an indication regarding the impact the commodity price crisis will have on the sector.

The NWWAC remains at your disposal to elaborate on this request should you deem this necessary.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Emiel Brouckaert
NWWAC Chairman

