

Annex

ICES request form

Request from	European Commission, DG MARE, Unit C1
Contact within organisation	
Content contact person	
Request announced	August 2022
Request received	
Answer deadline client	
Request code (client)	22-13 – VMEs in EU Outermost Regions
Request code (ICES)	
Request	Advice on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas (ref. (EU)2016/2336) in EU waters of the Outermost Regions subject to the deep-sea access regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/2336)¹.
<p>Request to ICES:</p> <p>On 5 January 2021, ICES provided an advice to DG MARE on the “List of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas (ref. (EU)2016/2336)”. This advice was completed on 7 February 2022 by ICES Technical service “Data output of the ICES 2021 advice on the deep-sea access regulation (ref. (EU)2016/2336) as coordinates for EU waters area only”.</p> <p>The advice is based on ICES Ecoregions and the technical service is delivering coordinates for the EEZs of the EU Member States of the North-East Atlantic, based on the VLIZ map.</p> <p>The 9 Outermost Regions of the EU (<i>French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)</i>) have not yet been part of ICES deliveries.</p> <p>Further to Recommendation 30 of the Outermost Regions Advisory Council (CC-RUP)², DG MARE requests ICES to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide an advice on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas in the waters of the EU Outermost Regions that are subject to the deep-sea access regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/2336) - To provide data output as coordinates for the waters of the EU Outermost Regions that are subject to the deep-sea access regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/2336) <p>On the model of the 2021 and 2022 ICES advices, the outputs are requested as:</p>	

¹ Article 2.1 *This Regulation applies to fishing activities or intended fishing activities in the following waters: (a) by Union fishing vessels and third-country fishing vessels in Union waters of the North Sea, of the north-western waters and of the south-western waters as well as Union waters of ICES zone IIa; (b) by Union fishing vessels in international waters of CECAF areas 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.*

² https://www.ccrup.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/REC_VMEs_EN_signed.pdf

- Deliver the coordinates of the list of VMEs locations in cvs, .xlsx and .shp files, including the descriptions “VME_Csquare”, “VME_Habitat”, “VME_Indicator” and “VME_Elements” for all scenario and all options.
- Deliver the coordinates of the footprint “Footprint_all”, “Footprint_mobile”, “Footprint_static in .csv, .xlsx and .shp files, also produce maps in pdf including VMEs polygons.
- Deliver the footprint for static gears, for mobile-contacting gears and a combined footprint in the EEZs of the Outermost Regions that are relevant for the deep-sea access regulation according to its article 2 paragraph (1) and applied to all scenario and all options.
- Provide the pdf maps representing the VMEs in EU waters of the Outermost Regions in question for all scenario and all options with the “footprint_all” pattern as background.

Planning ICES	(see outlined process below)
ICES contact person	none
WG(s) involved	none
Preparation timing	none
Review group	a review group will consist of both core ICES experts and local experts/stakeholders to be identified during the process. These experts will be a mix of local, stakeholder engagement, VMEs, fisheries, policy. ICES secretariat will help facilitate the work of experts
Advice drafting group	none
ACOM Webex	none
Release date	Technical Service 21 June 2024