

September 24, 2025

To:

Mário Rui Rilhó Pinho
Regional Secretariat for Sea and Fisheries
Rua Cônsul Dabney - Colónia Alemã
Apartado 140
9901-014 Horta
Email: info.srmp@azores.gov.pt

Dr Rui Martins
Regional Director for Maritime Policies
Rua D. Pedro IV, nº 29
9900-111 Horta
Email: rui.mo.martins@azores.gov.pt

Dr Gui Manuel Machado Menezes
Instituto de Investigação em Ciências do Mar - Okeanos, Universidade dos Açores
Rua Prof. Doutor Frederico Machado, 4 – 9901- 862 HORTA
Faial, Açores, Portugal
www.uac.pt
www.okeanos.uac.pt
Email: gui.mm.menezes@uac.pt

Les Gallagher
E-mail: les@ocenic-centre.com

From:

Fabián Pina Amargós, PhD
Independent Scientist
Pew Fellow on Marine Conservation

Subject: support to Association Vida Pelagica (AVP) about keeping recreational fishing for pelagic fishes in the Condor bank, Azores, in the modality of catch and release, allowing only take of record specimens.

Dears:

I have been involved in commercial, subsistence and recreational fisheries research and management for 30 years in Cuba and internationally. During that time, I have published around 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers, of which one quarter are directly related with fisheries, mostly recreational fisheries. Those scientific results have been included in fisheries and marine protected areas management plans.

Recreational fisheries in general and for pelagic fishes in particular, including billfishes, have proved to be very important for the socioeconomic point of view. Globally, several hundred million people participate in marine recreational fishing each year, generating several dozens of billion dollars in expenditure. In US, 33

million anglers participate in over 443,000 fishing trips and generated over \$40 billion in retail sales. Because of economic multiplier effects, these expenditures produced an estimated \$115 billion economic impact and over 800,000 jobs. The recreational fishery in the Dominican Republic is much more economically important, generating \$36.3 million USD in annual cash flows, compared to the commercial fishing sector, which generates less than \$0.75 million USD annually.

There is an increasing trend to mostly catch and release recreational fishing, especially for billfish. From the ecological point of view there is a general consensus from the scientific community that catch and release recreational fisheries of billfishes has a minimal impact. Ethical 'no take' (except for record) recreational fishing can benefit conservation and well-being of local economies.

I am aware of the international reputation of Azores for ethical catch and release fishing since the late 1980's and the contribution AVP to billfish conservation and sustainable use. I support the objectives of AVP, including the importance of AVP raising concern about none regional commercial longline hooks in blue marlin and the need to protect the species of such.

Due to all above, I strongly recommend keeping recreational fishing for pelagic fishes in the Condor bank, Azores, in the modality of catch and release, allowing only take of record specimens. Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fabián Pina Amargós'.

Fabián Pina Amargós, PhD
Independent Scientist
Pew Fellow on Marine Conservation